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# wilmington District News

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## Fleet of dredges converges on Cape Fear

By Penny Schmitt

A virtual Armada of dredges is gathered on the Cape Fear River to move underwater rock, sand and sediment for the Wilmington Harbor Project. Dave Howard, of Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, Inc., can count ten big dredges without having to think about smaller vessels working the area.

"We have four hopper dredges working on the Ocean Bar I contract," he said. "Since December, they've been cutting a new channel alignment. We've moved close to five million cubic yards of material." The dredges MANHATTAN ISLAND, NORTHERLY ISLAND, PADRE ISLAND and DODGE ISLAND are the muscle on this job.

Howard also named several



**PADRE ISLAND** is one of four hopper dredges creating a new entry channel alignment on the Cape Fear River.

other vessels owned by Great Lakes and other contractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engi-

neers working on dredging in the immediate area. "The Manson

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# District meets outreach goal early in fiscal year

As part of South Atlantic Division, the Wilmington District offers a 'one door' full service engineering organization, with planning, engineering, and construction services. These services are made available to other Corps and Federal, State and local agencies under appropriate support for others guidelines.

In FY 2001, our support to other Divisions includes work for North Atlantic Division, Southwest Division, and Lakes and Rivers Division. We are also supporting several Federal Agencies, including the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US Forest Service, and the US Marine Corps.

The District set an operations planning goal (Objective 4.3) to achieve two new projects for other Corps Divisions and two new projects for Federal, State or local agencies during the fiscal year. By the end of February, we had scored 8 points toward our TEAM Bonus award by completing this objective!

Here is news of some projects we are doing to meet Objective 4.3:

## For Norfolk District, North Atlantic Division— Underwater Archaeology.

Wilmington and Norfolk Districts have cooperated in many underwater archaeological surveys on the James River and other Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

This area is rich in Colonial and Civil War period shipwrecks and historic sites. Among the products produced under contract with Tidewater Atlantic Research are the James River Historic Properties Management Plan and GIS Database. The project includes mapping, inventory, partial survey, and narrative report of the entire 90-mile James River navigation project.

The inventory procedures included databases covering upland

plantations, historic landings, military sites, shipyards, towns and other cultural features. It also covers navigation channels, dredged materials areas, harbors, anchorage basins, and modern navigation features, and areas covered by underwater archaeological survey.

The project divides the James River into sensitivity zones reflecting the likelihood of encountering shipwrecks or other maritime cultural features during channel maintenance or construction.

The databases are linked through the ArcView 4.0 GIS program so that any variety of features may be displayed and overlaid. In addition, the user can click and link to original document sources such as descriptions of magnetic or so-

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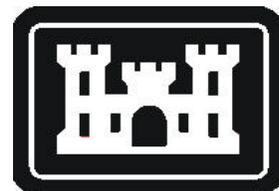
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## Fleet of dredges on Cape Fear continued



The dredge TEXAS is in the background pumping rock and sediment through a spider barge. The two scows will head out to sea and empty into an ocean dredge material disposal site.

*(Continued from page 1)*

hopper dredge BAYPORT will soon move down from Morehead City to do maintenance dredging in the Cape Fear Channel, “he said. “Maintenance continues side by side with new work.”

The hopper STUYVESANT, owned by Bean Stuyvesant, LLC, is now working on the Horseshoe Shoal contract for the Harbor Project, placing sand on Bald Head Island.

The TEXAS and the NEW YORK, both Great Lakes vessels, continue to work in the Big Island / Keg Island area, removing rock from the river bottom. TEXAS is the biggest hydraulic cutter / suc-

tion dredge in the country. “We’ll probably also be bringing in the CHEROKEE to build an access channel for some work,” said Howard.

Finally, the Weeks Marine dredge R.S. WEEKS is working in nearby Carolina Beach Inlet, and the Bean Stuyvesant dredge MERIDIAN is at Oak Island restoring beach habitat for sea turtles.

While the new channel work is not a record breaker, Great Lakes is marking some major speed of production advances over Corps expectations. “We think we will complete the Ocean Bar I contract by the end of March,” Howard said. The contract called for the new channel alignment to be completed

by the end of the November-March dredging season in 2002. “We have an incentive to finish early so that we can move on to another big job in Brevard County, Florida,” he said.

