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STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Breaking New Ground

Local officials join the president of Tri-Tech Inc. in breaking ground Monday on a new 15,000-square-foot factory to be constructed at the Southport-Oak Island Industrial Park on N.C. 211. The company, which manufactures test kits for law enforcement agencies, initially plans to hire about 35 people, according to Brunswick County Economic Development Director Tom Monks, shown (from left) with Tri-Tech president Jay Walker; his wife Wendie Walker; Don Hughes, president of the Southport-Oak Island Committee of 100; and Brunswick County Commissioners Chairman Don Warren.

Boat Pulled Safely Away From Surf

An 18-foot pleasure boat was prevented from washing up on Holden Beach last Tuesday evening (Sept. 7) when a U.S. Coast Guard rescue vessel pulled it safely away from the surf and towed it back to port.

At about 6:10 p.m., the USCG station at Oak Island received a call from the boat reporting that it was disabled and adrift with the anchor dragging about 300 yards east of Holden Beach Fishing Pier, station Chief J.D. Arndt said Monday.

Due to the boat's close proximity to the breaker line, the station immediately launched its 21-foot rigid-hulled inflatable fast-response boat to assist. Arriving on scene, the Coast Guard boat found the stricken vessel just beyond the surf and took it in tow to Holden Beach Marina, where it was safely moored a short time later.

The next day at about 8:30 a.m., the station was called by the Brunswick County Emergency Communications (911) center with a report of a vessel disabled with two persons on board about a quarter mile northwest of Holden Beach Fishing Pier. The station dispatched its 41-foot patrol boat and notified Holden Beach Police.

Before the Coast Guard boat arrived, a passing fishing vessel, the "Frog Runner," assisted the

disabled boat by towing it to Shallotte Campground. It was moored safely with all crew members unharmed.

At about 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9, the Long Beach Police Department called the station to report a capsized catamaran near the Ocean Crest Pier. The station's 21-foot boat was launched to assist, but returned after being notified that the sailboat had been righted and brought to shore with all personnel safe.

On Friday at about 10:30 a.m., the USCG Cutter Blackberry's small boat called the Oak Island Station to report a disabled vessel near Cape Fear river Buoy 53 with two persons on board.

Because the 17-foot boat was not equipped with a radio, the station did not issue a Marine Assistance Radio Broadcast (MARB) to seek assistance from a commercial salvor. Instead, the Blackberry's boat assisted the vessel by towing it to a Wilmington boat ramp.

Saturday morning at about 11 a.m., the Oak Island Station's 21-foot boat was returning from a training mission when it came upon a disabled vessel in the Coast Guard Channel near light number eight.

The 17-foot boat, with three persons on board, had no radio and was unable to call for help. It was towed to the Oak Island Station, where the owner repaired the boat and got it underway a short time later.

In other activities earlier this month, the station was called by the Long Beach Police Department at about 9:15 p.m. on Sept. 1 reporting a man missing while swimming off the Ocean Crest Pier. The 41-footer was launched and had begun a search of the area when police called to report that the person had been located.

At about 10:49 a.m., Sept. 2, the station was called by USCG Group Fort Macon reporting the 38-foot boat "The Office" overdue between Florida and Maryland. A radio check was begun with all marinas in the area in an effort to find the boat. Later that afternoon, the group office notified Oak Island that the boat had been located in Georgia.

On Sept. 5 at about 6:20 p.m., a radio call was received from a passing boater reporting another vessel disabled about 15 miles off Shallotte Inlet. The 24-foot cabin cruiser had no radio on board, so a MARB was not issued. The station's 41-footer was dispatched and towed the boat to Southport Marina.

Most South High Students, Staff Being Tested For TB

As a preventive measure staff and most students of South Brunswick High School were to be tested this week for tuberculosis after a student was diagnosed as a suspected TB case.

To determine if others at the school may have the infection, public school nurses and two nurses with the Brunswick County Health Department were to administer skin tests to all staff as well as to students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades Wednesday, starting at 9 a.m. at the campus in Boiling Spring Lakes.

"Depending on the readings, we'll go from there," said Gloria Talley, school system public information officer.

"This is a preventive measure and we're being very optimistic."

Test results will be read 48 hours later, on Friday.

Should any tests read positive, additional testing would be required, she said.

Students or staff who are absent from school Wednesday are to go to the Brunswick County Health Department for a skin test at their earliest convenience, said Principal Sue Sellers.

Tuberculosis is a contagious disease caused by the tubercle bacillus. Its most common form is tuberculosis of the lungs.

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