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VOLUME 29, NO 42

JULY 26, 2000

YOUR TRUSTED NEWS LEADER

25 CENTS

ONE SECTION, 12 PAGES



SMELLS LIKE BACON - Les Edwards, co-owner of American Skins, supervises as Kendric Grady shove els freshly fried pork skins into large fifty-pound boxes which will be shipped to distributors. Pork skins are processed into snack foods at the new Burgaw plant and give off the odor of frying bacon.

Pork skin processing plant opens in Burgaw

By LAURIE SANDBERG

Last week a purk skin process the block," - the business block,

Krauss Lane location in Wilming-ton, where it resided for over half a ton, where it resided for over nair a century. Established in 1948 by Wes Blake, Sr. as Wanet's Sausage, the plant was originally a slaugher-house and sausage manufacturer. In 1972, Wes, Sr. sold the busi-



MEETING WITH SUCCESS - Hadden Allen succeeds his second attempt to win a special use permit fr Pender County Board of Commissioners. Here he a drawing of his proposed plan to develop a commun of 64 townhomes near Old Casteen Road in Hampstend.

Board okays two permits

By LAURIE SANDBERG

BURGAW - In a public hear-ing on Monday night, the Pender County Hoard of Commissioners voted to approve two special use normits.

opinent off Highway 210 in Hampsteal adjacent to Old Cas-teen Road.

The project will be known as Village Square" and will provide horsing for tover 190 people in-cluding 64 school age children. Allen had previously been de-nied a special use permit to con-struct a mobile home site at the same location.

"SITES" P.2

ness to Mr. Krauss. In 1981, Mr. Krauss sold back the business to Wes, Sr., his brother, and his son Wes Blake, Jr. who began the business of processing pork skins into a snack food. focation.

Thase II will include additional of-

Phase II will include additional di-cs, a laboratory, and warehouse. American Skins has transferred 17 ployees from their former Wilm-tion plant and hired three new emsnack food.

"The business was not very profitable," said Wes Blake III who,
along with his sister's husband, Les
Edwards, bought the business with
a group of investors in 1991. "We
did most of the work ourselves. I
worked day shift and Les worked
nichts."

meeting is in uproar

St. Helena Council

Controversial appointment pro-ceedings and angry complaints from residents disrupted the Village of St. Helena Council meeting last

of St. Helena Council meeting last.
Thursday evening.
The appointment to fill the vacated seat of Council Member Janice Alexander, who resigned effective immediately, sparked
contention when a petition supporting a popular resident was denied consideration by the village
Board.

Board. Ms. Alexander, who had held Ms. Alexander, who had held her seat since February, cited her reason for submitting a letter of resignation as "I can better serve the community in other ways." Ms. Alexander's term of office had been shouded in controversy

from the time of election.

The proceeding to fill her seat led to controversy as a petition to

nominate Polly Fields, a third-generation resident and retired school teacher, was denied to school teacher, was denied to y Mayor Robert Barnhill on the grounds that no prior notice was given to the Council of the peti-tion's presentation, and therefore, would not be incorporated into the meeting's agends. A policy and procedure discre-pancy surrounded the time require-ment used to dismiss Ms. Fields' petition.

ment used to dismiss Ms. Fields petition.

In a letter issued by Mayor Barahill to Council Members last February, the mayor required all discussion topics that wish to be included on the agenda to be submitted or salled in by 300 p.m. miled of salled in by 500 p.m. Mayor Barnhill maintained that his action to dismiss the petition to dismiss the petition to dismiss the petition.

Mobile clinic earns County high praise

By JOHN WHITE

Pender health clinics earned high praise for accessible health care to residents at the recent Pender County Board of Health

Pender County Board of Health meeting.

In particular, the Board singled out the Mobile Medical Clinic as having the most improved coun-ty-wide health coverage, while ca-tering to the needs of low income families.

