



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Riding The Lip

Brett Fulford of Holden Beach executes a perfect "floater," propelling his surfboard up the face of a wave and riding the lip as it crashes down. An overnight storm and strong south winds brought head-high surf to the Holden Beach Fishing Pier Saturday morning.

SBTA Seeks Voting Districts For Town Council

(Continued From Page 1-A)

She criticized the engineers' most recent proposal to pump wastewater from southwestern Brunswick County to Horry County, S.C., for treatment and disposal, claiming "they want to put the stuff into South Carolina so it can come running back to us."

SBTA board members are expected to represent the organization's position at a town-sponsored public hearing on the sewer system May 26 at 6 p.m. in the Maples Clubhouse of Sea Trail Plantation.

Bird Island

Bird Island Preservation Society (BIPS) Chairman Bill Ducker said his organization now has nearly 800 members and added, "at this point,

numbers mean as much as money" to the effort to purchase the property for conservation purposes.

He expressed alarm at the recent announcement that owner Janie Pace Price wishes to develop the island with "a motel, marina, restaurant and at least 288 bedrooms."

The town council and planning board are currently studying options for zoning Bird Island but cannot legally prohibit Price from the "financially beneficial" use of her property. Although Price has said she would consider an offer to purchase the island, there have been no negotiations yet. Efforts are under way to seek public funding to augment money raised by BIPS.

Ducker criticized Price's plans to construct more than a mile of bridge

ing and causeway from her 40th Street property to Bird Island. "Those waters she intends to cross belong to all of us," he said. "What is proposed essentially converts public lands to private use."

Price's access proposal is before both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the N.C. Division of Environmental Management.

Bridge

Waldmiller reported that the Sunset Beach bridge was out of commission for more than nine hours during the severe winter storm of March 13. He criticized the renewed charge by town and emergency officials that the bridge endangers lives and property.

"It couldn't have been used anyway, because the causeway was un-

der water," he said, adding that the high-rise bridges at both Ocean Isle and Holden Beach were closed to private vehicles for shorter periods during the storm.

A 1990 lawsuit filed by SBTA halted plans to construct a high-rise bridge at Sunset Beach pending completion of an environmental impact statement. The environmental study, according to Waldmiller, "is really not under way yet, and it's a two-year project."

Town council recently voted unanimously to try to speed up the study and replace the bridge.

Waldmiller thanked Shallotte Police Officer Joe Chie, also a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician, who stayed on the island throughout the storm.

Attorney Says Soles Bill Contradicts Itself

BY ERIC CARLSON

State Sen. R.C. Soles' bill to divide the town of Calabash into two municipalities contains contradictory sections describing two different ways in which district voting would be weighed in a referendum, the town's attorney said Tuesday night.

"There's definitely a problem in the bill," Calabash Attorney Mike Ramos told the town's board of commissioners.

Section 4 of the proposed legislation, states that the division of what is now Calabash would become effective "only if approved separately by the qualified voters of District #1 of the Town of Calabash AND the qualified voters in District #2 of Calabash." (Emphasis added)

But Section 6 says just the opposite, Ramos said. It reads, "...if a majority of the votes in EITHER district are 'for' the question," then the split becomes effective.

The bill's title further confuses the issue, calling it an act to remove Carolina Shores Village from the Town of Calabash "subject to the approval of the residents of EITHER Districts #1 AND #2 of the Town of Calabash..."

However, statements made by Soles suggest that Section 6 properly

ly states the intent of the legislation. In a telephone interview on the day the bill was filed, Soles told the Beacon his intent was for a majority vote by either district to bring about the split.

Ramos said he had discussed the Soles bill with officials at the N.C. League of Municipalities and was told that the organization is "100-percent opposed to it." He suggested that the apparent contradictions in the bill be brought to the League's attention in hopes that the wording can be clarified before Senate consideration.

The Soles bill calls for a referendum on the separation question and, on the same day, a vote in Carolina Shores on whether to incorporate the large golf and retirement community as a new town with its own mayor and five-member council.

Soles said he introduced the bill because of what he sees as irreconcilable differences between the newcomers in District 2 and natives of the old fishing and restaurant community that comprised the original town of Calabash (District 1).

But Mayor Douglas Simmons, a lifelong District 1 resident, said he believes Soles was merely following through on a campaign promise

made to wealthy downtown restaurant owners who oppose the town's strict enforcement of a long-standing sign ordinance.

