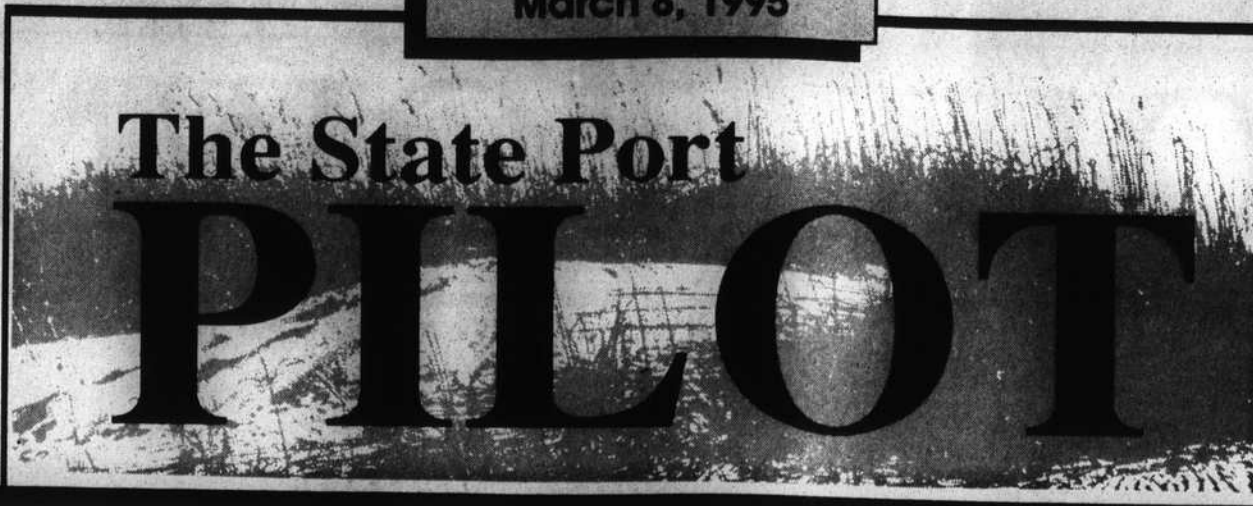




**Sports**

Maybe not in the Majors, but baseball players here take to the diamond -- 9B



VOLUME 64/ NUMBER 28 SOUTHPORT, N.C. 50 CENTS

**Neighbors**

Longliners make good money and enjoy outdoor life, but there's a catch -- 1B

**Our Town**

Yaupon got off light, but wants it even lighter for OSHA violations -- Page 2

**Plan may cure high med costs**

By Holly Edwards  
Feature Editor

Costs of medical care are skyrocketing because insurance companies and health management organizations (HMOs) are "bloated with too much profit," claims Coastal Carolina Health Alliance (CCHA) executive director Scott Parisella.

Some fear the quality of medical care will plummet as insurance companies and HMOs limit access to hospitals and doctors, and dictate the level of care patients receive.

To slow the rising cost of health care, and direct money and power back to hospitals and doctors, Parisella is attempting to unite Doshier Memorial Hospital and eight other alliance hospitals with a financial institution to form a non-profit company that would compete with insurance companies and HMOs.

"It's been proven that managed care works to reduce costs," he said. "What we want to do is reduce costs without sacrificing quality."

Patients would pay premiums directly to the health care providers, thus eliminating the flow of money out of the health care industry, Parisella said.

This in turn would keep costs in check and ensure that doctors, not insurance agents, decide what patients