This massive gathering of dredges and the vessels that work with them—scows, tugs, survey vessels and other tenders—is mostly invisible to people who live upriver. Most of their work is being done several miles beyond the mouth of the Cape Fear River at sea. Day and night, they ply the waters off the Ocean Bar, building an underwater highway for shipping that will bring more traffic into the Port of Wilmington by 2003.

# District meets outreach goal continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

nar targets, discovered shipwrecks, artifact inventories, and sources for original documents. *Point of contact for the project is Richard Kimmel (910) 251-4994.*

## For Norfolk District, North Atlantic Division—Technical review.

One of our economists, recognized for his expertise in navigation and coastal projects, has been asked to perform a technical review of the Norfolk Harbor Project. *Point of contact for this project is Frank Reynolds, (910) 251-4773.*

## For Huntington District, Lakes and Rivers Division, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons—Environmental and construction support.

The Bureau of Prisons hired the Huntington District to provide a dedicated water supply pipeline from the City of Durham's water supply to the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, NC. The Wilmington District will assist the Huntington District by

- Preparing a NEPA compliance document
- Preparing a limited Phase 1 HRW inspection and report, and
- Providing Construction Management during the construction of the waterline

*Point of contact for the project is Ed Dunlop, (910) 251-4492.*

## For the United States Forest Service in South Carolina—Terrestrial Archaeology.

The Wilmington District conducts contracted archaeological survey for the US Forest Service within the Francis Marion and Sumter national Forests in South Carolina. The agreement between the agencies has allowed the Forest Service to continue its cultural resources management program during periods of heavy workload and internal reorganization and has contributed to on-time completion of many Forest Service projects.

The District has also advised the Charleston District and the Forest Service on approaches to resolving responsibility for wake-induced erosion to prehistoric shell middens along the AIWW. *Point of contact for the project is Richard Kimmel (910) 251-4994.*

## For EPA—Brownfield and Superfund support.

The Wilmington District supports EPA Region 4 with Brownfield and Superfund sites in North Carolina. The District is working with the EPA to perform Target Brownfield Assessments for Brownfield sites in Jacksonville and Kannapolis.

A brownfield is a property whose redevelopment is hampered by either perceived or actual contamination from previous use. This work is conducted under a memorandum of agreement between South Atlantic Division and EPA Region 4. A targeted assessment is an investigation to identify contamination at the site.

The District is also supporting EPA by conducting 5-year reviews of Superfund sites. The 5-year re-

view evaluates whether selected remedial action for the site protects human health and the environment. Last year the District conducted a site review for Morrisville, and this year reviews will be conducted for sites in Aberdeen and Salisbury.

The work is conducted under a memorandum of agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers Hazardous and Toxic Waste Remediation Center of Expertise and the EPA. *Point of contact for this project is Jan Brodmerkel at (910) 251-4763.*

## For the United States Marine Corps, Camp LeJeune—Environmental assessments and cultural resources

This fiscal year the Wilmington District has undertaken the coordination and writing of at least five Environmental Assessments including documents for Mile Hammock Bay Dredging and Upland Disposal Area, French Creek Area Capital Improvements, and an Off-base Training Programmatic document.

In the cultural resources arena, the District is managing over one million dollars worth of work for the base in contracts and cultural resource surveys. The District has also coordinated the construction design for the Mile hammock Bay



*(Continued on page 8)*

# National Engineer Week 2001 goes over with a bang: *Wilmington District hosts area students*

By Anthony Josey

On Wednesday February 23, over 88 students converged on the District Headquarters for a day filled with exhibits, demonstrations and on-site tours. This event was part of a weeklong celebration of National Engineer Week 2001. The theme for this year's celebration was "Turning Ideas Into Reality."

The participants represented Cape Fear Community College's Marine Technology Program, the three high schools in New Hanover County (Laney, Hoggard and New Hanover), and UNCW's 2+2 Pre-Engineering Program.

The morning started out with presentations on the CADD/ GIS process, Flood Plain exhibit, and a viewing of the Wilmington Harbor Project video. Jeff Whiting, student employment coordinator, shared information about employment opportunities with the District under the STEP program. Other presentations included were "The importance of Education," by Ben Wood, Chief of Technical Services, and a District overview by Deputy Commander Major George T. Shepard.