At an earlier meeting, the town board unanimously approved a resolution opposing Soles effort to split Calabash.

The commissioners Tuesday also directed Ramos to ask the League of Municipalities to press for more details in Soles bill. Among the questions the board wants answered are how the existing town's assets would be divided and how extrajurisdictional jurisdictions would be established between the two new towns.

Sewer Issue Votes

In another matter, the commissioners cast three identical split votes on a new phase of ongoing efforts to provide central sewage service to downtown Calabash. As they have done frequently in the past, District 2 commissioners George Anderson and Robert Noe voted against moving forward with the project. District 2 member Jon Sarnborn joined Keith Hardee and Edward Rice from District 1 in a majority vote to proceed.

The board voted 3 to 2 to endorse a letter to Gov. Jim Hunt requesting funds for a regional sewer system to serve southwestern Brunswick County. The towns of Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach have also agreed to sign the letter. But Shallotte and Holden Beach have declined, saying they would not support the request until the county agrees to endorse the regional system.

By the same 3-to-2 margin, the

Calabash board agreed to allow sewer system planning engineers Joseph Tombro and Jim Billups to pursue a feasibility study and the necessary permits to allow the town to pump its sewage into the Little River, S.C., treatment plant. Officials there have indicated a willingness to let Calabash hook on to their system for up to four years, beginning in 1994, while a permanent treatment facility is arranged.

On the third sewage question, the board again voted 3 to 2 to put a cap on funding for the feasibility study and the acquisition of interstate permits for the temporary disposal plan. The commissioners agreed to pay no more than \$7,400, with Sunset Beach contributing a like amount.

Inspector Criticized

In other business, the board heard a lengthy complaint from attorney Benedict Del Re about alleged mistreatment by Calabash Building Inspector Edward Schaack. Del Re owns a small seven-unit business complex currently housing his law office, a restaurant, an art dealership, a barber shop, a post office and a dress shop.

Del Re accused Schaack of threatening him with a lawsuit, ordering workers off his property and misinterpreting town ordinances. He also accused Schaack of a conflict of interest for allegedly offering his services as an engineer to rectify deficiencies in Del Re's buildings that Schaack discovered while acting as building inspector.

Schaack denied several of the charges and asked to speak with the commissioners in a closed session.

Sewer Plan Gets Health Board, Towns' Nod

(Continued From Page 1-A)

control program alone would adequately improve water quality.

After studying information from both sides, the health board issued a brief statement saying it "believes large wastewater systems must be designed in conjunction with stormwater management systems to be successful in protecting the coastal environment."

It adds, "The Brunswick County Board of Health believes a regional wastewater system would have an overall significant positive impact on the public health of the citizens of Brunswick County."

On Tuesday, Ocean Isle Beach and Calabash became the second and third local municipalities to ask Governor Jim Hunt to fund a plan to form the coast's first combined re-

"A regional wastewater system would have an overall significant positive impact on the public health..."

—Board statement

gional sewer and stormwater management system in the South Brunswick Islands.

At the same time, Ocean Isle will encourage the county commissioners to lead the municipalities as

Development Board Criticized By Member

(Continued From Page 1-A)

much," Myrie said.

Monks also said he had contacted prison officials and learned that the state would not consider building a correctional facility in the county unless there was a significant show of support for the idea. He said he had asked the RDC members to discuss the idea with their county commissioners.

After hearing their responses, Monks said he determined that the idea of building a prison "was not something the group felt it wanted to pursue." He said members indicated that a correctional facility would be "too controversial" and would hurt tourism.

But Myrie insisted that the proposal was not given a fair hearing. He said the RDC should have thoroughly researched the idea and pre-

sented its findings to the county commissioners. He also dismissed claims that a prison would harm the tourist industry.

"You would never know it was here," Myrie said Tuesday. "This is one of the biggest counties in the state. We could put it out in the Green Swamp and have the alligators guard it."

At the urging of several board members, Monks said Monday night that he would include the prison proposal in his quarterly report to the county commissioners next month.

In other business, the commissioners chose Don Hughes to serve as chairman; John Ramsey, vice chairman; Arthur Clawson, secretary; and Elizabeth McLean, treasurer. Ralph King and Vernon Ward were welcomed as new members.

