



State qualifiers – 1C
South's McKenzie White wins the
100-yard butterfly at 3A regionals.

Museum manager hooked on history

Sanderlin's dream job comes true

By Renee Spencer
Staff Writer

Lori Sanderlin can recall the exact moment she became hooked on history.

She was seven years old, sitting on the couch with her father, watching a PBS special on King Tutankhamun. It was the scene where British archaeologist Howard Carter breaks through the tomb's wall.

"He sticks his candle in there and everybody's asking him what does he see," Sanderlin recalled. "And he says, 'I see wondrous things.'"

"Ever since that moment, I have been hooked—absolutely hooked," she said.

She credits her father for fostering her passion for the past.

"He drug me around to every maritime site, every historic site," she said. "He just had always loved history, and shared that with me."

As an adult, Sanderlin has spent her career helping preserve North Carolina's history. Over the past several years, she's served as the education curator for the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport, spreading her contagious enthusiasm to future historians.

On February 1, she stepped into a new role as manager of the Southport museum. Sanderlin's excited about the new adventure, calling it a "dream come true."

Finding her niche

Though she discovered her passion for history at just seven years old, Sanderlin recalls that she almost took a different path. As an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, she started off as a psychology major.

"I wanted to help people," she explained.

But then she took a survey history course with UNC-W history professor Chris Fonvielle, and that set her on a different path.

"Probably no one in the world remembers this but me," she said. See Sanderlin, page 13A



Photo by Morgan Harper
With a hand on the periscope and under the watch of the "Nehi" Gore exhibit, Lori Sanderlin is in familiar surroundings as she begins work as new manager of the North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport.

County fire commission Some baffled by standards

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

As the calendar closes in on Brunswick County Fire Commission's February 13 meeting, some chiefs are pushing back on the proposed standards recently laid on the table.

Composed of elected officials, residents and first-responders, the commission is attempting to set shared standards across the county and its 18 separate departments, most staffed mainly by volunteers. Leaders have agreed to work on service benchmarks, then figure out how to pay for them.

Some firefighters are skeptical about the standards, although there have not yet been any firm decisions.

The proposals range from training to staffing, equipment

and response times. They include:

■ Providing four responders to all structure fires.

■ Responding to medical calls within nine minutes 90-percent of the time, excluding crashes.

■ Having at least 75-percent of members certified as Firefighter 1 or Firefighter 2 within two years of signing up.

■ Maintaining an insurance safety rating of at least "6." That score or lower provides the maximum discount for homeowners insurance.

St. James fire chief John Dahill, in a letter to the commission, wrote that his department could meet or exceed all proposed "response measures," except "those having time constraints associated with them."

Dahill stated that members of See Fire, page 9A

Brunswick County

Filing opens Monday for 2018 local elections

Filing opens at noon on Monday, February 12, for candidates who plan to seek office in the 2018 elections.

The 2018 filing period closes at noon on Wednesday, February 28, at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office at the county government center near Bolivia.

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, May 8, to decide primary races with the general election set for Tuesday, November 6.

Locally, voters will decide races for district attorney, clerk of court, sheriff, two county board of commissioners seats, two school board seats and three judge contests in District Court and Superior Court. Seats for U.S. Congress, N.C. House and State Senate are also up for election.

The filing period for non-partisan judicial candidates is Monday, June 18, through Friday, June 29. The filing period for Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District nonpartisan seats is Monday, June 11, through Friday, July 6.

Open seats

Following is a list of seats that are open on the Brunswick County ballot for 2018:

■ U.S. House 7th Congressional District held by Republican Da- See Filing, page 3A

Sea Biscuit at Oak Island

Shelter marks busy year, ponders future

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter had a busy 2017, caring for an average of one and a half creatures per day and rehabilitating animals from near and far.

Director Mary Ellen Rogers said the increase in "patients" has her and shelter volunteers thinking about a long-term plan that would include a larger facility on the mainland.

Rogers has run the shelter from the downstairs portion of her Oak Island beach house and backyard for a decade. While she has a flight cage, other enclosures, a pelican pool and a dedicated team of volunteers, she's hampered by a lack of space, particularly when temperatures plunge in the winter and injured birds need additional warmth.