Many of the students took advantage of the opportunity and overwhelmed tour guides with questions about their professions. District employees were well equipped with their 30-second sound bites, which by the way came in quite handy!

National Engineer Week was not limited to just District Headquarters thanks to the support of John Jones (Resident Engineer, J. H. Kerr) and Steve Jones (Electrical Engineer, J.H. Kerr). The two teamed up to speak to over

225 students during National Engineer Week in their area. "The experience has been a great opportunity for us as well as the students," said John.

"If the number of applications that we handed out and the amount of inquiries we've fielded from the students are any indication of interest in the profession, then we can consider E-week 2001 a complete success," said Jeff Whiting. Plans are already under way to host 26 middle schools and high schools from all three counties surrounding the District Headquarters for next year.



Allen Piner, left, explains a working flood plain model.



Doug Wall and Scott Williams introduce students to Geographic Information Systems.



Carroll Niesen, Tom Corder, Don Carmen and Terry Brown wait to greet touring students.

# Human Resources Corner No. 1: MEET THE CPAC STAFF

By Susan Pierce

To get our HR Corner off and running, one of our District team members suggested that we give our 30-second sound bites as a means of introduction/memory refresher. Here goes:

**Susan Pierce** – As the Civilian Personnel Officer and Chief of the Wilmington Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, I lead a small group of human resource professionals who, working with and through the Southeast Civilian Personnel Operations Center, provide advice and assistance in all functional areas of personnel management to recruit, train, and retain a high-quality workforce to execute the Wilmington District mission.

**Susan Dixon** – My primary duties are to advise management on the various program areas of personnel, including assisting in establishing policy and formalized selection procedures to find the “best” person for each of our vacancies, and also to assist in review and submission of personnel actions to CPOC to support the District’s staffing needs as reflected in its Objective Organization.

**Jackie Cook** – My work involves providing guidance and consultation to management, team members, former team members, annuitants, survivors, and eligible family members regarding benefits and injury compensation. I am also the Incentive Awards Administrator and the CPAC point of contact for the Total Army Performance Evaluation System and the District Training Program. And I provide advice and assistance in the use of the Army’s Personnel Process Improvements.

**Rachel Thompson** – I provide advice and assistance to managers and employees primarily in the area of Position Management and Classification and Recruitment and Placement. I also provide support in other areas such as Human Resources Development, benefits, and automated personnel systems.



From left to right: Rachel Thompson, Nicole Abraham, Susan Pierce, April Ward, Susan Dixon, Jackie Cook, and Jeff Whiting-your District CPAC TEAM!

In the event of a disaster, I provide Personnel support to the ERRO.

**Jeff Whiting** – My primary duties are to manage the Student Employment Programs, to provide advice and assistance on personnel matters to both internal and external customers, and to assist in review and submission of personnel actions to CPOC to support the District’s staffing needs.

**Nicole Abraham and April Ward:** We perform support work for the CPAC, including distributing vacancy announcements and Standard Form 50s, answering customer inquiries, providing forms and information as requested, maintaining files and records, and performing data entry and retrieval.

*We all are looking forward to using this medium to provide answers to some of your questions. I appreciate the topic suggestions sent to me so far and encourage your email as other ideas strike you!*  
**Susan Pierce**

# Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics

By Crystal Dillard

Eighty warmhearted "polar bears" braved the icy winter waters of W. Kerr Scott Reservoir and raised more than \$34,000 for the Special Olympics. The concept was simple. Find people willing to jump into 47-degree water in exchange for donations to a great cause.

Bill Lyons of the North Carolina Division of Community Corrections served as chairman for the 2001 Polar Bear Plunge. It was Lyons who asked for the Corps' participation and help in identifying a location for the event. "I really liked what I heard and wanted the Corps to be part of it," said Terry Ramsey, acting Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. "So we agreed to be a co-sponsor on the event and do what we could to help the community." The event was held at Berry Mountain Park.

After a two-month campaign of collecting donation pledges, the big day finally arrived. Saturday, February 24th began with last-minute preparations. The Corps had the park and beach looking good. Community volunteers set up a registration tent and separate heated changing tents for men and women "plungers".

By 10:30 a.m., spectators were already arriving in anticipation of the 1:00 p.m. event. Volunteers served-up coffee, hot chocolate, chili, and of course...Klondike ice cream bars.

