



A young crewmember of the schooner *Bill of Rights* climbs the rigging of the vessel at the Southport city pier over Thanksgiving

Smooth sailing is VisionQuest goal

Program helps youths navigate proper course

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

A replica 18th-century schooner which serves as a training vessel for troubled youths spent her Thanksgiving in Southport last week.

The *Bill of Rights*, operated by a private group called VisionQuest as part of a program for troubled inner-city teenagers, docked at the city pier last Tuesday afternoon and sailed Friday for Florida.

"We're headed south for the winter," said Mike Bengivengo, a member of the treatment staff which teaches and counsels the juveniles on board.

The 136-foot gaff-rigged schooner, built 20 years ago in Maine, is sailing with 33 people, including 17 youths ages 15 to 18 years, and two

dogs. There are four marine professionals -- captain, first and second mates and the cook. The rest of the adults are counseling staff.

The *Bill of Rights* has an auxiliary engine but Bengivengo said the crew prefers sailing. The ship hugs the coastline, usually not venturing more than 20 miles offshore.

"Weather permitting, we sail five days a week, and usually dock once a week," said Steve Rank, chief deputy project master on staff.

The crew began the current journey from Bristol, Maine, several weeks ago and will head back northward after the winter break in Florida.

The ship docked in Wilmington briefly before the crew decided to spend Thanksgiving in Southport.

All hands on board spent part of Thanksgiving

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Council wants more details

New beach fire station is not a burning issue

Long Beach town council will await further information before acting on a fire department request to construct a new station near Middleton Street.

Mayor Joan Altman Tuesday night asked town manager Tim Johnson and the department to supply more details of the proposal to council so it might make a decision at its December 15 meeting.

At the November 17 council meeting fire chief Tim Pittman handed over to the town \$53,386 with the request that it be combined with money the town had saved for a new fire truck and pay the remaining debt on a fire truck currently in use. The \$13,000 saved on interest, Pittman said at the Tuesday night workshop, could be used to begin construction of a new station near Middleton Street. Pittman estimated that a new building would cost between \$260,000 and \$279,000. Councilman Bill Easley expressed concern that if the

town put all its money into financing a structure there would be no money to purchase needed equipment -- like fire trucks.

Pittman said that once the building is constructed the department could move most of its operation from the police-fire-rescue squad building, leaving behind just one truck. He said this would leave office space for police and the rescue squad and would also allow space for special town meetings and elections.

Councilman David Durr asked whether the department would be willing to share the proposed building with the rescue squad. Pittman said the department would prefer that the building be used solely by the fire department but would share it if necessary.

Pittman presented building plans to council members but said they weren't final and were to be viewed as "starting points."

Retiring commissioner

Pinkerton is pleased with 4-year progress

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Effective December 7, Gene Pinkerton will vacate his District 3 seat on the county board of commissioners and Wayland Vereen will be sworn-in to represent the Southport-Oak Island area.

Vereen has yet to define his agenda, so one can only speculate on the future. But, Pinkerton said he believes people can become stale in a four-year term, and that a new commissioner can infuse the board with fresh ideas.

Commissioners Frankie Rabon and chairman Kelly Holden are also leaving office on December 7, and will be replaced by Tom Rabon, Sr., and Don Warren.

"At 55, it's time to slow down and stop giving half my time (to the board of commissioners)," Pinkerton said. "But, you might read in the paper sometime that I died, but you'll never read that I've retired."

Pinkerton said he intends to devote more time to his family and business, and to serving on the county library board and the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority.

How does Pinkerton view his four years of service to the board?

"I feel like we did the right things, whether it was accidentally or out of stupidity, we did 'em," he declared.

"And I feel a fairly high percentage of satisfaction that I've done what I promised to do."

Pinkerton said he has tried to focus on buoying industrial development and the local business community, and that the high point of his term was the initiation of the industrial educa-

tion center at Brunswick Community College.

There was a considerable amount of opposition to the center -- which local industries now use for employee training -- and commissioners nar-

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County unemployment rate still second worst

Brunswick County's unemployment rate remains the second worst among North Carolina's 100 counties, according to the state Employment Security Commission's report for October.

Brunswick's 12.6-percent jobless rate ranks behind only Graham County, which reported a 18.3-percent level of unemployment. Only five North Carolina counties had unemployment rates above ten percent during the month.

The October rate in this county is down two-tenths on a percentage point from September. In October, 1991, the jobless rate here was reported to be 11.3 percent.

The report says 2,490 persons among a labor force of 19,820 were without jobs in October. That is 130 fewer jobless persons than in September, but the ESC says 650 fewer persons were in the labor force than the month before.

Other area counties and their unemployment rates include Bladen, 10.2 (fourth worst in the state); Columbus, 9.3 percent; and New Hanover, 6.2 percent. Statewide, the jobless rate was 5.5 percent; the ESC considers five percent to be a "near full-employment situation."

Beach recycling needs restart

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

Long Beach town manager Tim Johnson has appealed to residents to use the recycling center that reopened November 1, saying that utilization so far has been far below what he expected.

In the first week only ten bags of recyclable material was turned in.

"I don't understand," Johnson said this week. "When the center was manned by volunteers there was very good usage."

The center on 48th Street SE is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Newspapers, cardboard and certain types of

glass, plastics and aluminum are accepted by a worker on hand.

Johnson said citizens should real-

ize that the center no longer is a free service. The town pays Waste Industries \$35,000 to operate the center and

the cost is covered by monthly garbage fees.

Johnson said he feels poor utilization of the facility is "due to lack of public information. We assumed that because they were doing it before they would continue doing it again."

He said civic organizations are being contacted to encourage greater participation.

Johnson said under-utilization of the recycling process could result in the county imposing a tipping fee for waste disposal, which would be passed along to property owners.

Johnson said, however, the most important reason for a recycling center is that recycling is the right thing to

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Chief urges caution of phone solicitation

The spirit of giving among Southport area residents should be restrained if the solicitor claims to represent the Police Benevolent Association, city police chief Bob Gray has advised.

Telephone solicitors were active in this area over the weekend, Gray said. One called him, he said, but was unable to list any benefits local officers might derive from a contribution to the PBA.

"In fact, no local officers are members of the PBA," the Southport chief said. "We urge area residents to be cautious when asked to make contributions to such groups." Call the police department if you have concerns about these solicitations.

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 LOW

2:04 a.m. 8:16 a.m.

2:24 p.m. 8:44 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

2:57 a.m. 9:16 a.m.

3:19 p.m. 9:34 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

3:51 a.m. 10:12 a.m.

4:11 p.m. 10:24 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

4:42 a.m. 11:05 a.m.

5:01 p.m. 11:12 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:30 a.m. 11:56 a.m.

5:49 p.m. ---- p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:18 a.m. 12:00 a.m.

6:37 p.m. 12:42 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:05 a.m. 12:47 a.m.

7:23 p.m. 1:30 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made: Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies Thursday and Friday, breezy on Saturday and fair skies on Sunday. Highs during the period in the 50s, lows in the 30s.