

THE STATE PORT PILOT



Erosion
Caswell Be
come from
Just fo
South Bru
competitiv

50 cents
help may
ps - page 2
to have
n - 1B
Wednesday in Southport, NC

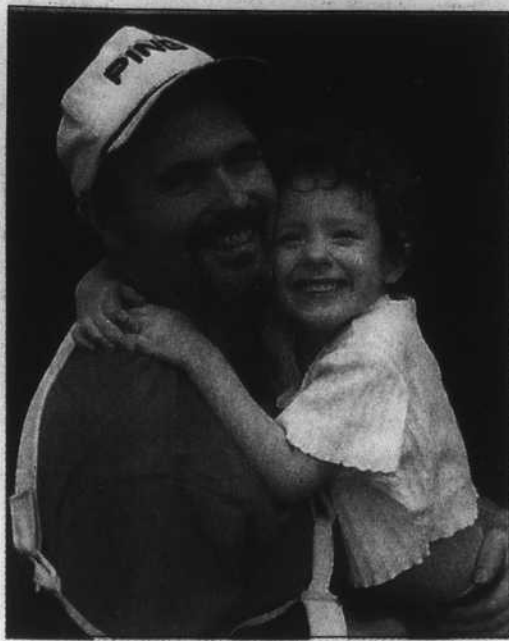
Phone 910-457-4568/Fax 910-457-9427/e-mail pilot@southport.net

Volume 68, Number 35

P

Wednesday in Southport, NC

DADDY'S GIRL



Carmen Hilliard gives a big hug.

Four-year-old to the rescue

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

Despite the injuries that keep his arm bandaged and in a sling, Mike Hilliard can still perform daddy duties, like tying the loose laces of his daughter's shoe.

"If you hadn't saved Daddy, he wouldn't be able to tie your shoe," he said to 4-year-old Carmen as he fumbled with the laces.

"You're silly, Daddy," Carmen said, giggling. Silly, maybe, but Hilliard isn't exaggerating. Carmen, a Southport Baptist Preschool student, proved her maturity on Friday when she ran for help and saved her dad from what could have been a serious injury to his arm.

Hilliard was changing a flat tire on Rusty, his 1980 brown Chevy van, when the jack slipped in the sand and trapped his arm between the tire and the van.

Carmen had just awoken from a nap and was watching her dad change the tire at their Yaupon Beach home when the accident happened. With her mom gone — Wendy was taking a walk in the neighborhood — Carmen was the only one who could help.

"My dad told me to yell up the street, to try to find my mom," Carmen recounted Saturday afternoon, gasping excitedly as she told the tale. "I ran up the street and I couldn't find my mom, so I went back and told my dad I couldn't find her."

When Carmen couldn't find Wendy, Hilliard instructed her to go back out to a busier Oak Island Drive and find help.

"I told her, this is against all I've taught you about

See Help, page 6

Long Beach council meets Davis Canal access dock approved

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

A floating dock for canoes and kayaks will be built on Davis Canal at SW 20th Street, Long Beach Town Council reaffirmed Tuesday night.

Councilor Jeff Ensminger called a Davis Creek Preservation Association proposal to delay its construction "totally unacceptable."

In other business brought before town council at its regular monthly meeting, council reaffirmed its commitment to provide a local cash match of federal funds to

build the long-awaited Sea Turtle Habitat Restoration project on the eastern section of the Long Beach strand. The local match could range from \$680,000 to \$1.25 million and could be raised by a number of means, mayor Joan Altman said.

Councilor Ensminger restated his motion of last month directing staff to design a dock for installation on Davis Canal at 20th Street. He said his motion of last month instructed staff to seek neighboring property owners' input on design options for the dock. Instead, the newly formed Davis Creek Preservation Association advocated a substantial change in the project itself.

"I want that dock put in at 20th Street," Ensminger said.

During council's agenda meeting, Davis Creek Preservation Association member Ed Kivett presented council with a detailed proposal calling for Long Beach to postpone the kayak and canoe dock at SW 20th Street until after it built another floating dock for which grant funds have been awarded at Middleton Street. He said this counter-proposal was developed by association members after a March 19 meeting called to discuss design of the proposed SW 20th Street facility.