See Med costs, page 6

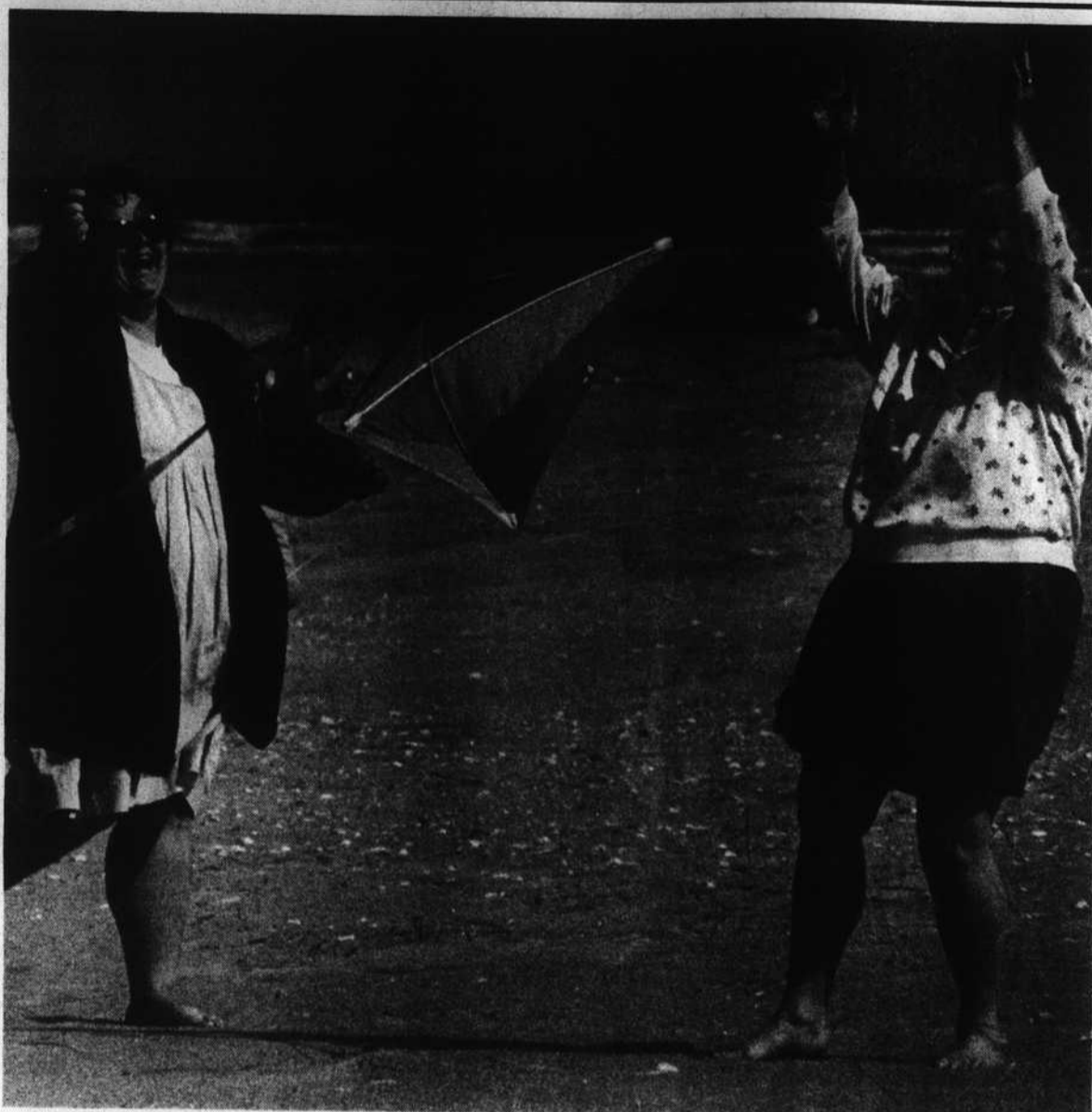


Photo by Jim Harper

March certainly came in lion-like last week and these two experienced kite flyers put on an aerial demonstration at the Lockwood Folly Point. More good kite-flying is expected this week as the spring weather pattern of strong frontal movement takes over.

