



Fire spreads through the Swansquarter condominium complex on Bald Head Island

Photo by Bonny Banas

Blaze destroys 38 Bald Head condos

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Similar clusters exist along the coast, p. 3

A raging fire swept the Swansquarter condominium complex on Bald Head Island's south beachfront last Thursday night, destroying ten three-story frame structures and routing some 25 occupants but injuring no one.

The fire was the worst in island history and the damage estimate of \$5.7 million with 38 apartment units destroyed made it one of the most destructive Brunswick County blazes of all time.

An island resident who watched from Horsemint Trail, 1,500 feet upwind from the fire scene, said, "I

could feel the heat. It was hot. That's why I know nobody could have put that fire out."

Bald Head Island fire chief Gregg Turner said that the fire commenced around 10 p.m. in apartment 9-A -- in the second building in the complex off South Bald Head Wynd -- when an in-wall heating-cooling unit burst into flames.

The occupants of that apartment fled, and other Swansquarter visitors were either alarmed by the grow-

ing flames or alerted by workers and guests from the nearby Bald Head Island Club, or by public safety officers who were quickly on the scene.

Mrs. June Dedmon of Fresno, Calif., newly arrived on the island for her son's Saturday wedding, had been inside her Swansquarter apartment for only a few minutes.

"I heard what sounded like rain on the roof, and I looked out and the whole thing was engulfed," she later

told friends.

She and her husband fled down stairs, though other occupants said they had to shinny down porch-posts on the back side of some burning buildings.

Within minutes the strong northerly wind whipped the building nine fire out of control and adjacent structures began to smolder. Soon three more buildings were in flames.

Island firefighters alerted by the county 911 system started pumping water on apartment buildings not yet blazing, but were forced by advancing fire to abandon their position and relinquish the remaining two struc-

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Long Beach primary sets election field

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

Nearly half of the registered voters in Long Beach turned out Tuesday to narrow the field of mayoral candidates to two and council member candidates to six.

A total of 1,346 voters went to the polls; 2,830 are registered to vote. The results of the primary election will remain unofficial until the board of elections approves them Thursday morning.

Incumbent mayor Joan Altman and Rupert Riley will proceed to the November 2 general election, as former mayor John Vereen III was eliminated from the race with 257 votes. Altman received the most votes, 558, while Riley was named on 506 ballots.

Altman said she believed residents supported her because they liked her style of leadership.

"I think they appreciated my openness as a candidate," she said. "And I think people support my positive view for the future of the town."

Asked why he felt the people of Long Beach supported him, Riley responded: "I guess they liked what I said, and that's about all I can say."

He pointed to the logo on his card -- "Representative government and fiscal responsibility" -- to describe his platform.

The six candidates for town council who will head into the general election are Frances Allen (566), Kevin Bell (451), Helen Cashwell (529), David Drummond (543), Jeff Ensminger (444) and Danny Leonard (462).

Candidates who were eliminated include Carlton Frazier (282), Doris Hertel (238), Timothy Jones (203) and Dan Windsor (84).

Allen, Cashwell and Drummond all said they felt voters were behind them because the people of Long Beach want a change.

"I think the message is loud and clear that we need a change," said Allen. "We're trying to reflect the issues of the people, and we care about people as opposed to vested interests."

Cashwell also said she believed she had the people's support because the majority of voters did not feel represented by the town council.



ENSMINGER



ALLEN



LEONARD



CASHWELL



BELL



DRUMMOND

\$5-10 million project

Unit 1 shroud to be repaired

By Holly Edwards
Municipal Editor

The primary cause of a crack in Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Unit 1 reactor shroud may have been the type of material General Electric used to make it, said Nuclear Regulatory Commission regional director Stewart Ebnetter.

However, CP&L vice-president Roy Anderson indicated that his company does not intend to wrangle with G.E. over the cost of the repair, which is now estimated to be between \$5 million and \$10 million.

"We'll decide later where the responsibility lies," Anderson said. "What we're looking for right now is to get the basic repair design complete."

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jagged and about as thick as a business card. It surrounds the entire 14-foot circumference of the shroud, where large pieces of stainless steel are welded together, and in some places is halfway through the metal.

Ebnetter said the crack does not pose a problem during normal operation of the plant, but could prevent plant operators from using the control rods to shut down the reactor in the event of an earthquake.

Record king is worth \$42,820

The largest fish in U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament history earned \$42,820 for Terry Turner and his *Goodtime* crew from Wilmington here Saturday.

The whopping 52.4-pound king taken east of Frying Pan Shoals late Friday -- opening day of the two-day event --- was the third over-50 fish in the tournament's 15-year history and earned far more than its 50.40-pound and 50.25 forebears, caught in 1986 and 1985 when first prize was \$20,000.

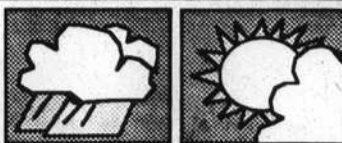
Fishing with Turner were Fred Graham, Roy Bain and Doky Saffo. With a \$25,000 first prize in this year's Open, the additional \$17,820 from the "tournament within a tournament" made Turner's catch the third largest money-winner in Open history.

Last year, Jack Wood won \$43,855 with a 40.15-pounder, and in 1991 David Stallings won \$43,207 with a 42.05-pound king.

Second-place finisher Saturday was Clint Hines of Wilmington aboard

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OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for a 'good chance' of showers on Thursday with a high near 70. Friday and Saturday, expect partly cloudy skies with highs in the 80s and lows in the 50s. Cooler weather returns Sunday, with highs in the 70s.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7	LOW
12:10 a.m.		6:35 a.m.
12:50 p.m.		7:19 p.m.
	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8	
1:08 a.m.		7:31 a.m.
1:49 p.m.		8:19 p.m.
	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9	
2:17 a.m.		8:36 a.m.
2:52 p.m.		9:24 p.m.
	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10	
3:27 a.m.		9:44 a.m.
3:57 p.m.		10:27 p.m.
	MONDAY, OCTOBER 11	
4:32 a.m.		10:50 a.m.
4:58 p.m.		11:24 p.m.
	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12	
5:35 a.m.		11:51 a.m.
5:56 p.m.		----- p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13	
6:33 a.m.		12:18 a.m.
6:52 p.m.		12:47 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly Inlet, high -22, low -8.