Rogers is currently in negotiations with Duke Energy and the Town of Oak Island to possibly lease land owned by Duke adjacent to the town's Bill Smith Park. The concept is construction of a new facility that would be open to the public on one side, with displays, educational resident birds, a gift and book shop and areas where visitors could look through windows into triage and treatment rooms.

The other part of the facility would be a secure, well-equipped clinic to help rescue, treat, shelter, rehabilitate and release sick or injured wildlife. Sea Biscuit has more than a dozen volunteers trained to handle injured birds, and works closely with several veterinarians, especially Ali Travis, Calley Steelman and Flint King.

One possible model is Florida Audubon Society's Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, a popular educational and tourist attraction near Orlando. It has 20,000 followers on Facebook.

Rogers envisions the new facility as a boost to wildlife and also a destination for tourists, school and civic groups. The area being con- See Sea Biscuit, page 11A



Photo by Lee Hinnant
Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter director Mary Ellen Rogers prepares the "Town Hall" hawk for a trip to the veterinarian. Frequently seen around Oak Island Town Hall, the red-tailed hawk has trouble with one of its wings.

Southport retreat Aldermen identify city's top priorities

By Renee Spencer
Staff Writer

Stabilizing the riverfront and dredging the city's Yacht Basin are the top two priorities for the Southport Board of Aldermen, whose members hope to address both of these issues in the coming year.

The board identified these projects, as well as several others, during its annual retreat, held at Southport Fire Headquarters last Saturday morning.

Chris May, executive director for the Cape Fear Council of Governments, led the meeting. He began by asking board members to list traits of a good mayor, alderman and city manager.

He created a list for each of the three positions and posted it on the wall for the board to see.

"Take these and put them beside your bed and read them before you go to bed at night—and again in the morning," May joked, drawing laughter from the board.

Following the exercise, May then led aldermen through a process to identify goals and projects.

"I need you to write down five

Most important issues for 2018

- Waterfront stabilization.
- Yacht Basin dredging.
- Updating the UDO.
- City buildings.
- Animal control.

things that when you ran for office or when you were talking to folks that you told them you want to see get accomplished before you get out of office," he said. "The five most important things you can think of. This is your stump speech."

"I'm going to be honest with you, I didn't tell nobody nothing when I ran," mayor pro-tem Todd Coring said. "I ran because I live here and I love Southport. I don't make promises to nobody. I'm just a voice."

Alderman Karen Mosteller agreed. "I didn't make promises," she said. "We talked about things that were important."

May then rephrased the question, asking board members

See Southport, page 12A



Turning Visitors into Locals
...since 1981

Resort Rentals • Real Estate Sales • Commercial Properties • Homesites & Land

www.MargaretRudd.com See our ad page

MARGARET RUDD
& ASSOCIATES, INC., REALTORS

Time and Tide

75 years ago

Times change, and time changes. February 3, 1943, found Lt. (jg) S.B. Frink, USCG, had been promoted to the rank of full lieutenant. Basketball contests between various service groups were still headline news. The Navy base officers from Fort Caswell had defeated the Oak Island team, though the later was led by the "tall, speedy and ambidextrous Dewey from Oklahoma East Central State College." The score remains a mystery.

65 years ago

Headline: "Teenage Girls Given Chance;" Dateline: February 4, 1953. The story: The teenage committee of the Azalea Festival had announced that a local girl would be selected as a representative for the Teen-Age Ball of that celebration. A Bolivia hunter had downed a flying quail with a .22 rifle; a party aboard Capt. Fred Fulford's boat *Davis Brothers* had caught some 450 pounds of blackfish; and the trawler *Wolf Pack* had made the prize catch of the week—a purported 40-ton anchor.

55 years ago

Fifty-five years ago this week Sen. Ray Walton and Rep. Odell Williamson were off to Raleigh for the opening of the N.C. General Assembly. Another cruise ship, the *SS Atlantic*, had sailed through Southport harbor on her way to an excursion in the Caribbean. Improvements had been made to Southport City Hall, making provision for a meeting room. Joe Hufham had a feature story about the Maco Light; and the Boy Scout troop at Shallotte was observing Boy Scout Week.