*Hearing March 23*

**Second bridge for Oak Island possible in '98**

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

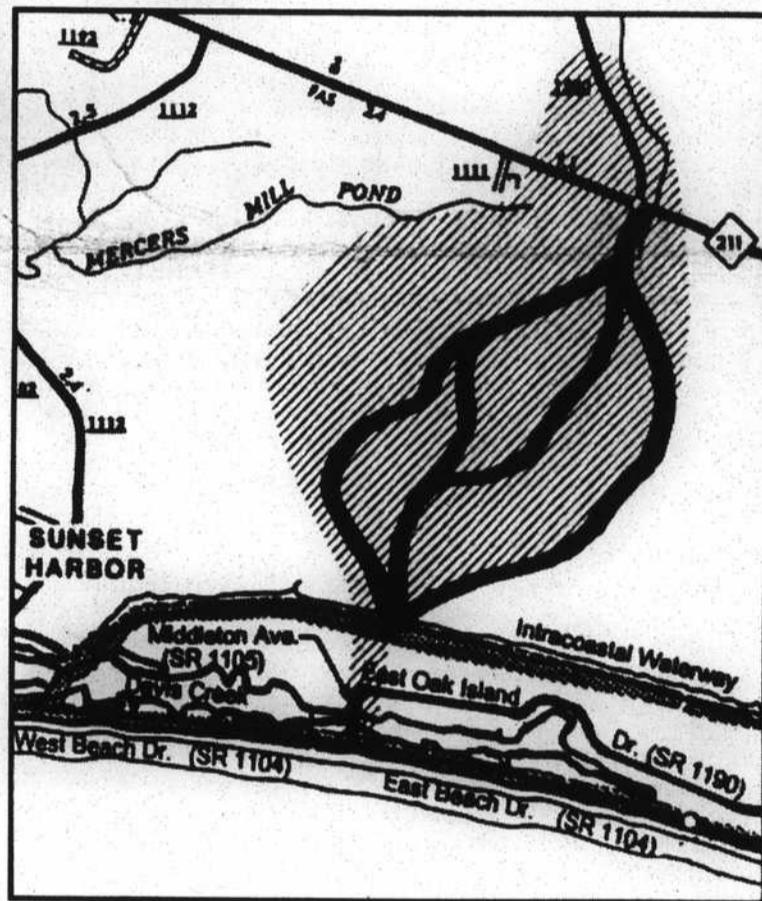
NCDOT wants to know how you feel about tentative plans for a second bridge to Oak Island.

The bridge proposal will be the subject of a DOT-sponsored workshop to be held at the Long Beach Recreation Center March 23 between 6 and 7 p.m. Information and concerns relayed by the public will be incorporated in environmental documents now being compiled by a contractor to the Department of Transportation.

The workshop is preliminary to See Bridge, page 8

*'On the island, we know where we're going to go. We're pretty locked in. We're going down Middleton.'*

Philip Edwards  
Project engineer



**AG's advice sought on mine permitting**

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

State mining officials are asking for an attorney general's ruling on whether to force Martin Marietta Inc. to submit final data on its rock quarry application near Southport.

The mining company has been placed on a 180-day deadline by the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources to respond to state requests for more data on the application filed in December, 1993.

But Martin Marietta attorneys want

to stop the clock while they pursue court action against the county ordinance that restricts deep mining on the company's 1,000-acre tract north of Bethel Church Road.

"It's one of those back and forth things now," said Tracy Davis, state mining specialist with the Land Quality Section of DEHNR. "We still feel that in the midst of this lawsuit, there are some things that should have been looked at by now. We would like to see an update."

If attorney general Mike Easley's office rules in favor of the state, the See Advice, page 6

*No cancer link found*

**Research to relieve some local concerns**

First of a two-part series

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

To some, the cancer rate among county residents is alarming and in their minds reveals a frightening trend from human exposure to nuclear energy or to paper mill emissions.

But to state officials who researched the local disease pattern for six months, the number of cases is actually below what is expected for the county's growing retirement population.

Health experts claim Brunswick County residents are no more prone to cancer than those in the average community. Outbreaks of the feared disease were reported in four "cancer clusters" in New Hanover and Brunswick counties in 1990 and in the fall of 1993.

Following its study the N. C. Central Cancer Registry (CCR) said the figures are high, but not on paper -- only in the opinions of families and friends most affected by the terrible disease.

