

# THE STATE PORT PILOT



**Good stretch**  
South Brunswick's unbeaten streak ends short of North Carolina soccer title - 16

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## King event opens

By Richard Nubel  
Staff Writer

Odds of winning the 1999 U. S. Open King Mackerel Tournament this weekend may be better than they've ever been since the fund-raiser for the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce began 21 years ago.

Postponed from its traditional first-weekend-in-October spot on the tournament fishing calendar by Hurricane Floyd's untimely visit to Southport-Oak Island September 15-16, U. S. Open organizers expect a smaller field of boats to compete this year.

"Preregistration is definitely off," chamber executive vice-president Karen Sphar said Monday. "We did offer a full refund if anyone couldn't rearrange his schedule. A lot took advantage of the refund."

But, the U. S. Open will go on. Any thought of canceling the tournament in this difficult and trying year for the Southport-Oak Island community was quickly rejected by chairman Kim Skipper Anderson and her committee.

"The committee felt for everyone in the community to get back to normal after the hurricane, we could not cancel the tournament," Ms. Sphar said. "For reasons of tradition and for the message such a move would send to people outside the community, we could not cancel."

With the U. S. Open's \$100,000 all-cash prize structure guaranteed, the prospect of a small registration puts the chamber at some considerable risk this year. The \$25,000 first prize and 55 other cash prizes will be awarded regardless of the number of entry fees paid. While that increases each fisherman's chance of taking home a pile of cash, it also may send the chamber to its pocket.

"We have a guaranteed prize structure," Ms. Sphar said, estimating 465 tournament entries would be needed to cover prizes and other fixed tournament expenses.

"We are taking a huge risk in going See U. S. Open, page 10

## COLORFUL HISTORY



A brilliant glimpse of the past was presented to area students Friday at the annual Powwow at Brunswick Town. Dancers, handcrafters, musicians and storytellers stretched imaginations back to the primitive times and ways of Native Americans.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Oak Island Beachfront repairs okay, as law allows

By Richard Nubel  
Staff Writer

Oak Island's beachfront cannot be rebuilt to pre-hurricane status, but whatever oceanfront property owners are privileged to do under state law, they may begin to do now.

All remaining restrictions on access to Beach Drive were eliminated Tuesday when the section between 11th Place East and Middleton Street was reopened.

Oak Island inspections department is now issuing repair permits for oceanfront homes.

N. C. Division of Coastal Management (DCM) has granted Oak Island's appeal of the first line of vegetation it set days after Hurricane Floyd passed, allowing adequate room along the beachfront for utility lines, a bicycle path and other public infrastructure.

"The oceanfront is available for people to get to work," Oak Island co-mayor Joan Altman said Tuesday. "The See Beachfront, page 10

"We question whether or not DCM's reaction to this storm event, in moving the first line of vegetation so dramatically, is consistent with what was done in other communities..."

Joan Altman  
Long Beach mayor

## Essentially the same Council adopts mainland zones

By Richard Nubel  
Staff Writer

Zoning classifications in the newly annexed 500 mainland acres of Oak Island will be virtually the same as when land use classifications there were assigned by Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District.

Oak Island Town Council Tuesday night amended the Yaupon Beach zoning ordinance to include the new mainland section along Long Beach Road, Fish Factory Road and Airport Road. Both the Long Beach and Yaupon Beach zoning ordinances are now in effect for Oak Island as the town's planning board works to consolidate the two documents, town planner Don Eggert said. Yaupon Beach and Long Beach consolidated as Oak Island on See Mainland, page 12



### New logo

Everything from stationery to police cars will bear the new, official Oak Island seal.

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## St. James fine is pending

# Coalition contests wetlands authority

By Terry Pope  
Staff Writer

State officials say a lawsuit filed in Wake County Superior Court last week won't deter their effort to protect wetlands and to prohibit any associated ditching and draining.

Filed on behalf of a coalition of developers, industry and farmers, the suit contends the state lacks any

authority to protect wetlands from ditching and draining. Petitioners include the N. C. Homebuilders Association, N. C. Citizens for Business and Industry, N. C. Aggregates Association, N. C. Farm Bureau Federation and two coastal developers.

The suit comes in response to a recent Environmental Management Commission ruling that reinforces support for the state's authority, which has also been put to the test locally by area developers.

In April, state environmental regulators levied \$167,454 in fines and requested that developers of property adjacent to St. James Plantation near Southport restore wetlands and other areas drained during construction there. The Division of Water Quality cited developers of two tracts for stormwater permit and turbidity violations while the Division of Land Resources cited the same developers for failing to sub- See Wetlands, page 7

## Learning center Schools seek waiver of attendance policy

By Diana D'Abruzzo  
Staff Writer

Students who attend Brunswick Learning Center shouldn't have to worry about how the classroom time they have missed due to pregnancy or suspension will affect their ability to pass a course.

That's what school officials in Brunswick County are arguing in a request to the state that would allow the school to award a unit of course credit based on mastery of the subject, not how much time is spent in the classroom.

"By the time we get many of our students, they have already missed more than the six days allowed," said Bob Rhyne, principal of Brunswick Learning Center. "It's very difficult for children to

come here with 15 absences; knowing they can't pass — they have no motivation to do good."

The waiver request was approved Monday night by the Brunswick County Board of Education and will be sent to the state for consideration.

In schools across the state, students must spend at least 84 periods in the classroom. After six absences at the high school level, the student cannot receive credit for the course no matter what his or her final grade.

But at Brunswick Learning Center, where students often are transferred after being suspended for ten days from their last school, there needs to be some flexi-

See Policy, page 8



Walkers in the annual CROP Walk raised over \$10,300 Sunday, over 25 percent of which will stay in the community with the rest distributed by the nondenominational Church World Service. The CROP Walk is organized locally by the Southport-Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship.

Photo by Jim Harper

## Airport receives \$2.5 mil

By Diana D'Abruzzo  
Staff Writer

Long-awaited plans for Brunswick County Airport to have its runway extended are finally taking flight, as more than \$2.5 million in federal funds have been approved for the project.

The N. C. Department of Aviation's Aeronautics Council approved the request at its monthly meeting. Brunswick County will post a ten-percent match of funding, bumping the seed money for the runway extension to \$2,875,000.

"These much-needed funds will be a huge help in expanding and improving the Brunswick See Airport, page 14