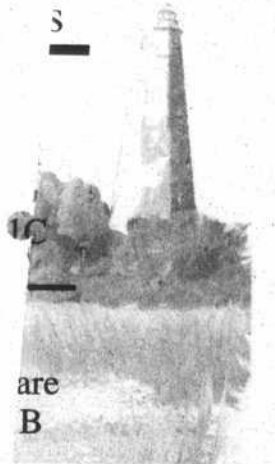


THE STATE PORT PILOT



Season ends
South Brunswick
Friday night, but
enough against

Pow Wow
Native Americans
shown at week



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Oak Island Consolidation talks continue between towns

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Elected officials from Yaupon Beach and Long Beach will take a second giant step toward creation of the Town of Oak Island today (Wednesday) when they conduct a second joint meeting to discuss consolidation of the two municipal governments.

The setting for this planned five-hour "retreat" session will be the N. C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell.

Consolidation efforts were begun with a joint meeting of the Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners and Long Beach Town Council on October 1. At that time the two governing boards separately ratified resolutions of intent to consolidate as the Town of Oak Island by July 1, 1999, and three task groups were appointed to map a strategy for making one town out of two.

At today's session, the two governing bodies will receive reports of the three task groups -- one examining financial matters, one examining service delivery and one exam-

"There is a lot we agree on, so we will just focus on questions."

Joan Altman
Long Beach mayor

ining government structure.

With the substantial work of the three task committees in hand, it is likely the two governing bodies will examine only the most perplexing problems of consolidation, if they exist, Long Beach mayor Joan Altman said.

"What is on the agenda for Wednesday is a review of the task group plans," mayor Altman said. "It is likely we will focus on questions and concerns the board members have. There is a lot we agree

See Oak Island, page 6

Anybody's guess Yaupon is facing land use question

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Neither the town's consulting planner nor a planner with the state Division of Coastal Management Tuesday night could guarantee Yaupon Beach commissioners their land use plan update for 1998 would be certified by the N. C. Coastal Resources Commission.

The reason: New members on the panel charged with certifying land use plans in 20 coastal counties have recently taken actions that render that body completely unpredictable. The CRC recently refused to certify a land use plan from Sunset Beach that all thought conformed to state specifications.

The charge to the CRC is to certify a plan if it meets (regulatory criteria) and meets or exceeds (other

regulations dealing with) areas of environmental concern," consulting planner T. Dale Holland said. He said he and DCM regional planner Zoe Bruner concur that the Yaupon Beach plan meets the criteria for certification set out in coastal regulations, but its certification cannot be taken for granted, given recent CRC actions.

"The concern is, individual CRC members recently have taken liberties with their charges and are ruling on how they feel the plans should be written," Holland said. "Therefore, it is extremely important for members of this board to be present when this plan goes forward to the CRC for certification."

It is more important for elected officials to be present before the CRC than it is for Holland himself

See Land use, page 6

INDIAN HERITAGE



Native American rituals were acted out in realistic fashion Friday through Sunday at the second annual North Carolina Indian Heritage Pow Wow held at Brunswick Town State Historic Site. Photo by Jim Harper

Wreck claims three

Three young Southport-Oak Island men were killed in an early morning one-car automobile accident on N. C. 133 Sunday. Two other men were injured.

Dead are Arthur Craig Frazier, 24, of Long Beach and brothers Charles Ernest Pelfrey, 25, of Canton, GA, and formerly of Southport, and Jason Scott Pelfrey, 23, of Southport. All three died at the scene of the accident, a section of N. C. 133 about ten miles south of Belville. The stretch of road is known locally as Orton Curve, because of its configuration and its proximity to the access to Orton Plantation.

Richard Jason McDowell, 25, of Long Beach remains hospitalized at New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Carl Vernon Stidham III, 24, also of Long Beach, was treated for a broken right leg and released from NHRMC.

The deaths of the three young men have rocked many of their generation in Southport. All three were recent graduates of South Brunswick High School and Frazier, a standout high school athlete, had returned to his high school alma mater to coach. He had served as assistant coach to the Cougar football team this season and was to be named head coach of the school's wrestling team this week. (See related story, page 1C.)

South Brunswick High School principal Sue Sellers Monday said a crisis team of guidance counselors and coaches had been called to the school to help students deal with

See Wreck, page 10

Professional help may be needed

Planners dig for aquifer answer

By Terry Pope
County Editor

It's a starting point in what may become a rather lengthy planning process of drafting a countywide underground aquifer protection ordinance.

"We've gotten hold of a pretty big animal here," said Brunswick County planner Don Eggert. "This is a big job if we want to undertake it."

It hasn't stopped the Brunswick County Planning Board, which voted last week to send a very rough draft to county commissioners for review along with pleas for professional help.

"I think it means different things to different people. That may be part of the process that we need to go through, sorting out what should apply to our county."

Don Eggert
County planner

Planners want to hire a consultant with experience who can draft an aquifer ordinance to protect the underground water supply in the

three formations in the county -- the Castle Hayne, Black Creek and the Pee Dee. The Castle Hayne is found in the Southport-Oak Island com-

munity, while the Black Creek is located in southern Brunswick County and the Pee Dee in the northwestern section.

Commissioners have instructed the planning department to come up with aquifer sensitivity overlay district maps while a three-year geological study is underway to learn more about dangers to the aquifer, especially the effects of heavy mining. It comes at a time when the state's court system has shown it is likely to uphold a county ordinance that prohibits mining within five miles of Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick nuclear plant and Military Ocean Terminal Sunny

See Aquifer, page 10



Students and veterans commemorated Veterans Day Tuesday in the South Brunswick gymnasium, hearing performances from the school chorus and band and a talk on patriotism by Wilbert Bryant, an Army veteran and Virginia's secretary of education.

Aldermen to be told 'Signature' oaks need protection

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Seven "signature" live oaks in Southport deserve special protection and the city should have an on-going program to deal with management of all trees.

Live oak survey leader Jon C. Lewis will deliver that message to aldermen when they meet in regular monthly session Thursday.

Lewis has compiled a report on the status of live oaks based on data collected by over 35 volunteers who committed 400 man-hours to assessment of more than 350 trees citywide.

The survey was begun this summer when the presence of the Kermes scale was discovered attacking the trees, most often described as "majest-

See Live oaks, page 6