

August 4, 2021

\$1.00

Published Wednesdays  
in Southport,  
North Carolina

stateportpilot.com

# THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper in a Good Community



Sports - 11A

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

## Brunswick County pushes back on turbines

By Terry Pope  
Associate Editor

Brunswick County Commissioners want any offshore wind turbines built off of local beaches to be at least 24 nautical miles away so they don't impact tourism and the view of the coast.

Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution Monday in opposition to any wind energy leases within 24 nautical miles of North Carolina's shoreline. They want the same protections the federal government's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has established for the State of Virginia and other areas of coastal North Carolina.

BOEM established a 24 nautical mile no-leasing buffer for Virginia's coast and the Kitty Hawk area in North Carolina, plus a 33.7 nautical mile buffer to protect the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

"Wind turbines located within the viewshed of Brunswick County beaches would damage tourism and the economy of the county by transforming open ocean views to views of massive industrial machinery," the resolution adopted Monday states.

It adds, "Such a change would represent a destructive commitment of ocean resources that could irreversibly damage the natural environment and resources that drive our economy."

BOEM has proposed two areas off Brunswick County for wind turbine leasing by private companies. Areas off of Brunswick and Horry (South Carolina) counties are called Wilmington West (52,000 acres) and Wilmington East (134,000 acres). There is no timeline for offering leases for these areas.

The East area starts slightly more than 11 nautical miles  
**See Turbines, page 7A**

## Memorial regatta



Photo by Morgan Harper  
Youth instructors Kaitlyn Inglett and Julia Morris participate in the Cape Fear Yacht Club's 2021 Ed Harper Memorial Regatta on Sunday. The regatta consisted of 420 sailors competing from Dutchman Creek to the Southport waterfront. More coverage is on page 14B in our Portfolio section.

## N.C. Fourth of July Festival Committee looks to next year

By Caroline MacGregor  
Staff Writer

Hosting Southport's annual North Carolina Fourth of July Festival each year demands the collaboration of multiple resources. Some people may never think about it at all, while others think the city of Southport is in charge of the festival, and others might think it's just the Southport Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce is behind the curtain making it all happen. None of these are what really happens.

The enormous undertaking is actually overseen by the North Carolina July 4th

Festival Committee, which will convene again in September to begin the process of planning next year's event.

"It is its own nonprofit entity with its own board of directors; it's got its own 501(c)(6) tax designation, its own EIN, and then they contract with the chamber to provide administrative support," explained Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce executive director, Karen Sphar.

Sphar said the complexities of the event take a tremendous amount of coordination, along with a group of great volunteers. "Familiar with all the events, they pull off a  
**See Fourth, page 10A**

## COVID-19

# Clinics added as cases climb

Health officials concerned  
as Delta strain affects county

By Caroline MacGregor  
Staff Writer

With an alarming jump in cases of COVID-19 and hospitalizations throughout the state, Brunswick County health officials are offering more pop-up vaccine clinics.

As of August 2, the county counted 10,128 confirmed and probable cases, including 139 new cases, 524 active cases, and 161 deaths.

With the Delta strain of the virus spreading rapidly there may be a new trend, as evidenced during a clinic held last week at the Southport Community Building.

Ginny Fredell is a contract nurse who administers vaccines for the Brunswick County Health Department, and who worked last Thursday's clinic.

"We ended up doing 25 (vaccines) and some of those include the 12- to 17-year-olds, people getting ready for school," Fredell said. "With the current standing it just

seems a lot of people have said, 'I really wasn't going to do this but it's getting bad again and I decided to go ahead.'"

The clinics have experienced both good days and slower days, but Fredell said it's considered a success even if they vaccinate just one person.

The pop-up vaccine clinics offer three vaccines - Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, the latter available to the public after being reviewed by the FDA. Children and teenagers ages 12-17 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine only. The pharmaceutical giant is currently testing its booster shot - or third dose - of the COVID-19 vaccine in a few areas of the state.

Education, Fredell explained, is key to encouraging people to take the job.

"And if they haven't thought about it, it's the little kids under 12 who are getting sick with this variant; they're get-

**See COVID, page 7A**

## Southport / BHI

# Ferry bonds on hold; second appraisal in

By Lee Hinnant  
Staff Writer

Residents, property owners and other interested persons are invited to attend a Friday, August 6, information session about the pending sale of the Bald Head Island ferry system. Sponsored by village government, the meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building and will be available to view online via Zoom at villagebhi.org.

The meeting will include an opportunity for the audience to pose questions, said Carin Faulkner, spokeswoman for the village.

Village council is also expected to address the matter at its regular August 20 meeting.

Last week, the Bald Head Island Transportation Authority  
**See Ferry, page 8A**



## Southport adds another 500 tons to project Waterfront repairs set in stone

By Caroline MacGregor  
Staff Writer

During a special called meeting Friday, Southport Board of Aldermen approved a resolution for an extra \$75,000 to pay for an additional 500 tons of stone to make the Bay Street waterfront more resilient to erosion.

"This will carry all the way to waterfront park, as well as get more stone up under the pier where it is eroding," explained Tom

Stanley, public service director for the City of Southport.

The extra money will cover the cost of the stone, only with no additional costs for labor.

By the time it's completed, approximately 2,000 tons of stone will have been used to repair and protect the seafront that has been hit by hurricanes and resulting tidal damage.

In presenting his update on progress to the seawall and the need for more stone to complete the project, Stanley stressed the need for the city to be as prepared as possible.

"Everybody knows that along with fire, water is one of the most powerful forces on earth and we live in a hurricane prone area. You cannot predict water, you try to prepare for  
**See Southport, page 5A**

Photo by Morgan Harper  
Work continues on the Bay Street waterfront repairs damaged by last year's hurricanes.

**INSIDE** Obituaries .....6A    Pets ..... 6B    Police reports .....8A    Tides ..... 14A  
Classifieds .....11B    Opinion ..... 4A    Sports .....11A    Our Town ..... 2A

twitter  
twitter.com/StatePortPilot

NCPA

Find us on facebook  
facebook.com/thestateportpilot



## HAPPINESS COMES IN WAVES

find yours at *Rudd.com*

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT &  
VACATION RENTALS

MARGARET RUDD  
& ASSOCIATES, INC., REALTORS

RELOCATION SERVICES &  
REAL ESTATE SALES