

# THE STATE PORT PILOT



## Conference win

South Brunswick tops Red Springs; to host Vikings, Force in homecoming

## Day's fishing

U. S. Open competition right down to business

Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

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# 'I live on Oak Island. It's got a ring to it.'

## Caswell to ponder 'profound change'

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Yaupon Beach and Long Beach have begun the march to consolidation as the Town of Oak Island, but what of the third municipal presence on the island's east end?

Will Caswell Beach join the consolidation effort and expand the Town of Oak Island to the entirety of Oak Island?

"Ultimately, that decision will have to be made by the citizens," Caswell Beach mayor Joe O'Brien said Monday morning. "A lot of things council can decide, but this is such a profound change."

The Caswell Beach Board of Commissioners will get its first opportunity Thursday to publicly assess the

Yaupon Beach and Long Beach consolidation plan and to weigh its meaning to Caswell Beach. The board is to meet in regular monthly session at 5 p.m. at Town Hall.

"We've thought about it to some extent," mayor O'Brien said.

The mayor said options for Caswell Beach range from joining the consolidation, to opposing it if it appears not in that town's interest. He plans to ask commissioners to set a public hearing on the subject of Caswell Beach participation in Oak Island consolidation and to charge the town's planning board with investigating the issue.

"We have to look at it as, what does this consolidation mean to us as far as services?" O'Brien

said. He noted Caswell Beach now contracts with Long Beach for rescue and emergency dispatch services. It contracts with Yaupon Beach Volunteer Fire

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## CONGRATULATIONS



Photo by Jim Harper  
Mayors Dot Kelly (right foreground) and Joan Altman received congratulations from constituents after their two towns agreed to combine as the Town of Oak Island.

## 'After all these years...'

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

A new date in the history of southeastern North Carolina: July 1, 1999, the founding of the Town of Oak Island.

And, if any of the approximately 70 individuals who attended a joint meeting of Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners and Long Beach Town Council Thursday night opposed consolidation of those two towns, they were keeping it to them-

selves. Discussion of the once-contentious consolidation concept turned into a love fest.

Not one word of opposition to creation of the new Town of Oak Island was voiced. Quite the opposite, both towns' leaders and citizens seemed to compete to see who could appear most overjoyed at the prospect.

"We're excited," Yaupon Beach mayor Dot Kelly said, shortly after calling Yaupon Beach commissioners to order. "And, we just believe this is the

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## Process underway for consolidation

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

The "process" of consolidating the towns of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach to become the Town of Oak Island was begun Thursday when governing boards of the two towns authorized their mayors to notify the area's legislative delegation of the two towns' desire to consolidate.

The notification letters ask legislators to submit a local bill enabling consolidation in the next session of the General Assembly.

It is expected that bill will be introduced -- likely by Rep. E. David Redwine of Brunswick County -- before the N. C.

House of Representatives in January, 1999. Adoption of that local bill creating the Town of Oak Island is expected no later than March, 1999, and the consolidation is to become effective July 1, 1999.

The new municipal corporation will be a significant one. Long Beach mayor Joan Altman told about 70 persons attending a Thursday night meeting at which the consolidation effort was announced.

"We will be in the top 100 towns in North Carolina in size," mayor Altman said. "The Town of Oak Island will be the largest in Brunswick County and by far the largest beach community in North Carolina. With the growth we anticipate, we have even bigger things to look forward to."

A transitional governing board made up of mayor Dot Kelly and all presently elected Yaupon Beach commissioners and mayor Joan Altman and all presently elected Long Beach town councilors will begin presiding over the new town on July 1, 1999.

Elections for a single mayor and new governing board will be held in November, 1999. Both the size of the board and the manner of election will be out

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## Aquifer change, no corridor plan in use statement

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Some last-minute changes to the county's land use plan cover action taken recently to protect the underground Castle Hayne aquifer from mining that could lead to sinkholes and saltwater intrusion into private wells.

The plan approved by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday, and forwarded to the Coastal Resources Commission for adoption in November, is thinner than originally planned because it does not include Oak Island's second bridge corridor

plan nor the Cape Fear River Corridor Plan.

County planners had indicated earlier that both should serve as attachments to the county's CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) land use update, but neither is ready to be fully implemented. The Oak Island bridge corridor plan, which shares planning responsibilities between Long Beach officials and the county for development control along the second bridge route near Midway, remains under review by county planners. It has been adopted by Long Beach.

County commissioners officially

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Photo by Jim Harper  
Coast Guardsmen prepare to tow the damaged boat in which Carl Lee died away from downed day marker 7 on Friday morning. The naviga-

tional aid stood on three pilings on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of the CP&L canal crossing. See story, page 7.

## Rough weather, few fish, but still it's \$43,900

By Richard Nubel  
Municipal Editor

Carolina Beach skipper Larry W. Nash and the crew of *Pyzonnya* were the first to weigh any fish at the U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament weigh station Friday morning.

An early bird, Nash weighed his 37.75-pound king at 11 a.m. on the tournament's first day, then exercised captain's choice to sit Saturday out, as competitors in the 1998 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament were

rocked by rough outside waters, whipped up by strong winds. But, the *Pyzonnya* entry hung tough, besting the next biggest tournament fish by 1.8 pounds, to capture first prize in the 20th anniversary U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament.

"I sweated it out for two days," Nash said. "That's a pretty small fish for that tournament."

Small it was, but big enough. Saturday night, U. S. Open chairman Bill Owens handed Nash a check for \$43,900, the sum of the tournament's \$25,000 top prize, \$17,250 as first-place winnings for the Tournament

Within a Tournament pool and \$750 for the largest catch taken aboard a craft with a Suzuki engine.

"I took him right there at the Lockwood Folly Inlet, just a little downwind of the buoy," Nash recalled of his winning catch.

Nash and his crew members Garrett Alred of Cary and Joe Broome and John Farrow of Carolina Beach had set out of the Lockwood Folly checkpoint around 7:30 a.m., after picking up some bait.

The crew of *Pyzonnya* set a first round of baits about 7:40 a.m., saw no action for about a half-hour and decid-

ed to change baits, opting for a chartreuse skirt instead of the blue ones they had started with.

"About 8:30 I heard the biggest splash," Nash said. "When he nailed in to that hook, he realized he was hooked and took off. I fought him for 40 minutes.

"I never saw the fish until I went to gaff him."

Sensing he had a money fish on board, the *Pyzonnya* crew headed for the tournament weigh station, which was just opening when Nash and crew pulled into Southport Marina.

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