A "cluster" is an area highlighted by what appears at first to be a higher-

*'One of the things people don't realize is how common cancer is already. They don't realize that one out of every three people will likely get cancer at some point in their life.'*

Dr. Tim Aldrich  
CCR director

than-usual rate of cancer patients. All diagnosed cases are reported by area physicians and hospitals to the CCR, which also investigates any residents' concerns of a hidden, underlying factor involved.

In 1990 reports pointed an accusing finger at Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick nuclear facil-

ity near Southport as a potential cause of brain cancer among local residents.

"We did not find any excess of brain cancer, nor any pattern, close to that facility," said Dr. Tim Aldrich, CCR director. "What they were observing is very close to what was expected."

In fact, the numbers are slightly lower than what is anticipated for the region. With reports mounting that dated back to 1990, Aldrich's staff expanded its study to include five southeastern North Carolina counties with a focus on two key industries -- CP&L's nuclear plant near Southport and General Electric's nuclear fuel production facility in New Hanover County. CP&L operates twin nuclear reactors to produce electricity, and one division of GE manufactures radioactive fuel elements at its Castle Hayne site.

There are seven cancer types suspected of being associated with exposure to ionizing radiation or to any agricultural pesticides, but the three types examined in the CCR's report are cancers of the brain, thyroid and multiple myeloma for a five-county population of 254,815 residents. That covers those living near the plants and See Research, page 6



**Forecast**

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday through Saturday with highs in the 50's. Sunday will be warmer and sunnier, highs 65-70.

**Tide tables**

HIGH	THURSDAY, MARCH 9	LOW
1:08 a.m.		7:30 a.m.
1:35 p.m.		7:46 p.m.
	FRIDAY, MARCH 10	
2:04 a.m.		8:29 a.m.
2:34 p.m.		8:46 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MARCH 11	
3:02 a.m.		9:28 a.m.
3:33 p.m.		9:45 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MARCH 12	
3:59 a.m.		10:24 a.m.
4:28 p.m.		10:40 p.m.
	MONDAY, MARCH 13	
4:52 a.m.		11:14 a.m.
5:20 p.m.		11:32 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MARCH 14	
5:41 a.m.		12:01 p.m.
6:08 p.m.		12:20 a.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15	
6:27 a.m.		12:44 p.m.
6:53 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; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

The State Port Pilot  
**Pilot Line**  
THE TALKING NEWSPAPER  
DIAL  
457-5084 • 253-8427

**Pilot Line invites you to speak out**

This week *The State Port Pilot* introduces Pilot Line Poll, a weekly sampling of reader opinions on the issues of the day.

Through the newspaper's updated audiotext information system, Pilot Line, readers have the opportunity to not only vote "aye" or "nay" to Pilot Line Poll questions, but they may now leave an explanation of their votes. Pilot Line Poll is now equipped to record a verbal response of up to 45 seconds in length.

Each week the *Pilot* will pose a question of general interest to its readership on a current issue of concern to our community. The newspaper invites its readers to re-

spond via Pilot Line Poll by calling 457-5084 in the Southport-Oak Island area, or 253-8427 in other parts of Brunswick County.

To record a "yes" vote to our question, please select extension 1001 on your touch-tone phone.

To record a "no" vote, please select extension 1002.

After voting, you may opt to tell us why you cast your ballot as you did with a short explanation.

Results of our weekly Pilot Line Poll and your comments will be printed in the following week's edition of *The State Port Pilot*.

Polling results will not be scientific, but the opportunity to speak-out on matters of community concern should provide a good indication of community sentiment.

The *Pilot* encourages its readers to submit ideas for questions to be posed on Pilot Line. Give us a call during office hours, or submit your poll question idea -- or any idea to make *The State Port Pilot* a better community newspaper -- to Pilot Line Suggestion Box at extension 1005. Get twice-weekly news updates via Pilot Line Update, extension 1003.

**Pilot Line Poll**  
Question of the week

Should municipal governments in the area charge fees for town vehicle registration stickers? Some have tried and abandoned the practice. Long Beach says it's in the license sticker business to stay.

What do you think?  
To vote "yes" dial 457-5084 or 253-8427, extension 1001.

To vote "no" dial 457-5084 or 253-8427, extension 1002.

You may tell why you voted as you did.