Kivett said building the facility at

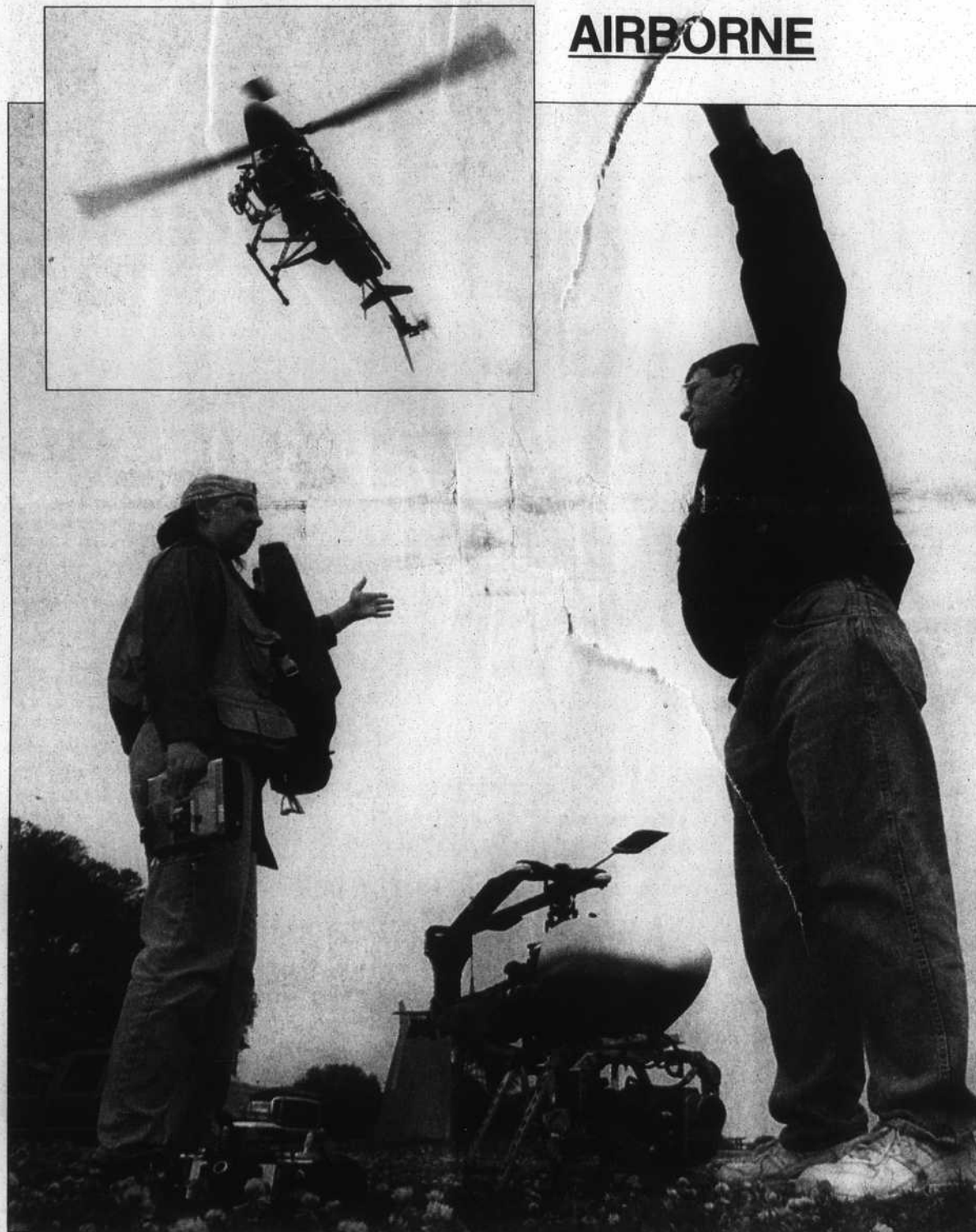
Middleton Street, where no nearby property owners had objected, would allow the town to monitor the frequency of its use. If the town determined a second dock was needed, it could then proceed with the SW 20th Street facility, Kivett said.

"Neighbors around 20th Street still are unconvinced the 20th Street dock is justified," Kivett said, adding "nine out of ten" of those residents were opposed to the project.

