

## **“Beach Renourishment”**

The following is a reply submitted for consideration in the Opinions section of the *Star-News*.

The *Star-News* regularly has articles concerning “beach renourishment,” “sandbags,” “jetties,” and most recently hardened “groins.” All of these articles imply that there is something “wrong” with our beaches or that they are “disappearing.” Most of our local beaches are located on “Barrier Islands,” which are defined as, “Long, relatively narrow islands running parallel to the mainland, built up by the action of waves and currents and serving to protect the [mainland] coast from erosion by surf and tidal surges.” [Am. Her. Dic.] By definition, these beaches do not “disappear” they MOVE. Historically, local beach structures were “cottages,” which could be easily repaired or replaced in the event of damage or destruction. More recently, it has become a perceived “entitlement” to have a large beachfront home hugging the shoreline, and it is apparently the responsibility of all citizens and taxpayers to protect this supposed right. I have no problem with beachfront homes selling for \$3,000,000.00, and more. People have the right to spend their money as they see fit. However, I do not feel that those of us not so privileged should feel obligated to shell out our hard-earned tax dollars in order to protect these homes from the inevitability-approaching ocean. Erosion and even hurricanes are risks that these persons should have known and should assume without qualm. Apparently, it would have benefited these folks to have paid more attention in Sunday School rather than “be likened to a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.” (Matt. 7:26)