

# The Shoreline

June 2006 • Vol. 2, No. 12

A Shoreline Community, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

Town Hall 247-4353

## Treat for All Ages

# It's Fun, It's Educational, It's the New Aquarium

By Cierra Tomaso

If you're really bored this summer, or you're thinking about going Christmas shopping, even though it's June, maybe it's time to head to the Pine Knoll Shores aquarium. Finally, the aquarium has reopened! Just in time for the summer! If you've been there before it closed, maybe you remember how small it was. In comparison to then, this remodeled aquarium is colossal! And you'll never guess who helped make it happen!

You know, of course, that the volunteers,

the architects, and the staff made the new aquarium reality. But, true or false: seven-year-old Jackson Alexander helped, too? True! He really wanted to go to the aquarium, but it was closed. So, he built his own

aquarium, furnished with plastic aquatic life. Jackson charged two dollars to come to his exhibits. Jackson says "the aquarium is one of my favorite places on the island." He also ran a lemonade stand with his five-year-old sister, Cailiegh.

J a c k s o n raised more than seventy dollars so that the aquarium would open sooner. He was the first one in the aquarium at the grand opening, and he cut the ribbon. After the ribbon was cut, a cannon boom startled everyone! The

aquarium, after nearly one and a half years, was once again open!

Soon everyone poured into the aquarium, and passed a desk, and then came a door. A

Continued on Page 4



Our youngest contributor, Cierra Tomaso, with our mayor, Joan Lamson.



Ribbon cutting event with Aquarium Director Jay Barnes, young Jackson Alexander and Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue.

By Bob Ruggiero

It's finally here -- the long anticipated opening ceremony officially welcomed visitors to the magnificent new North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. This local gem is the culmination of 33 months of work that finished with a structure that is three times the size of the building it replaces.

The new aquarium is decidedly a "must see" facility for local residents. The design of the outside structure, with its large bronze sculpture of aquatic life that mimics the type of fish that inhabit our coastal waters, is truly breathtaking. Directly ahead as you enter the aquarium is a 32-foot Smoky Mountain waterfall. Following the waterfall exhibit is a 306,000-gallon tank holding a three-quarter-size replica of a German submarine that was sunk by the United States Coast Guard Cutter Icarus off the North Carolina coast during World War II. This 93,000-square-foot facility presents aquatic life that one would find in our state. Among the

many exhibits featured are the Mountain's; the Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Tidewater and Ocean areas. Also for viewing is a replica of the Queen Anne's Revenge that mimics the authentic vessel still being explored by treasure seekers.

After an opening day welcome from Director Jay Barnes, and comments from Bill Ross, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of North Carolina, Lt. Governor Beverly Perdue stated that this new facility is considered to be a lasting legacy and a tremendous investment for the area and Eastern North Carolina. Perdue introduced Jackson Alexander, the second grader who was greatly disappointed when his parents brought him to the coast only to find that the aquarium was closed for renovations. Young Jackson decided to help with the funding. He built a replica of the aquarium buildings in his bedroom and charged his parents admission when they entered his

Continued on Page 4



CERT members Bill and Dorothy Steenland with Team Leader Tom Tempel.

LABRIE LAWRENCE J ETUX  
144 BEECHWOOD DR  
PINE KNOLL SHORES, NC 28512

Standard  
Pre-Sort  
Permit #22  
Lead City, NC 28557

Deadline for July issue is Monday, June 19th. Deadline for August issue is Monday, July 17th Articles always welcome!