

THE STATE PORT PILOT

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Volume 68, Number 4

Published every

Southport, NC



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Caswell Trust earns praise

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Over \$15,000 was donated to the Caswell Beach Preservation Trust Thursday at a fund "kick-off" ceremony held before the town's board of commissioners.

Carolina Power and Light Co., N. C. Baptist Assembly, Oak Island Golf and Country Club, Caswell Dunes Homeowners Association, Arboretum Community Association and OceanGreens Homeowners Association were among the first early donors to the fund. CP&L donated \$5,000 to the trust and members of the Caswell Beach Board of Commissioners, themselves, kicked in \$5,000 from their own pockets.

"We can be the best small beach community in North Carolina," mayor Joe O'Brien said before accepting donations.

The preservation trust was formed recently to accept tax-deductible contributions for beach nourishment. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is completing a feasibility study of a proposed Oak Island nourishment project. Local share of the estimated \$40-million project cost at Caswell Beach is expected to be \$500,000 -- the goal of fund-raisers for the trust.

"Is beach preservation the right path?" O'Brien asked. "We think it is."

Caswell Beach property owners were polled earlier this year and told commissioners they did, in fact, favor nourishment and other beach stabilization projects. They said they were willing to pay for nourishment in a variety of ways.

Funds generated by the Caswell Beach Preservation Trust are but one of a three-pronged effort to amass the local portion of nourishment project cost.

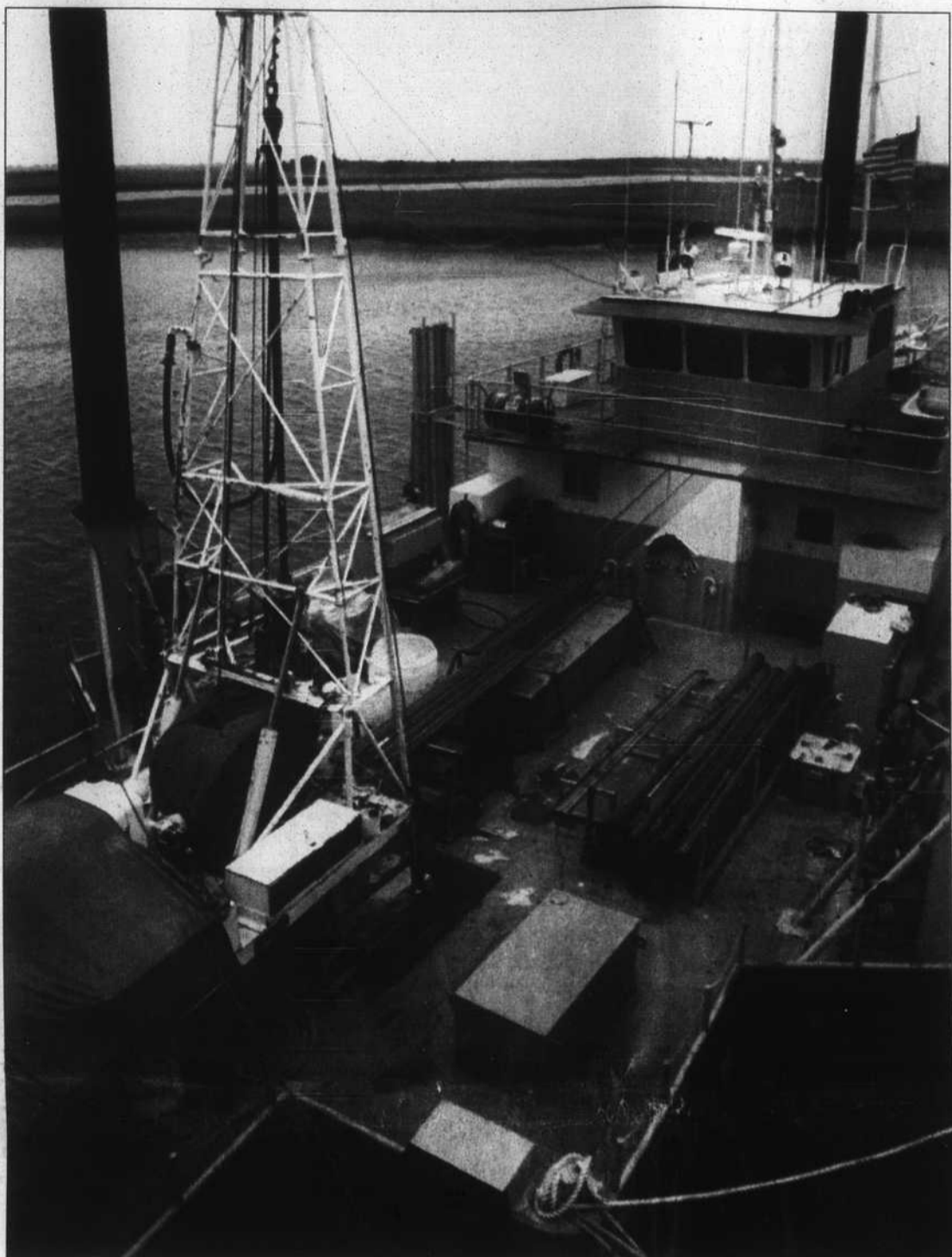
Commissioners this year also committed a sum equal to one percent of the town's ad valorem tax rate to a reserve account for beach nourishment. Contributions to that reserve account will increase by the equivalent of one cent on the tax rate each year until it reaches the equivalent of five cents in 2002.

An additional two-percent occupancy tax was levied this year for the first time and will annually be placed in reserve for beach nourishment. Town finance officer Judy Williamson said over \$26,000 has been generated by this two-percent tax on short-term lodging rentals thus far this year.

The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to report on Oak Island nourishment feasibility in 2001 and begin design of the project shortly thereafter.