45 years ago

In the *Pilot* for January 31, 1973, there was announcement that Rep. Charlie Rose would use a mobile office to keep in touch with citizens of the 7th Congressional District. A front-page photo showed Mayor Dorothy Gilbert presenting a check for \$10,000 to Doshier Memorial Hospital to help that institution overcome a financial crisis. The editor had written a piece praising Arthur J. Doshier, who had died that week, for the contribution he made to improvement of educational facilities for Brunswick County children.

40 years ago

A front-page photo February 8, 1978, showed the mortgage-burning ceremony at Trinity United Methodist Church, where a new educational building was dedicated. G.E. Hubbard, a longtime member of the church, applied the torch. Revitalization of the downtown business district of Southport had been the theme of a public meeting. Groundbreaking ceremonies had been held for Oak Island Presbyterian Church; and Robert Russell had been named director of the Southport-Brunswick County Library.

35 years ago

The City of Southport was replacing metal city plates with plastic stickers to be displayed on windshields. That was a front-page story in the *Pilot* for February 9, 1983, and the editor also had a word to say about it. Severe erosion from a winter storm had washed out another section of the roadway at Kings Lynn in Long Beach. A separate voting precinct had been established for Boiling Spring Lakes; and the cable TV system servicing this area was upgrading its coverage, along with an increase in price.

30 years ago

A state project had been organized to give employment to shellfishermen who were out of work because of the "red tide" situation affecting local waters. That was a headline story in the *Pilot* for February 3, 1988, and the project, to employ 109 people, was to move oysters from polluted waters to locations where they could not be harvested until the following fall. Bernard Flythe of South Brunswick had been chosen as a member of the McDonald's All-American High School Jazz Band.

25 years ago

It was February 3, 1993, and Gene Tomlinson of Southport had been named interim chairman of the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission, where he had served 15 years. Our editorial writer that week called on the governor to make Tomlinson's appointment permanent. Three weeks earlier a candidate had so impressed Southport aldermen that they had hired him as city manager without interviewing other finalists on their list. We reported this week that he resigned without actually reporting for work.

20 years ago

It was February 4, 1998, and engineers had told Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners that the recently commenced treatment plant would be operating at full 500,000-gallon capacity when it went into operation within a year. Year-round school was not going to be offered in the southern section of the county; county schools were soon to start moving headquarters to Bolivia; and the *Pilot* had received 12 North Carolina Press Association awards in recent judging.

15 years ago

It was February 5, 2003, and revaluation was at hand, with Southport real estate values expected to increase an average of 47-percent and Oak Island values to be up 40-percent. A superior court judge had ruled that the Town of Oak Island had the right to develop its street-ends for public use. We had a feature on the twice-monthly Friday night country music jamboree at the Oak Island Recreation Center; and Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity had dedicated its seventh house.

10 years ago

Southport aldermen and Brunswick County commissioners were asking state legislators to intervene to have the N.C. Department of Transportation re-examine a proposal that would provide a four-lane connector between Long Beach Road and N.C. 87 instead of the state's planned two-lane road. An elevator to access the upstairs at Franklin Square Gallery, funded by an "Elevate the Arts" fundraising campaign, was nearing completion; Chad Hicks was serving as Southport city manager while aldermen sought a replacement for the recently retired Rob Gandy; and Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity had begun construction of its 20th house, in Boiling Spring Lakes.

5 years ago

Oak Island was considering de-annexation of 1,900 acres of mainland property, brought into town limits during a "turf war" several years before when owners decided they'd rather be part of Oak Island than St. James, a choice soon after rendered moot by changes in North Carolina annexation law. The February 6, 2013, edition of the *Pilot* reported that town council was divided on whether to keep control of the acreage in the vicinity of N.C. 211 and Midway Road. Nine deputies had been assigned as resource officers in Brunswick County elementary schools; Southport aldermen had revived the city's waterfront development plan; Brad Shirley had been sworn as police chief for Boiling Spring Lakes; the North Carolina Maritime Museum had opened an exhibit honoring "Nehi" Gore, the legendary '78" men-haden fisherman; and scouts were looking at Southport as a primary location for filming "Under the Dome," a planned TV series based on a novel by Stephen King.