Overall, the health clinics have increased patient care doubling from 9,000 in 1996 to 18,000 lass year.

ast year.
Population growth and conven-

increase - specifically, the creation of the Mobile Medical Clinic three years ago. The unit provides necessary primary and preventive

care.
"Mobile units are ideal for low income people by way of convenience and cost," said Dr. Jack Oriffith, Pender County Health

Director.

The clinic is effective in providing on-site care as well as screenings for Diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and

Burgaw Postmaster appointed

By LAURIE SANDBERG

When Barry Klingel began his career with the United States Postal Service (USPS) in 1978, the post-master interviewing him asked him what kind of job he wanted.

"I want your job," said then young, brash Klingel.

The postmaster laughed and hired him as a window clerk.
But over the years. Klingel proved himself true to his words and worked his way up the laudler, from clerk to supervisor, then officer-incharge, and ultimately to the position of Postmaster. charge, and ultime

Today, Klingel holds his new position as Postmaster of the Bur-

gaw post office.

Originally from York County, Pennsylvania, Klingel moved to Wilmington in 1986 where he PLEASE SEE



SERVICE WITH A SMILE - New Burgaw Postmuster, Barry Klingel, happily awaits postal putrons as part of his duties at the window. Klingel has served the residents of Burgaw as Officer-in-Charge for the past four months as well as ten years ago.

permit.
A third special use permit by Sandstone Mining to expand timing activities was tabled until the next Board meeting.
The first permit was requested by Haadlen Allen to construct a 64 unit multifamily housing devel-

PLEASE SEE

sions which have proven to be successful."

Detween 1993-94, Blake and Edd-wards created a niche market. They went to packagers and distributors to expand their market.

That led to a larger southenastern market, where they service principle, but also prompted sales to distributors in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Teass.

Southern states include North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Plonda.

The new facility is on the site which formerly housed Lundy Packing who vested in the mid 1990's. Fire damage remained from the former owner and caused a major cleaning and removation of fort on the part of American Skins. part of American Skins The new facility includes two of

room, a large walk-in refrigerator with three exits, a cutting room cooking room and shipping room.

The brothers-in-law did every-

The brothers-in-law did every-hing necessary to keep the compa-ny alive including cutting and conk-ing the skins, bookkeeping and payroll, even driving the trucks for delivery.

In 1998, the two men bought out

the investors.

"We have been blessed," said
Wes. "We have made some decisions which have proven to be successful."

Stone Montgomery Construction constructed the building and included enough space to accommodate ex-panded work space for Phase II of a plan by Blake and Edwards to move

I hursday, August 3, 7:00 p.m. has been cancelled.

The Pender County Board of Commissioners will meet Monday, August 7, 10:00 a.m., at the Public Library in Burgaw.

Pender County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting Thursday, August 10, 7:00 p.m.

The Pender County Long Range Planning Committee will meet Monday, August 14, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Cape Fear Area United Way is recruiting volunteers to contact local companies and assist with presentations. Training provided and required. Call Siobhan Jackman at 251-5041.

NDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

he Pender County Board of Commissioners will tour Penderlea Water System following their regular 10:00 . Board meeting as follows:

DAY: Monday

DATE: August 7, 2000

PLACE: Penderlea Elementary School

82 Penderlea School Road

Willard, NC 28478

Martin Beach, Clerk to the Board

FREE COMPOSTING BIN ilid Waste Reduction: Pender County

der County has received a solid waste reduction grant to ourage composting certain types of waste. Residents are ed to allend the following composting class and receive a composting bin.

ien: Thursday, July 27, 2000 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Where: Hampslead Community Center, Hwy. 17, Hamplead, NC

ce is limited so please call Kathy Roberson in the County ager's Office at (910) 259-1278 to reserve your place.

Martin Beach Clerk to the Board

THE PENDER POST

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ty ServicePlus. Inc., a for-profit

of electric, propane, heat pumps,

Youth soccer volunteers will meet this Thursday

BURGAW - Coaches, assistant coaches, would-be coaches, and odier volunteers for the Pender Youth Soccer Association will meet this Thursday night, July 27, to plan for the fall 2000 recreational soccer sea-

"We urge all persons interested in helping us have a successful program for our kids this fall to attend." said program leader James Franklin.