Safety was a top priority. The Wilkes County Rescue Squad had personnel on the beach and in a boat—just in case of an accident. Rangers Crystal Dillard and Larry



**Twenty-three businesses and 80 Polar Bear Plungers raised more than \$34,000 for Special Olympics at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.**

Harris manned a Corps Water Safety Display.

Steve Handy of WKBC Radio served as Master of Ceremonies for the Polar Bear Plunge. Handy interviewed participants on the radio before and after their plunge. Ranger and Assistant Manager of W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, R.G. Absher was one of the first volunteers to take the chilly dive. "It was great fun and all for a good cause," said Absher.

Creativity was encouraged. Clever costumes and unique showmanship drew grand applause as judges scored the Polar Bear Plungers. The Special Olympic Basketball Team showed off their skills as each ran and flipped into the water.

The winner of the costume contest was dressed-up as a feeble old lady wearing a bonnet and matching frock. The crowd broke out in laughter when she yanked off her skirt just before jumping into the water.

Wilkesboro Policeman Craig Garris and his wife Donna won the "Mr. & Mrs. Polar Bear" category.

Together the couple raised \$1,429 and the judges considered their "plunge act" the best. Mrs. Garris dressed up as "Dr. Delivery" and Mr. Garris dressed up as a very pregnant "Eleanor." After the couple plunged into the icy water, "Dr. Delivery" emerged holding a newly delivered "baby."

The Polar Bear Plunge was a great community success. Twenty-three local businesses sponsored the event and the fundraising goal of \$30,000 was met and exceeded. Plans are already being made for

the 2002 Polar Bear Plunge at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. The fundraising goal will be \$100,000 and will involve a statewide campaign for Special Olympics.



**In addition to being one of the first Polar Bear Plungers, R.G. Absher gave a demonstration on kayak roll-over and paddling maneuvers.**

# Safety Sam Debuts at Clarksville Parade

by Sherrie Storm

**T**eam members from Kerr braved the cold, showed the Corps' colors, and introduced Safety Sam at two local Christmas Parades last December. The "parade crew" consisted of Shannon Crews, Peggy Conner, Joyce Taylor, Rose Sullivan, Buck Buchannon, Iverson Ryland, Roger Anderson, Clarence Conner, and Sherrie Storm. The crew decorated Kerr's patrol boat and one of the 4-wheel drive trucks in garland, lights, and ribbons.

At the Clarksville, Virginia, Parade, Shannon drove the truck pulling the boat "float." Peggy, Joyce, and Buck wore life vests and float coats and waved to the cheering crowds. Roger, Iverson, and Sherrie, in Corps Ranger uniform, carried Water Safety banners.

Clarence Conner headed the pack as the voice of "Safety Sam"—the new water safety remote controlled boat. Sam "sang" Christmas Carols and said hello to the citizens who lined the streets. Clarksville loved Safety Sam! This was Sam's public debut, and

he came through with a bang! Children laughed and clapped while their parents pointed and waved. "It was the most fun I think I have ever had at an event", said Clarence Conner. "It was a lot of fun to drive Sam around and watch the crowds respond".

If ever there was an opportunity to make Raving Fans, this was it—and John H. Kerr raves on.

*Sherrie Storm is Chief Park Ranger at John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir.*



**TEAM Kerr members (from left) Iverson Ryland, Clarence Connor, Shannon Crews, Joyce Taylor, Peggy Connor, Sherry Storm, and Roger Anderson.**

## District outreach continued

*(Continued from page 4)*

Upland Disposal site and hydrographic surveys of the Courthouse Bay and French Creek areas of the base on the New River.

**Point of contact for these projects is Richard Lewis, (910) 251-4755.**

### Galveston District (SWD)—Coastal Engineering & Economics

We continue to provide coastal engineering and economic support to Galveston District. In FY 2001,

one of our economists is preparing a cost/benefit analysis for the Corpus Christi Deepening Project.