\$25 Off First Cleaning!!!!

SEA GREEN
Earth Friendly Residential Cleaning

We only use biodegradable earth-friendly cleaning products.

We offer green cleaning for those who are environmentally conscious. Our green products are non-toxic and biodegradable to protect you and our planet. We want you to come home to a pleasant, clean home.

Call to Schedule • Free Estimate
910.471.5621

Pine Forest Plantation in Oak Island Single-family in next phase

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Pine Forest Plantation, a mixed-use Oak Island development on the mainland, has unveiled its next phase of planned construction, which will include 108 single-family homes and a working berry farm.

A host of officials from the town, Brunswick County and state, working as a technical advisory committee, are expected to review the preliminary plat this week. Town planner Jake Vares said the plans were subject to change after review by the various agencies. The Oak Island Planning Board will take up the proposal at its regular March 15 meeting.

Originally called The Charles in mid-2014, the project had some early management changes and emerged as Pine Forest Plantation. Novant Health opened a 10,500-square-foot family medical clinic in October 2017. Developers are planning an 80-bed assisted living facility with a memory care center, pending final acquisition of a state certificate of need. Eventually, the property will include a multi-tenant medical campus, commercial town center and multi-family housing, said David Davis, one of the primary developers.

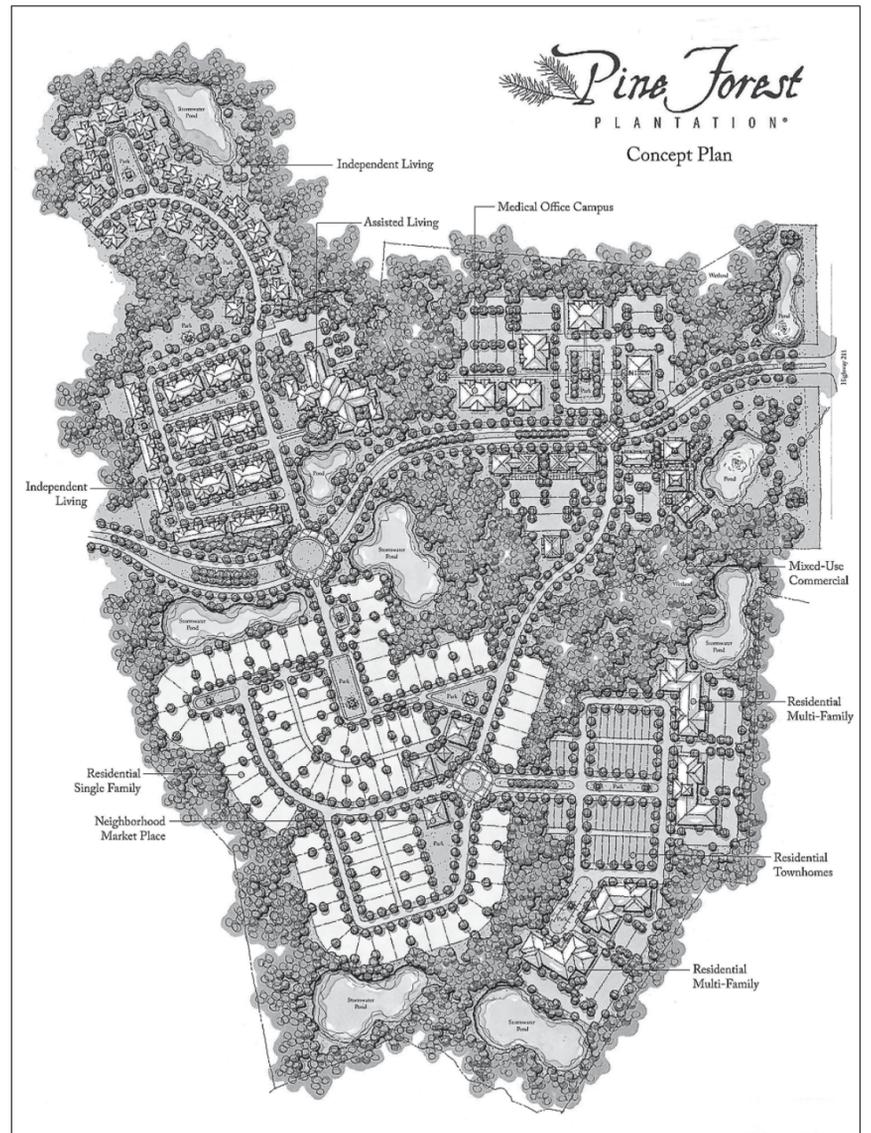
Earth-moving for the housing and care center infrastructure is expected to begin in about a week, Davis said. As one faces the existing clinic from N.C. 211, housing will be on the left and the assisted living center will be on the right, just to the east.