He said if, after building the rest station proposed on the Davis Canal at Middleton Street, the preservation association recommended an eight-by-ten-foot dock with no

See Access, page 6

AIRBORNE



Mike and Catherine Anderson get their signals straight in Waterfront Park as they film downtown Southport from a remote-control helicopter. More on their Hoveringbird operation in the Neighbors section.

Photos by Jim Harper

Pogy ban is opposed by county

By Terry Pope
Staff Writer

County officials want to sink state Rep. David Redwine's bill to ban pogy fishing from inshore waters.

By a 4-1 vote Monday, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in opposition to House Bill 571 after receiving feedback from the Brunswick County Marine Fisheries Advisory Board. That bill would ban fishing for menhaden (pogies) and Atlantic Thread Herring within one and a half miles from the Brunswick County shoreline between May 1 and September 30.

"Fifty jobs would be affected in Brunswick County by this," said board chairman JoAnn Bellamy Simmons. "This is Brunswick County people."

Although beach municipalities have endorsed the bill, the county's marine advisory board sees it as a threat to local fishermen and their livelihoods too. District 2 commissioner David Sandifer of Holden Beach opposed District 3 commissioner Leslie Collier's motion to adopt a resolution opposing the bill.

"Every town along our coast has supported this bill," said Sandifer.

"That doesn't mean I agree with them," Ms. Collier replied.

Marine advisory board chairman J. Walton Willis advised commissioners Redwine's bill would "result in only negative impact to the state and county fishermen" and would create no positive impact for the public.

"The elimination of one type of net from an area will make easier for the prohibition of other nets because there will be fewer fishermen remaining to defend their livelihood and heritage," stated Willis.

The bill is aimed at helping prevent a net spill and to keep boats from battling with recreational fishermen inshore during the peak summer tourist season.

See Menhaden, page 6

Related story, page 3

SBSD weighs sale to utility

By Richard Nubel
Staff Writer

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners apparently were to discuss sale of the district's 500,000-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment system today (Wednesday).

BEMC's January offer came when commissioners asked the City of Southport to consolidate with the district as one municipal entity

Commissioners Lucille Laster, James W. (Bubba) Smith and Charles Welling called a special 10 a.m. meeting to do so, district chairman Gene Forny-Duval said. He said the meeting agenda, presented by commissioner Laster in a memorandum delivered to the district office at 9 a.m. Monday, called for the board to discuss a number of items tabled at a tumultuous regular monthly session last week.

"The second item said BEMC," Forny-Duval said.

The district chairman said he telephoned Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation district manager Don Hughes to find out what business the district would discuss with BEMC.

"He said Lucille (Laster) had been talking to them and want-

See SBSBD, page 6

County school redistricting Oak Island students stay at Southport Elementary

By Diana D'Abruzzo
Staff Writer

After months of drawing, erasing and redrawing attendance lines for Brunswick County schools, a final redistricting plan was adopted by the board of education on Monday.

And yes, all children on Oak Island will remain at Southport Elementary School.

Attendance lines had to be redrawn to make room for the new Virginia Williamson Elementary School at Winding River near Supply, which will open to children in the fall. The goal was to alleviate crowded conditions at Southport, Supply, Bolivia and Union elementary schools by rerouting some children to the new school.

In the original plan presented to parents in March, children on the west end of Oak Island were to be moved from Southport Elementary to Williamson Elementary. The move was based solely on the second bridge to Oak Island

See Redistricting, page 6

"We have to do what's best for our schools to keep the numbers low. That's why we built the new school. Education, not socialization, is what's important."

Joyce Parker Hewett
Board chairman

'Way It Was' 1935 edition is reprinted

Whether you're a native whose memory needs tweaking, or a newcomer who needs reminding that locals weren't born yesterday, you'll find this week's best reading in a special eight-page reprint of our April 24, 1935, edition.

That was the first *State Port Pilot* published under current family management, and while 64 years is not a significant milestone, the end of the century is. This week also marks the fifth anniversary of the death of James M. Harper Jr., publisher of this newspaper for 59 years whose front-page article in that first edition is notable not only for what it said about Southport then, but what it means to us now.

We hope our readers enjoy this special "Way It Was" feature.