



Doug's Bug

Doug Wince of Ravenswood, W.Va., puts the finishing touches on the impressive sand sculpture he built on Ocean Isle Beach last week. Wince and his family have been visiting the area for the past six summers and every year he builds a sand sculpture in front of their cottage. This one took three days to complete.

STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

GED Testing Dates Set At BCC

Test dates are scheduled at Brunswick Community College for adults who wish to obtain their high school equivalency diplomas (GED) in August.

Except for writing skills, any GED test can be taken at BCC's main campus north of Supply Monday, Aug. 2, at 1 p.m., or Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 1 p.m.

Also, any GED test will be given at BCC's Southport campus on North Lord Street Thursday, Aug. 12, at 5 p.m. and at the Leland campus, at Leland Industrial Park on U.S. 74-76, on Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 11 a.m.

The GED writing skills test only may be taken 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10, at the BCC main campus near Supply.

Any of the tests, except writing skills, may also be taken at BCC's Leland campus Wednesday, Aug. 25 at 11 a.m. or Thursday, Aug. 26, at 5 p.m. at the Southport campus.

Students may enter GED preparation classes at any time. For information on classes offered nearby, contact the college at 754-6900, 457-6329, or 343-0203. Also, individual help in preparing for the GED

is available at the college learning lab. The lab is located in the ALS building on the main campus north of Supply. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Drop-ins are welcome.

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From the Beacon staff

Library Trustees Say They Favor Possible Night, Weekend Hours

BY LYNN CARLSON
Members of the Brunswick County Library Board of Trustees said Monday they favor adding evening and weekend hours at all library branches.

However, Library Director Maurice Tate said extending hours this year "would be a hardship on my staff, and they've had a hard year already."

Trustees Chairman Don Eggert brought up the issue, which the board first discussed last fall, saying he would like for the libraries to be more accessible to people who work weekdays.

"I agree strongly," said Trustee Edith Tillman of Leland. "I'd like to see them open a couple of nights a week and Sunday afternoon. Right now only half the citizens of the county have an opportunity to use the libraries."

The libraries' \$334,731 budget for the fiscal year which began July 1 does not include funds for additional personnel; it is, as Tate said, "predicated on having two branches (West Brunswick and Southport) shut down" while extensive renovations are under way.

New Trustee Don Warren, who also is chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, suggested the libraries implement evening and weekend hours when the new Oak Island and Leland branches open and the Shallotte and Southport branches reopen.

"I would think that since the di-

rector sees how the board feels and the public feels, she will see to it that we do have it," said Trustee Margaret Harper of Southport.

Tate said it would be difficult to extend hours with the libraries' existing staff and budgets. "I was told to take a 5 percent (budget) cut this year, and when (Finance Director Lithia) Hahn got through with me, it was more than that."

Trustee Ann Hines of Yaupon Beach asked, "Do we have volunteers who can help?"

"Not that can be depended on," Tate replied.

Trustee Ralph Frazier of Winnabow said resistance by library staff to evening and weekend hours should not be a factor in the board's decision. "In my job, they tell me when to come to work and I'm there or they give the job to somebody else."

After a five-minute closed session to discuss "personnel," the trustees reconvened and said they would wait until the library branch openings to take action on changing hours.

In other business: ■Eggert reported that construction is almost ready to begin on the new Oak Island library branch and land is being cleared in preparation for construction at Leland. The trustees are planning cornerstone-laying ceremonies in late August or early September. The public will be invited.

■The trustees discussed possible

procedures for issuing temporary library cards to part-time residents and visitors. They also agreed to ask the county attorney's advice on a proposal to charge nonresidents' credit cards if they fail to return library materials.

■Tate reported that that "statistically, this is the best year we've ever had," adding that 10 percent more items were circulated than the previous year; 2,077 newcomers were issued library cards; and attendance at library programs increased 106 percent.

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