

# Thorp stops in Wilmington

BY KAITLIN FITZGERALD  
STAFF WRITER

When Chancellor Holden Thorp headed to the coast Thursday, he wasn't there for a beach day.

He was there for his fifth stop on a week-long state tour. He visited UNC-Wilmington, the N.C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, and the Institute of Marine Sciences, a satellite campus of UNC-Chapel Hill.

His began by meeting with UNC-W's Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo and visiting the UNC-W Center for Marine Science.

"It is really an interesting and energetic place. They are really building a campus that is an exciting place for students," Thorp said.

Dana Fischetti, manager of media relations at UNC-W, emphasized the potential for partnership between the two universities.

"The two schools have always col-

laborated. Research, academia and administration are areas where we work well together," Fischetti said.

DePaolo did a similar state tour when she first became chancellor.

"A trip such as this is a common, very good first step to meeting counterparts in the system," Fischetti said.

Thorp also visited the N.C. Aquarium's marsh site with students from the UNC-CH Institute of Marine Sciences.

"We hope that Chancellor Thorp can see things firsthand — how the marshes are affected by climate change and development, and what we are dealing with on the coast," said institute Director Rick Luettich.

While there, Thorp examined different fish, attended a marine sciences lecture and participated in a laser scan to evaluate beach erosion.

"After three days away from campus it was great to see Carolina students," Thorp said.

Thorp then moved on to the UNC-CH Marine Science Institute in

Morehead City, where UNC undergraduate students have the opportunity to learn and experiment in the field of environmental studies.

"We are really interested in doing everything we can to protect the North Carolina coast. The institute is really visionary," Thorp said.

Students typically spend one day a week conducting field research, two days in class and two days interning with local establishments or taking part in field research.

Luettich said that he is thrilled that Thorp is making this trip around the state after holding the position of chancellor for only a few months.

"The single biggest issue we are interested in is how we can do more for the University and the state," Luettich said. "We are always looking to better ourselves when dealing with the many coastal issues that our institute is not able to address."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Work begins on Hillsborough park

BY WHITNEY BAKER  
STAFF WRITER

Shovels will finally hit dirt Saturday morning on the site for future Gold Park in Hillsborough.

A ceremony today will serve as a formal groundbreaking to begin construction on the park. Preliminary construction began on Aug. 4 with the on-site parking lot to make the site more accessible.

Hillsborough Planning Director Margaret Hauth said the park is a source of pride for the town's planning board.

"I'll get people excited about future projects," she said.

Gold Park will be Hillsborough's first community park. The distinction from other parks in the town is the size of the project, which cost about \$1.5 million and will span 24 acres of land.

The park will include a multi-purpose field, a fenced dog park, picnic shelters, playground equipment, walking trails and on-site restrooms.

The land was given to the town

in the 1990s, but the idea for a park didn't catch hold and start moving until about 2001, Hauth said.

The park was developed as part of a proposed Riverwalk, a 1.5-mile greenway that will run alongside the Eno River and connect Gold Park with the Occaneechee Mountain State Park.

George Campbell, a former member of the Hillsborough parks and recreation board, first got involved with preliminary planning for Gold Park when he saw a map for the Riverwalk plan.

"They had a plan that was put together but it wasn't moving anywhere," Campbell said.

The park will be the first part of the greenway to be constructed and act as a midpoint on the trail.

The Riverwalk will be a part of the Mountains-to-Sea trail already underway in North Carolina. Hauth said that one reason there has not been a comparable park in the town until now is that the close-knit community did not need government-provided play space.

Neighbors might have a field that kids in the community could play in without concern, she said.

Bryant Warren, chairman of the Hillsborough parks and recreation Board, said that there wasn't money available to fund such a project, and people did not start to get "in tune" with it until recently.

Hillsborough was given a \$500,000 grant from the state that helped to offset the project costs. The grant is the maximum award available from the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, 30 percent of which is allocated to local governments for parks and recreation purposes.

"We were honored to receive that," Warren said.

Construction on Gold Park is expected to be finished in February 2009.

The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday and will be open to the public.

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To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)**  
Today is an 8 - Travel now is complicated, but should turn out quite well. Allow extra time to reach your destination. Hide a few bucks in your shoe, unless you're flying.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**  
Today is a 6 - There's so much work, you wonder how you'll ever get it all done. Do what you can. Pay off a few bills. Take it one step at a time. You can relax later.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)**  
Today is an 8 - Your partner and/or mate is the one who'll come up with the next good idea. Don't argue so much that you miss it. Be watching for it instead. And give credit where credit's due.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**  
Today is a 6 - A private conversation helps you reorganize priorities. Get back to work on a different project. Something else is more urgent now.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
Today is an 8 - Your luck's much better now. Put your plans into action. There'll be a couple of minor setbacks, but everything turns out well. Full speed ahead!

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
Today is a 7 - Resolve domestic issues, physical and mental. A family meeting will put all sorts of odds and ends to rest. It's also easier now to fix what's broken.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
Today is an 8 - It's easier to get information now. You'd rather just ask somebody you know, & that's certainly an option. Go ahead & do the reading on your own, too.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
Today is an 8 - You could get a very nice bonus or tip of the financial kind. Or maybe you'll find \$20 in an old shirt pocket. You're in for a nice surprise involving money.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
Today is an 8 - OK, now you can move boldly forward. Hopefully, you have a plan. But even if you don't, your chances of success are better now. Proceed with confidence.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
Today is a 6 - You get some of your best information from behind the scenes. Start asking your better informants leading questions. You'll get lots of gossip.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
Today is a 7 - Many job-related difficulties clear up pretty soon. You and your friends continue to talk about the way you want things to turn out. You keep generating more enthusiasm.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
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