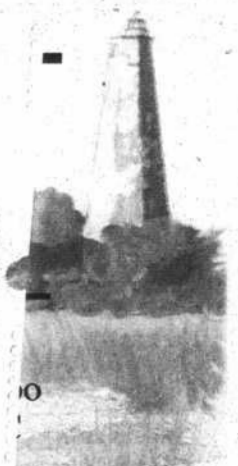


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SBSD staff quits

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District will be without its usual office staff next Monday morning. District manager Barbara Stein and clerk Fay Bass submitted letters of resignation Monday.

Stein said Tuesday both she and Bass will work through this week, but their final day will be Friday. Commissioners last Friday set a Thursday meeting to discuss personnel. That meeting is to begin at 8 a.m. at the district office at 4310 Long Beach Road.

The SBSBD office will continue to operate on its normal schedule Monday, district board secretary Lucille Laster said.

"We'll survive," Laster said of the resignations. "That office will be open to the public as it always is."

While Stein refused to comment on the circumstances surrounding the dual resignation, letters from the two SBSBD employees suggest difficulty with one or more of the district's five commissioners played a part in their decisions.

"It is my belief that for the past several months, everything I have tried to do has been undermined by a commissioner with a hidden agenda," Stein wrote. She refused to elaborate on that contention when contacted by telephone Tuesday.

"I feel that it is not in my best interest to continue to work for people whom I do not trust, respect or believe are doing what they were elected to do," Stein wrote.

Bass' letter of resignation to Stein concludes with her assurance her job dissatisfaction is not Stein's fault. Bass also blames problems in SBSBD's Long Beach Road adminis-
See SBSBD, page 8

HEELS OVERHEAD



On Saturday, truly one of the most pleasant of the season on the Oak Island strand, this youngster was so happy he cut a flip.
Photo by Jim Harper

Southport system Line repair costly, but loss greater

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

It will cost the City of Southport approximately \$444,000 to eliminate 281,000 gallons of water that either flows into its sewer system from the ground or when it rains.

Ultimately, that 281,000 gallons of water flows into the city's West West Street wastewater treatment plants, cutting into flow that could be allocated to paying customers of the sewer system.

That is the conclusion of an infiltration and inflow study of only one segment of the city wastewater collection system, the most critically damaged segment serving Bay Street and Moore Street and cross streets through most of the city's historic district.

The information is critical to aldermen, as it may allow them now to begin easing a moratorium on new development put in force late last year. Under terms of the mora-

'We've been putting (developers) off for months now. I want to see what we can do about loosening the reigns of the moratorium.'

Bill Delaney
Ward II alderman

torium, aldermen will not consider approving any new subdivision of ten acres or greater or 20 units or
See Southport, page 8

Caswell at ease on consolidation

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Consolidation fever has not exactly stricken officials of the Town of Caswell Beach, but mayor Joe O'Brien and others Thursday conceded the town may have a long-term interest in discussing an Oak Island with one municipal government.

Last week, Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners and Long Beach Town Council adopted resolutions setting out their intent to consolidate those two municipal corporations to form the new Town of Oak Island.

"We dismiss nothing out of hand, no matter how odious it appears," mayor O'Brien said.

To that end, commissioners resolved, Long Beach mayor Joan Altman will be invited to attend a public hearing on the matter of consolidation at the Caswell Beach board's January 8 meeting. O'Brien and commissioner Paul O'Connor will ask Yaupon Beach and Long Beach to be involved in consolidation deliberations as "observers."

Yaupon Beach commissioners and Long Beach town councilors have formed three task committees to iron out the mechanics of consolidation. Those task committees will study consolidation of financial matters, consolidation of government structures and consolidation of service delivery.
See Caswell, page 11

Aquifers concern whole county

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County planners say measures to protect the aquifer won't involve just guarding the underground water supply from mines and heavy industry.

There are other dangers lurking which are often taken for granted -- the growing number of homes and

subdivisions concentrated in a single area which also taps the water source.

The Brunswick County Planning Board has been charged by county commissioners to draft an aquifer sensitivity ordinance to coincide with a \$448,400, three-year geological study approved last month that will map the three aquifers which stream beneath the county.

The Castle Hayne aquifer lies beneath the Southport-Oak Island community, while the Pee Dee and Black Creek formations are found in the northern and western parts of the county. It is the Castle Hayne aquifer that has been threatened in recent years by a proposed Martin Marietta Aggregates limestone mine proposed to operate on 1,000 acres near Bethel Church Road north of

Southport.

"We have had the fear that a single entity was going to create the harm," said John Thompson, planning board member who lives in Old Towne. "But in fact we need to learn how to be sustainable with our growth. We need to not miss the big picture. Although we know there are some real concerns from big plants,
See Aquifers, page 10



Photo by Jim Harper

Any doubt about legislative support for the proposed merging of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach was dispelled Saturday as representatives David Redwine and Dewey Hill appeared at the Long Beach Family Fest to promote -- with officials of the two towns -- the "Oak Island Family Fest" next fall.

Redwine approves Oak Island merger may set 'standard'

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

State Rep. E. David Redwine is still a bit gun-shy when it comes to involving himself in municipal affairs.

It was just a month ago that his long quest to bring peace to warring factions in the Town of Calabash ended with division of that town and the creation of Brunswick County's 19th municipality, the Town of Carolina Shores.

But, the idea of joining two towns is one to which Redwine says he can easily warm. That's good for proponents of the Town of Oak Island. It will likely fall to Redwine to

sponsor local legislation which will allow the consolidation of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach.

"I'm glad to see it," Redwine said. "Quite frankly, I think it sets the standard and hope it gets some other people thinking about consolidation. I think it's the way to go."

Redwine spent Saturday morning at Long Beach Family Fest, escorted jointly for part of the time by mayor Joan Altman of Long Beach and mayor Dot Kelly of Yaupon Beach.

Kelly, Redwine, Rep. Dewey Hill and Yaupon Beach mayor pro-tem Bill Smith took part in a Family Fest ceremony in which
See Merger, page 10