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Sports - 11A

Southport • Oak Island • Boiling Spring Lakes • St. James • Caswell Beach • Bald Head Island • Eastern Brunswick County

Saving lives



Local kids participated in Southport Fire Department's annual Kids Fire Academy last week for a week-long educational camp on safety. Activities included time in the pool as well as learning about fire safety, including how to escape from a smoke-filled home in the event of a fire. More coverage is in our Portfolio section.

Photos by Eliot Duke



Southport

City examines Indigo reports

Aldermen consider fate of project ahead of hearing, final decision

By Eliot Duke
Staff Writer

As Southport aldermen prepare to weigh the fate of the Indigo Plantation Phase 2 project this month, information obtained by the planning board will play a key role in the decision making process. The Southport Planning Board announced its recommendation to deny a pair of submissions from Indigo developers on July 21, sending its findings to the aldermen for a final rendering.

Planning Board Chairman Sue Hodgkin provided the aldermen with a detailed analysis of the contributing factors that resulted in the denial of requests from East West Partners and Bald Head Island

Limited, LLC, for approval of both a Planned Unit Development (PUD) master plan and a zoning map amendment from R-20 to PUD for the 346-acre site.

When the board was tasked with reviewing the proposals, chairman Hodgkin created four subcommittees to look into specific aspects of a project looking to bring more than 1,500 new homes to Southport. Members of the traffic impact, environmental impact, infrastructure, and design and character subcommittees met regularly with the developers, requesting and going over documentation, maps and other types of information. Their findings resulted in the planning

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Bald Head Island

Sides cooperating with sale of ferry

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

In the latest chapter of a saga stretching nearly five years, developer Bald Head Island Limited, the state Bald Head Island Transportation Authority and the local government Village of Bald Head Island have publicly stated they're considering ways to cooperate as Limited moves forward to sell the ferry system.

While principals offered no specifics at a July 27 meeting, there were hints that the Authority might run state-regulated aspects, such as the ferry and the on-island tram system.

Meanwhile, the village held a special closed session Wednesday, August 3, at 10 a.m. to consider a case before the state Utilities Commission and "property acquisition." The village has petitioned the Utilities Commission to begin regulating prices charged for the cargo ferry, which moves everything from gro-

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Oak Island

Board seeks stronger tree enforcement rules

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Oak Island leaders are again taking a metaphorical walk in the woods with efforts to strengthen rules for saving and re-establishing trees and natural vegetation in residential areas. With a plan from staff, the Planning Board made a few changes July 21 and passed a draft unanimously.

One point of concern was that current rules, although stronger than a couple of years ago, don't do enough to encourage preservation of existing trees when a lot is cleared for a new home. Also, the board wanted to put more focus on retaining and planting trees in front yards, near the street.

The changes specifically define site improvements to cover not just dwellings, but also utilities, driveways and storm-water facilities. Staff suggested a requirement to retain or replant one tree per 25 feet of lot frontage within the front setback area.

Originally, the proposal was to require one two-inch-diameter or larger tree per 25 linear feet of street frontage. At the

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Oak Island / Caswell Beach

Strong season for turtles marred by vandals

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Even as they celebrate a near-record year for nesting on oak Island, sea turtle protectors have noticed an alarming and sudden increase in vandalism to nests.

Last week, someone covered nest marking signs at one spot in Oak Island with spray paint. Some of the paint dripped onto the sand but didn't appear to harm the eggs. Marking poles were also displaced.

On Saturday, someone intentionally dug into a Caswell Beach nest before two hatchlings emerged. There was also evidence that people got too close to two turtles who had

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Photo by Lee Hinnant
Volunteers dig up sea turtle eggs three days after the main hatch. They count the shells, unhatched eggs, dead hatchlings and free any remaining survivors.



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