

March 27, 2019

75 cents

Published Wednesdays
in Southport,
North Carolina

stateportpilot.com

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper in a Good Community



Sports - 1C

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

South Beach shoreline



Photo courtesy Village of Bald Head Island

The discharge pipe puts sand from the dredging of Jay Bird Shoals along South Beach on Bald Head Island.

Bald Head Island

Dredging work about to wrap up

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Crews are expected to finish dredging this week and begin removing equipment from Bald Head Island's South Beach, which received a 1.1-million cubic yard dose of high-quality sand from Jay Bird Shoals.

Another contractor who is replacing 13 sand-filled tubes along the beach is also expected to finish the job this week, said Village Manager Chris McCall.

"It's gone very well," he said, noting that during previous shoreline protection efforts, the Village had to request time extensions from environmental regulators.

This time around, all work will be finished long before the beginning of the sea turtle nesting season in May.

Dredging created a 200- to 250-foot-wide berm stretching for about a half-mile. It also placed sand on the landward side of the rock terminal groin, called a file.

The rock groin is the only structure of its type in the state. Built of giant boulders, it stretches into the ocean like an arm at The Point, a spot very close to the shipping channel subject to severe erosion. The rock groin is intentionally designed to be leaky, so that it traps some, but not all, of the sand passing by in the longshore current.

The Village received no federal or state help with the project, so local property owners paid the costs of \$12.7-million.

Oak Island Council

Town to spend \$1.06-million to pave 39 streets

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Oak Island Town Council agreed to spend up to \$1,069,950 for paving parts of 39 streets Monday during a special meeting that also included taking over operation of the 801 Ocean Drive event center (see separate story on page 6A).

Highland Paving's offer was about \$300,000 less than the other bidder. Under a separate contract paid for by

the state, Highland will be repaving all of East Oak Island Drive after repairs are finished on the G.V. Barbee Sr. Bridge on April 15.

Town Manager David Kelly said Oak Island typically saves its annual Powell Bill money for three years, then uses it for a paving contract to take advantage of an economy of scale. The town receives more than \$300,000 a year from the state, under a formula that takes into account population and the total mileage

of municipally maintained streets. It's called the Powell Bill because the author was former state senator J.K. Powell of Whiteville, who pushed the measure decades ago mainly to assist non-urban communities, which were being left out of statewide spending.

Council questioned Kelly to ensure the work would be guaranteed and inspected by town employees. Oak Island's infamous street dips, caused by improperly

See Streets, page 7A

Boiling Spring Lakes

Jordan new police chief

By Michael Paul
Staff Writer

Boiling Spring Lakes City Manager Jeff Repp announced Friday that Gregory L. Jordan has been appointed chief of police for the city.

"I am pleased to announce today that after receiving over 30 resumes for the position and interviewing five candidates that Gregory Jordan has agreed to become the next police chief for the City of Boiling Spring Lakes," Repp said.

"Greg's 28 years in law enforcement in Brunswick County, with the last 19 with

the Town of Oak Island Police Department prior to coming to work here in the city, will bring tremendous experience and knowledge to our department and the city," Repp said.

Boiling Spring Lakes former Police Chief Brad Shirley resigned on November 14 to become deputy chief of the Leland Police Department. His last day with Boiling Spring Lakes was on December 3. Capt. Rick Spencer has been the acting police chief.

Jordan graduated from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Science in

See Lakes, page 11A



Photo contributed

Gregory L. Jordan is the new police chief for Boiling Spring Lakes.

Brunswick County

Bridge set to open April 15

N.C. 211 widening project delayed

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

The winter-long wait and the drive that has added 12 miles to the daily commute for some residents and workers will soon come to an end. State transportation officials reported this week that the newly renovated G.V. Barbee Sr. Bridge will reopen to traffic by April 15.

The new concrete barrier has been installed and railings are going up within days, said Wayne Currie, resident engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation.

"The polyester polymer concrete overlay on the bridge deck is also complete," Currie said in an e-mail. "The contractor is currently working on the bridge deck rideability and grooving to achieve the

required rideability and skid resistance."

On Friday, contractors paved Long Beach Road from the bridge approach to Oak Island Drive. After the bridge reopens, the contractor will repave all of East Oak Island Drive to Middleton Avenue. DOT officials said there was no strict timeline on completion of that work. Nearly all of the road has a center turn lane, so paving is not expected to completely halt traffic.

Currie said that work beneath the bridge continues and will continue after the bridge is reopened.

The contractor has replaced 28 spans on the island side of the bridge, along with almost 400 high-tension concrete beams. Ongoing, extensive repairs to areas where con-

See Bridge, page 3A

Brunswick County Schools

Student redistricting decision gets delayed

By Renee Spencer
Staff Writer

After hearing from concerned parents and community members, the Brunswick County Board of Education has unanimously voted to delay a decision about redistricting students next year.

The issue was first discussed during the board's committee meetings on March 19. District staff presented two proposals—one to create a district for the new Town Creek Middle School and another to alleviate overcrowding at Belville Elementary.

While Town Creek Middle School is still in the pre-construction phase, staff presented a plan that would create a district for the school, drawing from the current districts for Leland and South Brunswick Middle schools. The zone for Town Creek Middle School would encompass about half of the current Leland Middle School district — including portions of Winnabow, Sandy Creek, Town Creek Road, Governors Road and Maco Road — and a small portion of the current South Brunswick

See Schools, page 10A

Press Association

Pilot staff wins 55 NCPA news, advertising awards

Staff of *The State Port Pilot* received 27 news, editorial and photojournalism awards and 28 advertising awards Thursday at the North Carolina Press Association's annual awards ceremony held in Raleigh.

The Pilot also won first place for General Excellence in its division, a prestigious honor awarded to the top newspapers judged for their overall quality.

Staff writer Renee Spencer also received the Media and the Law Award of Excellence presented by the North Carolina Bar Association for outstanding legal reporting. Her story examined how a local man was lured to a probation office, arrested by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Agents and deported in a matter of days, despite his lawyer's request for a hearing.

Spencer also received a coveted first place Community Service Award for her series of articles, "Animal rights and wrongs," which detailed how trapped cats in Southport were not properly cared for amidst the need for an overhaul of the city's animal control laws.

The Pilot advertising staff also received the Metro Creative Graphics Plus Business Award, given to the newspaper in each division that accumulates the most points from all of the regular advertising contest categories.

Advertising staff swept the Best Special Section Awards for Division B, winning first, second and third place for its 2018

See Awards, page 5A



Find us on facebook
facebook.com/thestateportpilot

INSIDE

Obituaries6A Pets6B Police reports9A
Classifieds6C Opinion4A Sports1C



Telemedicine Technology

Enabling an Additional Level of Patient Care in a Trusted Hometown Setting

924 N. Howe St., Southport | 910-457-3800 | Doshier.org

Doshier is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

