



N.C. House District 19

✓ Charlie Miller (R)..... 33,904
Marcia Morgan (D)..... 24,491

N.C. House District 17

✓ Frank Iler (R)..... 36,560
Tom Simmons (D)..... 21,939

Superior Court Judge

✓ Jason Disbrow (R)..... 53,214
Ryan Smithwick (U)..... 27,178

Commissioner D3

✓ Pat Sykes (R)..... 54,741
Bill Flythe (D)..... 29,871

School Board D2

✓ D. Robinson (R)..... 51,090
Sherrill Jolly (D)..... 32,290

State Senate District 8

✓ Bill Rabon (R)..... 84,862
David Sink (D)..... 47,698
Anthony Mascolo (L)..... 4,264

Miller claims N.C. House seat; Sykes, Rabon re-elected; Disbrow keeps judge's seat Republicans sweep Tuesday's county races

By Terry Pope
and Lee Hinnant

Republicans made it a clean sweep Tuesday in Brunswick County elections, capturing the contested seats for county commissioner, school board and Superior Court judge.

Republicans also claimed wins for the county's two N.C. House districts and the District 8 N.C. Senate seat, and voters returned David Rouzer to U.S. Congress in the 7th Congressional District for another two-year term. He represents all of Brunswick County.

In the race for House District 19, Southport native Charlie Miller held off Democrat Marcia Morgan for a 33,904 to 24,491 win unofficially with all 19 precincts reporting. The newly formed District 19 includes all of Southport, Oak Island, Bald Head Island, St. James and Caswell Beach.

Miller, chief deputy for Brunswick County Sheriff's Office and a member of the county school board, will represent parts of Brunswick and New Hanover counties.

Miller said it was "a good day," adding, "I fully plan to represent Brunswick and

New Hanover counties well. I'll fight for the people."

He also said he looked forward to working with other legislators to accomplish needs in the southeastern part of the state, and that he wants to more fully reopen the state's businesses and other institutions.

"I'm anxious to get going," said the Brunswick County native.

District 3 County Commissioner Pat Sykes of Southport held off Democratic challenger Bill Flythe 54,741 to 29,871 to win another four-year term on the board. Commissioners

Frank Williams (District 5) and Mike Forte (District 4) faced no opposition in the general election.

In the only contested Brunswick County Board of Education race, Republican David Robinson defeated Democrat Sherrill Jolly 51,090 to 32,290 in District 2. Two other school board candidates, Ed Lemon of District 1 and Steven Barger of District 4, faced no opposition on the ballot.

State Rep. Frank Iler of District 17 defeated Democratic challenger Tom Simmons 36,560 to 21,939. **See Election, page 7A**

Back to nature



Photos by Lee Hinnant

Hit and injured by a car, this barred owl has healed and was released Friday at Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter.

Oak Island

Sea Biscuit shelter releases rescued birds

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

Wildlife rehabilitators have been working harder than ever this year, and last Friday they were able to celebrate some of their effort when volunteers and supporters of Oak Island's Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter gathered to turn loose an osprey, a royal tern and a barred owl back into their native habitats.

The shelter's 15 clinical assistants and roughly 40 other volunteers have taken in a record 605 injured or sick birds so far this year, compared to 538 in 2019. The shelter is also slowly expanding and now has three flight cages, used for rehabilitation, at Bill Smith Park on the mainland. **See Shelter, page 7A**



A royal tern is released on the beach by Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter.

Southport

County approves sewer agreement

City to fund \$25-million expansion

By Michael Paul
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approved a \$25-million sewer service agreement with Southport on Monday that has taken years to formalize.

Approving the agreement were Chairman Frank Williams and commissioners Mike Forte, Randy Thompson, Marty Cooke and Pat Sykes. John Nichols, Brunswick County Director of Public Utilities, was also present.

In 2008, Southport and Brunswick County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding — titled "Short-Term Use of County's Capacity in the West Brunswick Regional Wastewater Treatment System by the City of Southport" — that permitted the city to send its wastewater stream to Brunswick County Regional Facilities for treatment.

This agreement was eventually followed up with a sewer service agreement in 2017, whereby Southport would become a participant in the regional system. However, the agreement was subsequently terminated in 2019 under a previous city board of aldermen. The city has again expressed its willingness to enter into an agreement with Brunswick County whereby it would become a full participant in the West Brunswick Region. **See Southport, page 9A**

Caswell Beach

Power surge spurs lighthouse upgrades

By Lee Hinnant
Staff Writer

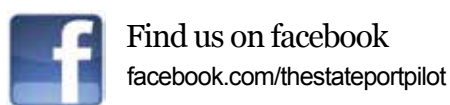
The U.S. Coast Guard is using the recent power surge that darkened Oak Island Lighthouse to spur already planned upgrades to the beacon that serves mariners at the mouth of the Cape Fear, North Carolina's largest and busiest river.

Electric power surges about three weeks ago burned out the motor that rotated the four lamps responsible for providing the light "signature" with four blinks across. **See Power, page 7A**



Photo courtesy USCG Station Oak Island

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