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Pender County Agriculture Building on South Walker Street in Burgaw.

The Pender Youth Soccer Asspciation provides recreational soccer opportunities for elementary age children and provides a club soccer program for middle school age vouths.

Potential volunteers who need more information may call Franklin at 259-5336.

Youth registration for the program is planned for Saturday, August 12.

After-school program opens

A new program providing after school care for children is set to begin Thursday, August 3.

Victory Baptist Church, located at 12646 US Highway 117 South in Rocky Point, has begun a program for school aged children.

If you would like more infor-mation or would like to register your child for this program, please call 675-1511.

Clinics serve county cont. from p.1

other health risks.

Children probably receive the most benefits from the traveling units. Out of 2,899 patiens treated last year, 50 percent of them were aged 10 or under.

Head Start programs and day care centers are often visited to serve children's health needs.

In other business, the Board discussed overcrowding at the county Animal Shelter and its lack of resources.

Despite the fact that the shelter holds animals for adoption as long as possible, 78 percent were

euthanized - over 1100 animals. Currently, 60 animals are available for adoption.

The Board recommended that area veterinarians provide affordable spay and neuter costs and hopes to find some veterinarians willing to volunteer their services to Animal Control.

The Pender County Animal Shelter is open Monday-Friday, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Contact informa-tion is handled through the Pender County Health Department at 259-1484.

Pork skin plant opens cont. from p.1

ployees from Burgaw.

The company plans to transfer a number of employees from their Atlanta plant by the beginning of next year, when they hope to have completed Phase II. At the completion of Phase II, additional Burgaw employees will be hired.

In accordance with state and federal regulations, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains an office and files on site.

USDA inspector Jason Kelly was on hand last week to complete all the pre-operational procedures necessary to start cooking and packing operations on Tuesday, July 18.

Kelly will be on site no less than three or four days per week to ensure the plant is following USDA health

"This is a wonderful facility," said Kelly. "It's the newest one in the en-

State-of-the-art equipment has heen installed to ensure safety and cleanliness. Non-skid floors, blue lights (which kill flies and insects). eye-wash stations, and hand-wash stations are strategically placed to reduce employee accidents and increase sanitary conditions.

Neighboring residents need not worry about a malodorous stench coming from the plant.

The cooking process will provide the smell of cooking bacon which should not be offensive.

The pork skins will be packaged in 50 pound boxes which will then be sent to distributors to package and send to retailers.

Sell It with a Post Classified!

"Utilities must diversify in the future in order to be successful; old paradigms will no longer work."

Four County ServicePlus, Inc. is also an Internet provider with over 1200 customers.

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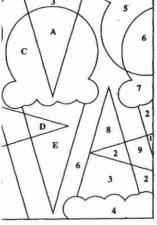
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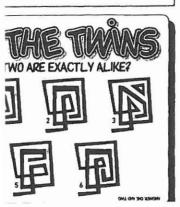
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ch space that contains a letter.





READY TO START COOKING are Wes Blake (L) and Les Edwards, co-owners of American Skin, LLC. Scheduled to open July 18, the Burgaw plant, located on industrial Drive, will cook and supply pork rind pellets to companies nationwide. The pellets, which have a shelf life of approximately three years, are processed into pork rinds. Edwards and Blake closed their Wilmington plant which was no longer large enough to meet their needs. Opening the Burgaw facility, which consists of 20 employees, completes phase I of the project. Phase II plans, which include closing their Georgia plant and finishing Burgaw construction, are scheduled for completion by year's end. At that time the plant will total approximately 38,000 square feet in size and employ 40-50 people. (Staff photo by Karin Parker)

Topsail Beach Town Meeting

Dawson's Creek Gets Okay to Film in Topsail Beach

by Muriel St. John Staff Writer

Granville Productions of Wilmington, producers of the TV serial 'Dawson's Creek,' was granted permission last Wednesday by the Topsall Beach Board of Commissioners to film portions of upcoming scenes in Topsall Beach.