Davis said developers would construct several model homes but otherwise expected to sell custom-ordered houses, as opposed to speculative houses. Many of the homes will border small ponds and all will be integrated into a system of walking and biking trails.

The streets inside Pine Forest Plantation will accommodate motor vehicles but will be designed for ease of use by residents who have golf carts, he said. Linear parks will be one of the amenities, along with other open spaces and a community recreation center. The total property exceeds 2,000 acres.

Part of the overall vision of the development is to provide progressive care from independent to assisted living, along with customized concierge health services, such as meal preparation and in-home medical equipment.

Another facet of the latest phase is a 25-acre working farm that will be run by professionals and include blueberries and



The drawing at top illustrates the conceptual draft master plan for Pine Forest Plantation.

The artist's rendering at left depicts one of the styles of single-family residences planned for Pine Forest Plantation.

strawberries, Davis said. Eventually, Pine Forest will host a farmers market that will be open to the public and also offer commu-

nity garden plots for residents.

The development is expected to have 2,850 residential units at build-out.

To learn more, visit <http://pineforestplantation.com/> or call 866-667-9784.

Early college high school application posted online

The application to attend Brunswick County Early College High School is now available online.

Students interested in applying and their parents must attend an informational forum, to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, at Odell Williamson Auditorium on the campus of Brunswick Community College.

Staff will be present to answer questions and provide more information about the school. Brunswick County Early College High School is a North Carolina S.T.E.M. School of Distinction and a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School.

Additional information and the application may be found on the district's website at www.bcswan.net/ECHS.

The application deadline for the 2018-19 school year is March 7.

Embracing Change

SOUTHPORT REALTY

Mary Carneiro
BROKER
914.649.7100
mary@southport-realty.com

Find me on Facebook | Mary Carneiro at Southport Realty

727 N. Howe Street • Southport
910.457.6401 • www.southport-realty.com

Life is priceless. Insuring it should be affordable.

910 457-9559
www.ncfbins.com

Kenneth White
LUTCF, CLU, FSS
Agent
kenneth.white@ncfbins.com

An Authorized Agency for
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Get Real Auto-Home-Life-Health

NC Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Co.
NC Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.
Southern Farm Bureau Security Insurance Co.
Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co.

Perfect Venue for your Special Occasion!

COASTAL BANQUET HALL/VENUE
614 W. West St. • Southport NC, 28461
(across from the Southport Marina)
910-448-0360
www.southportbanquethall.com

H&R BLOCK | With Watson

WHY WAIT WEEKS FOR YOUR REFUND?

BLOCK COULD GET YOU UP TO **\$3000**

THE DAY YOU FILE.

REFUND ADVANCE | **0% INTEREST LOAN**

»»»»» JAN. 5 - FEB. 28 «««««

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY.

**5130 SOUTHPORT SUPPLY RD SE
SOUTHPORT, NC 28461
910-457-0035**

*This is an optional tax refund-related loan from BofI Federal Bank, Member FDIC; it is not your tax refund. Loans are offered in amounts of \$500, \$750, \$1250 or \$3000. Approval and loan amount based on expected refund amount, ID verification, eligibility criteria, and underwriting. If approved, funds will be loaded on a prepaid card and the loan amount will be deducted from your tax refund, reducing the amount that is paid directly to you. Tax returns may be e-filed without applying for this loan. Fees for other optional products or product features may apply. Limited time offer. Available at participating locations. Not offered in Puerto Rico. HRB Maine License No.: FRA2. See hrblock.com/refundadvance for details. ©2017 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

hrblock.com/refundadvance