

## Caswell Beach



Photo contributed

Great War re-enactor Carl Mauney will be among participants noting the 100th anniversary of the United States' involvement. The event will be Thursday, April 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ft. Caswell Rifle Pit at Caswell Dunes.

## World War I ceremony planned April 6

By Lee Hinnant  
Staff Writer

Local preservationists and the Brunswick County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will mark the 100th anniversary of the nation's engagement in the Great War on Thursday, April 6, at the Fort Caswell Rifle Pit, located in a vegetated dune area in a residential section of Caswell Dunes.

The 10:30 a.m. event will include an introduction by DAR members and a wreath-lying ceremony, a reading and time of remembrance of ancestors who served in the battle to liberate Europe.

Ft. Caswell and the rifle pit were essential places for training young American soldiers before they were shipped off to fight Germany. Today, the circa-1917 rifle pit and larger Ft. Caswell complex are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ceremony will include a discussion about the rifle pit, used for long-range marksmanship training, led by Norma Eckard, president of the Friends of Oak Island Rifle Range. She will also conduct a tour of the facility.

Attendees are encouraged to carpool, due to parking being limited.

The rifle pit has received attention from the community in re-

cent years, but is still in need of significant repairs.

The biggest job will be removing backfill and straightening the north wall with hydraulic jacks. Steel supports should be added to three places, an engineering report stated. During the past century, the poured-in-place concrete wall has shifted about six inches south, the report by Ross Linden Engineers stated. Plumbing the wall is important to keeping it structurally sound, an engineer found.

Repairing cracks, replacing the lintels over two doorways and sealing the concrete are other needs, the report stated.

Eckard said the friends group could use help from people interested in preserving a unique piece of history.

The next major event will be the non-profit group's major fundraiser, a Kentucky-derby themed luncheon, party and race-viewing at the Caswell Dunes clubhouse on May 6 from 2:30 to 7 p.m.

The dress-up occasion includes contests for best hats, best-dressed couple, door prizes, a silent auction and tabletop horse races.

Those interested in learning more or assisting the preservation effort may reach Eckard at [ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com](mailto:ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com) or Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, N.C. 28465.