Holden Beach Rental Agents Under Scrutiny

(Continued From Page 1-A)

said the town would send a follow-up letter informing the real estate commission that Swarts' letter was not intended as a complaint.

Swarts said he was seeking information from the real estate commission on how to deal with the overcrowding of rental units, an issue that has been debated at Holden Beach for years.

Despite the town board's attempt to distance itself from Swarts' letter, Brogden said the state is investigating. "We have this information in our hands now, and we're going to proceed with it."

The real estate commission received responses Monday from Alan Holden Realty and Brunswickland Realty. Brogden said Alan Holden wrote in his response that agents advertise the capacity requested by homeowners.

"I don't know that's a sufficient defense. We're still looking into that," Brogden said.

Smoking Ban Plans Sent To County Commissioners

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Davis, Warren and Johnson all cited enforcement problems as their primary reason for opposing the county-wide smoking controls. Warren also expressed concern that the rules could hurt business.

"I'm a reformed smoker myself and I detest it. But we also need to recognize the rights of businesses," Warren said. "I don't want to go on record in support of something that could put someone out of business."

The county ordinance asks employers to provide smoke-free areas for non-smoking workers and to separate smokers and non-smokers "to the maximum extent possible" without incurring any expense. Owners of restaurants, coffee shops, sandwich stands and other eating establishments would be required to set aside 25 percent of their indoor seating capacity as a designated non-smoking area.

"Are we going to ask a hot-dog stand with four seats to set aside one for non-smoking?" Warren asked. "I think that puts an undue hardship on a small restaurant."

The county commissioners could consider the proposed smoking regulations at their next meeting, April 15. They can adopt or reject one or both proposals, or they may suggest changes and return the ordinances to the health board, Rhodes said.

In other business, the health board agreed to ask the county commissioners to approve a \$2.5 budget request for fiscal year 1993-94. If approved, the budget would increase health department spending by \$315,087 or 12.6 percent.

Rhodes noted that most of the

"Are we going to ask a hot-dog stand with 4 seats to set aside one for non-smoking?"

—Don Warren

requested increase—a total of \$223,392—is needed to provide additional salaries for new employees authorized when the commissioners implemented a personnel study performed by the David M. Griffith consulting firm.

If the recommended DMG salaries are subtracted from the proposed budget, the requested increase would be only 3.6 percent, Rhodes said. Interim County Manager John Harvey has asked all department heads to keep requested budget increases below 5 percent.

The health board also voted unanimously "to endorse the proposal of a regional waste water system in southwest Brunswick County. Support for the idea was requested by engineers for Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., who have been hired by the towns of Calabash and Sunset Beach to help them develop a joint sewerage system.

The firm has asked the towns of Shallotte, Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach to join in an effort to ask the state to help create a regional system that could serve all five towns. The health board was asked to support the proposal.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

POST OFFICE BOX 2558
SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

NOTICE: Reliable or consistent delivery cannot be guaranteed since this newspaper must rely on the U.S. Postal Service for delivery. We can only guarantee that your newspaper will be submitted to the post office in Shallotte on Wednesday of the week of publication, in time for dispatch to out-of-town addresses that day.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:	Sr. Citizen
In Brunswick County	□6.30 □5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.38 .32
Postage Charge	3.68 3.68
TOTAL	10.56 9.30
Elsewhere in North Carolina	□6.30 □5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.38 .32
Postage Charge	8.18 8.18
TOTAL	14.86 13.80
Outside North Carolina	□6.30 □5.30
Postage Charge	9.65 9.65
TOTAL	15.95 14.95

Complete And Return To Above Address

Name
Address
City, State
Zip

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Established Nov. 1, 1962
Telephone 754-6890
Published Every Thursday
At 4709 Main Street
Shallotte, N.C. 28459

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY	
One Year	\$10.36
Six Months	\$5.55
ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA	
One Year	\$14.86
Six Months	\$7.90
ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.	
One Year	\$15.95
Six Months	\$8.35

Second class postage paid at Shallotte, N.C. 28459. USPS 777-780. Postmaster, send address changes to:

P.O. Box 2558,
Shallotte, N.C. 28459-2558

No Weather Report

No weather forecast or weather summary for the South Brunswick Islands is available in the *Beacon* this week.

Jackson Canady, our weather consultant, is on vacation this week.