Mayor O'Brien said the town will
See Trust, page 7

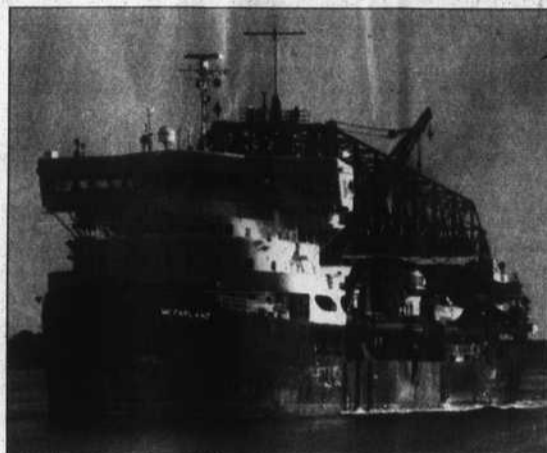
CORPS SUPPORT



Photos by Jim Harper

River work

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is busy in the harbor these days, with the drill rig *Explorer* probing a possible relocation route for the Cape Fear bar channel and the *McFarland* (right) just finished with a channel maintenance project upriver.



SAT scores up at South, North

By Laura Kimball
Feature Editor

Two of three Brunswick County high schools showed an increase of over 30 points in SAT scores this year.

"We are very pleased with the results," said Mary McDuffie, assistant superintendent for curriculum, as she presented the information to the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night.

Senior scores from the class of 1998 at South Brunswick High increased 33 points and at North Brunswick High 31 points, but at West Brunswick High scores decreased 40 points.

SAT scores measure a student's verbal and mathematical abilities necessary for success in college and are useful in assessing academic preparation, McDuffie told the board.

Of the three schools, South Brunswick High students scored highest, with an overall average of 976. North Brunswick High students' average was 900 and West Brunswick High students' average was 913.

In 1997, West Brunswick High had an average of 953, so board members were concerned that a school should drop so dramatically. School board member Joyce Parker-Hewett asked McDuffie if there were an explanation for such a large drop in scores. McDuffie said that it was possible, for various reasons, that some of the West Brunswick students weren't convinced to participate in SAT preparation courses.

This year more effort will be made to show students the importance of SAT prep courses, and courses may be scheduled on Saturdays to accommodate working students, McDuffie said.

Also, advanced classes prepare students for what is on the standardized test.

"The best way to improve SAT scores is to get more students to par-
See Scores, page 7

Calabash granted divorce McIntyre an easy winner in Congressional race

Incumbent Mike McIntyre of Lumberton defeated Democratic challenger Randy Crow of Wilmington in the primary for the 7th Congressional District race Tuesday. In Calabash, voters there approved a divorce from Carolina Shores, which makes that golf course community no longer part of the town.

McIntyre easily defeated Crow, 1,554 to 99, in Brunswick County.

Democrats headed to the polls for an election delayed since May while

legislators adjusted district lines for the 12th Congressional District in the central part of the state.

Since no Republicans filed for the 7th District seat, McIntyre's only opposition in the November general election is Libertarian candidate Paul Meadows.

In Calabash, District 1 voters decided they wanted a split from Carolina Shores by a vote of 205 to 106. District 1 includes the original Calabash business community while

District 2 consists of newer development and Carolina Shores.

District 2 voters also decided by a vote of 940 to 85 to proceed with becoming a separate municipality as a result of the split with Calabash. This special election was called for by a special bill approved by the N. C. General Assembly last month.

According to the bill, only one district is required to vote in favor of the split for it to become official. District 2 voted 807 to 217 against the split.

Stalemate ends, rescue is funded

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Fearing citizens could be left without emergency medical service, Yaupon Beach commissioners Monday night agreed to terms set out in a contract with the Town of Long Beach for rescue squad services.

Yaupon Beach will pay Long Beach \$19,462 this fiscal year for services the neighboring town began to provide July 1. Commissioners also agreed to pay Long Beach \$3,437 -- the disputed balance for services provided the town in the year ended June 30, 1998.

Commissioners' action of Monday night ends a months-long dispute between the two governments and averts a crisis in emergency medical ser-
See Stalemate, page 9

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

What may be the first fruit of a cooperative regional effort to pool municipal resources was harvested Monday night when Yaupon Beach commissioner Roy Johnson announced an agreement had been reached to allot an initial 35,000-gallon daily sewer flow to neighboring Long Beach.

Caswell Beach may soon figure into an islandwide wastewater management program also.

An additional 100,000-gallon daily flow allotment may be made available to Long Beach within one year, under terms of a deal hammered out by representatives of the two towns, Johnson said Monday.

While other negotiations focusing on wastewater management are ongoing on Oak Island, in Brunswick County and in a subregion which includes St. James Plantation, Boiling Spring Lakes, Southport and Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District, Long Beach Town Council

'We're looking at the real possibility that within one year some sections of Long Beach will be served by a public wastewater management system.'

Joan Altman
Long Beach mayor

is to be presented with the Yaupon Beach flow allocation offer Tuesday and is expected to autho-
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Aquifer study is funded

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County officials want to know more about the underground aquifer partially protected by a 1994 county anti-mining ordinance that withstood a test of the N. C. Court of Appeals recently.

A three-year geological study was approved by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners last week at a cost of \$448,400, with first-year cost of \$66,250 allocated from the county contingency fund to quickly

get the project underway.

It comes on the heels of the appellate court decision to uphold the county's public safety ordinance that bars deep mining with dewatering techniques or use of explosives within five miles of the Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick Nuclear Plant or Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point ammunitions depot on the Cape Fear River.

That includes the corridor north of Southport between Bethel Church Road and the Sunny Point access road.
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