Pending permission of individual property owners, the filmup procedures after a hurricane. Bergman also introduced Sam Altman, the Town's new Building

Commissioner Jack Barnes noted that \$5,500 worth of trash cans was lost after Hurricane Floyd because they had not been secured. He emphasized that homeowners are responsible for securing their trash can(s).



A Wild Saturday Night

DWI Driver Leads 100 m.p.h. Surf City Chase, Crash

A Dunn man has been arrested on 12 different felony and misdemeanor charges and jailed under \$50,000 bond after leading Surf City police on a high speed chase and causing damage to two town police cars in a weekend incident.

James Grant Norris, 19, of 711 Alderman Mill Road, Dunn, was charged with felony hit and run. assault on a government official with a deadly weapon, careless and reckless driving, driving while impaired, damage to town propcrty, and speeding 100 m.p.h. in a 25 m.p.h. zone following the Saturday night-incident. Norris was also charged with possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, underage possesston of alcohol, driving with a provisional license, felony speeding to clude police, and failure to stop for a blue light and siren.

The incident began at 10:45 p.m. Saturday night when Surl City police officer Jimmy-South-crly stopped the 1996 Chevrolet pickup being driven by Norris on Roland Avenue in Surf City on suspicion of driving while im-

After Officer Southerly got out of his vehicle and approached the pickup. Norris put his vehicle in gear, made a U-turn on Roland, and fled on Hwy. NC 50 across the Surf City bridge at a very high rate of speed. Officer Southerly

got in his patrol car to pursue, and called in the pursuit to Pender County dispatch. Surf City officer Hilda Flores, who was travcling in the opposite direction on NC 50, Joined the pursuit some distance behind the suspect and Officer Southerly.

The suspect vehicle's speed, according to the pursuing officer, reached 100 m.p.h. When Norris' vehicle reached Holly Ridge, Holly Ridge police officer Michael Meacham also joined the pursuit.

West of Holly Ridge, the fleeing suspect made a U-turn and turned back toward Holly Ridge. Officer Southerly also U-turned and resumed the pursuit. As Norris approached Officer Flores, he crossed the center line into her lane. Uncertain of the lane he was going to use. Officer Flores finally stopped her vehicle just over the center line to reduce the potential impact speed of a collision.

Norris' vehicle hit Officer Flores' vehicle head-on, causing a head injury to the officer, activating her vehicle air bags, and causing heavy damage to the vehicle. He then placed his vehicle in reverse, but was boxed in by the patrol ear driven by Officer Southerly, which made impact with the rear of the nickun.

The suspect then fled on foot toward a wooded area, ignoring Officer Southerly's orders to "freeze" and "stop." As Norris approached the wooded area, he turned back abruptly toward the pursuing officers [Southerly and Meacham). Suspecting the presence of a weapon. Officer Southcrly fired two rounds from his service weapon.

The suspect then ran into the woods, where he was tackled and arrested by Officers Southerly and Meacham. The suspect was treated at New Hanover Regional Medical Center for a bloody nose and sore ribs, sustained in the automobile collision, in which he was not wearing a seat belt. After treatment, he was released again to Surf City police. Officer Flores was also treated at New Hanover Regional's emergency room for a concussion and released.

The suspect was taken before a magistrate and ordered held under 850,000 secured bond on the pending charges. He was transported to the Pender County jail.

An investigator with the State Bureau of Investigation was requested to assist in review of the incident because of the officers discharge of his weapon. The vehicle accident - in which the investigation was handled by the state Highway Patrol - and the weapon discharge are both being reviewed internally in the Police Department in accordance with normal procedures.

Safe Haven Enables Women and Children to Escape from Violence

by Karin Parker Staff Writer

"I was so afraid of my husband, that I wouldn't even scratch my Another survivor Interjected, "I was so unsure of myself, if you asked me if I wanted chocolate or vanilla ice cream, I couldn't tell

where I could live until I could get on my feet."

"I thought they'd bring you in that night and throw you out that