



STAYING AFLOAT



Photo by Marybeth Bianchi

Donnie Potter, district port captain with the Corps of Engineers in Wilmington, has been watching over the 365-foot dredge *Markham* the past 18 months. Now he's working with the

Southport Maritime Museum to bring it to Southport for use as a marine research laboratory.

Markham Project
Dredge may end up at Southport

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

The Southport Maritime Museum is spearheading a move to bring the 365-foot dredge *Markham* to town.

The ship, owned by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been docked beneath the Cape Fear River bridge at Wilmington for the past 18 months, awaiting its fate.

Corps officials in Washington, D. C., already have the ball rolling to strip the vessel and sink it offshore to create an artificial reef.

However, museum director Mary Strickland and others in Southport are trying to prevent that from happening.

"The problem we have is that the logistics management group of the Corps (of Engineers) would like to have it sunk for a reef. We are trying to slow See Project, page 6

County 'Smart Start' sputtering at the line

By Terry Pope
County Editor

County officials are getting a late start with the Smart Start program.

The early childhood project will develop public-private partnerships to provide high-quality day care to every child who needs it.

Legislators approved \$20 million for 12 pilot programs for the 1993-94 fiscal year, one county in each of the state's congressional districts.

Brunswick County health officials will compete for the funds, but a communications breakdown apparently has stalled the local effort.

"I've read just enough about it to get excited over it," said Wyman Yelton, Brunswick County manager. "You

can always catch up if you try hard enough."

Smart Start commits lawmakers to eventually spend about \$250 million on the program statewide. The goal is to encourage agencies to work together to meet the needs of all children age five and under.

It may take several years to expand to each county, but eight are expected to join the first 12 next year.

Hunt made Smart Start the focus of his legislative agenda. It was passed by the General Assembly at the very end of the recent session.

"Information got out late to the counties," said Michael Rhodes, director of the Brunswick County Health

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Smart Start is a volunteer program for families that want to participate; the goal is to lower the child-teacher ratio at day-care centers to produce a better learning environment

Following all-day mediation

Schools get funds for northern area school

By Terry Pope
County Editor

An agreement reached in the 14th hour of negotiations Tuesday will appropriate up to \$865,000 this fiscal year to start construction of a new elementary school in Leland.

Brunswick County commissioners and the school board both voted unanimously for the deal that also shifts \$556,672 within the school budget to current expenses.

School officials entered into mediation seeking an additional \$4.2 million for the Leland school and another \$600,000 for current expenses.

Chapel Hill mediator Andy Little coached both sides into an agreement to keep the dispute from heading to Superior Court. Talks began at 9 a.m. and concluded with signing of the deal around 11:15 p.m.

The money will come from the county's current fund balance of around \$11 million and no tax increase is expected, said Don Warren, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

"We see the need for a school," said Warren. "We've seen it all along."

The approved \$500,000 will pay for land acquisition and planning. The boards will work together to explore methods to finance the remainder of the school costs and an addition to West Brunswick High School in Shallotte.

If an agreement is reached on the financing method, the county will allocate another \$365,000 this fiscal year to get the school under construction. That money will pay for engineers and architects.

"That was the major thing," said Donna Baxter, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Education. "It was to get this school started. We hope to purchase the land this year."

School board attorney Glen Peterson said the shifting of funds to increase current expenses will pay for all programs currently in place. The money will come from Category II and Category III line items that normally pay for transportation, desks and supplies.

"This resolution will preserve the current status of the school system," said Peterson.

His resolution asking for "better lines of communication to discuss issues regarding educational needs" in the county was also passed by both boards.

Under the plan, both boards will appoint its chairman, finance officer and executive officer to act as official liaisons to "meet and communicate to each other between the joint meetings" to discuss how to finance school construction.

"I think it is the feeling of both

boards that we never have to go through this again," said Peterson.

School board member Bill Fairley was out of town and did not attend the sessions that broke briefly so

commissioners could hold a scheduled public hearing on rezoning requests in Bolivia.

What was labeled a final offer by See School funds, page 18

Hurricane watch

Do you know what to do if a hurricane were to threaten the Cape Fear coast?

All facets of preparation, evacuation and the return home will be covered during a program entitled "H.E.L.P." (Hurricane Emergency Local Preparedness). It will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 16, at Southport City Hall.

The Southport Maritime Museum has gathered experts to cover all aspects of hurricane preparedness. Scheduled speakers include Southport mayor Norman Holden, city manager Rob Gandy and police chief Bob Gray, as well as Mac Harris of Carolina Power and Light Co., Frank Colvin of Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, Cecil Logan, director of Brunswick County Emergency Services, and licensed practical nurse Cathy Holth. A meteorologist will also be on hand to explain how a hurricane develops.

Among the topics to be discussed will be evacuation procedures, shelter facilities, personal preparations and returning home after the storm.

The program is free and open to all area residents.

District board still seeks site

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Having barked, the Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District board Monday failed to bite the hand holding the land where they hope to process wastewater.

The board in July had issued a virtual ultimatum to owners of the 45-acre site near Beaverdam Creek, which is considered the most suitable location in the district for a sewage treatment plant.

Then chairman James W. Smith implied that condemnation would proceed if land negotiations were not completed by August. The overall timetable for the district system always has envisioned August as the time for site acquisition.

But consultant Finley Boney said Monday that negotiations with Homer Wright and Claude Smith (no kin to chairman Smith) had not been concluded, despite assurances by Wright

The board in July had issued a virtual ultimatum to owners of the 45-acre site near Beaverdam Creek

that everyone was in agreement.

The district has offered 100 residential impact fees, or equivalent flow, to Wright and Smith for their land.

In discussion, commissioner Tommy Bowmer said, "I don't think we should play games with (owner Smith); we should let him know we mean business."

Chairman Smith asked for a resolution that the board would automatically start condemnation proceedings if the deal were not closed within ten

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Proposal allows phase-in

Smoking restrictions may drag on

By Terry Pope
County Editor

When the air clears, health officials hope restaurants in Brunswick County will have smoke-free areas.

But reaching that goal may take some time -- up to three years. A proposed smoking control ordinance would eventually require restaurant owners to either ban smoking or have separate heating, air and ventilation systems where smoking is allowed.

The Wake County Board of Health rules adopted in June, and

used to help draft a local ordinance, give eating establishments up to three years to make those changes.

Brad Kerr, member of the Brunswick County Board of Health, is chairman of a committee formed to draft a local ordinance. He likes Wake County's approach to phasing out tobacco in public places.

"We may modify them somewhat, but this is the basis from which we will work," said Kerr.

Local ordinances must be adopted prior to October 15. The

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OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, AUGUST 12	LOW
3:13 a.m.		9:40 a.m.
4:03 p.m.		10:34 p.m.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13		
4:19 a.m.		10:41 a.m.
5:03 p.m.		11:33 p.m.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14		
5:22 a.m.		11:40 a.m.
5:59 p.m.		--- p.m.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15		
6:20 a.m.		12:27 a.m.
6:52 p.m.		12:36 p.m.
MONDAY, AUGUST 16		
7:16 a.m.		1:18 a.m.
7:43 p.m.		1:27 p.m.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17		
8:09 a.m.		2:05 a.m.
8:32 p.m.		2:18 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18		
9:01 a.m.		2:52 a.m.
9:21 p.m.		3:09 p.m.

Forecast

The extended forecast Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of showers and thundershowers. Highs in the mid-80s to 90 degrees; lows in the mid-60s to 70.

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 Inlet, high -22, low -8.