**Point of Contact for the project is Frank Reynolds, (910) 251-4773.**

# How to make headlines in the Wilmington District Newsletter

By Penny Schmitt

**Wilmington District News** reaches all of our Wilmington District TEAM, our retirees, and many of our customers and stakeholders. Our format is designed to showcase the following:

- Two major news features each month about projects of interest to our customers and stakeholders
- Up to two minor news features each month about district programs and activities
- Progress toward completion of our Annual Operations Plan
- Regional Business Center and Command news

- Personnel information
- Events at our Lake Projects, Vessels, and Field Offices
- News about District People
- Regular columns on
  - Public speaking appearances
  - Corps family news
  - Retiree news

We welcome stories from all around the District. To ensure timely publication of a story in the newsletter, please submit text and photos (we can use snapshots, but we love digital photos in a **jpg** format!) by close of business on the last day of the month. Please

email your stories and photos to Penny Schmitt or Anthony Josey. If you think your story is a feature item, please call us and work with us at (910) 251-4626.

Our 12-page newsletter is bursting at the seams with all the great things our TEAM is doing. Sometimes your story may be edited or even passed over because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you from sending another story later! Like every newspaper, we have to make choices—but we'll do our best to include all the District news that is current and appropriate.

## Wilmington District Launches Speaker's Bureau Web Page

By Anthony Josey

On February 21, 2001 the District's Speakers Bureau Web Page became a reality. The idea has been in the planning and design stage for quite some time. "It will help us build another bridge to our community and our stakeholders," said Penny Schmitt, Chief of Public Affairs. "TEAM members regularly make speaking engagements throughout the community, region and across the country. The Speakers Bureau page lets our public know what we offer and gives them an opportunity to invite our experts to speak to their organization."

Web page readers can e-mail directly from the page to request a speaker.

Currently the site has 15 topics to select from. The topics range from a District Overview, to current Projects such as the Wilmington Harbor Project, to Regulatory and Environmental topics. More topics and speakers will be added. Many TEAM members have specialized areas of expertise and are ready with prepared presentations. The web page can be accessed from the District's main web page at [www.saw.usace.army.mil](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil) from the home page go to the "News" link.



**Eugene Tickner speaks to a local business group.**

# New Faces to the District

## Shannon Rinehart, Office Automation Clerk, Internal Review—

Shannon is a student at Cape Fear Community College. He is a Computer Science major and will graduate in May. Shannon has already been accepted to UNCW for the Fall Semester. Shannon's father, John Francis Rinehart, was a survey boat captain with the Wilmington District and his mother,



Betty Sue Rinehart, retired from the Wilmington District in 1995 as a mail and file clerk for the Construction Operations Division. Shannon is a newlywed, (February 01), and plans to pursue a career with the Corps.

## Billie J. Jones, Student Trainee, Information Management at Philpott Lake—

Billie is a student at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. She is majoring in Business Administration and carries a minor in Information Systems. Billie plans to continue her career with the Federal Service traveling with her husband who is in the military. They have one child, a daughter named Jenee'.



## Renay Haskins, Student Trainee, Information Management at John H. Kerr Lake—

Renay is a student at Southside Virginia Community College's Continuing Education Center in South Boston, Virginia. Renay plans to pursue a career in the Federal Service as a Data Base Administrator. She and her husband Richard have three children and three grandchildren. They raise Rottweilers in their spare time.



## James K. Martin, Summer Park Ranger at John H. Kerr Lake—

James is a Summer Ranger at John H. Kerr. John has been a Chemistry Teacher in Mecklenburg County for 33 years. He has been a Summer Ranger for 31 years. He and his wife Evelyn have two children and four grandchildren.



## Speaking Out

- **Anthony Josey, Student Trainee in the PA Office**, appeared on the New Hanover County Schools "What's My Career" Program. What's my Career is a monthly interview and game show program with a focus on career development. The show airs weekly on cable NHC School's.
- **Jeffrey B. Whiting, Student Employment Coordinator**, and Cdr. in the US Naval Reserve recently served as Honor's Officer for two military funeral processions. This is a voluntary service in which Jeff proudly and regularly participates.
- **Tom Walker and Ken Jolly of the Washington Regulatory Field Office**, gave presentations to District Conservationists with the Natural Resources Conservation Service during their regional, bi-annual training in Williamston and Kenansville. They provided information regarding Corps policies and regulations as well as recent court decisions affecting the Corps' regulatory program.
- **Michael Wutkowski, Lead Coastal Engineer-Technical Services Division**, delivered the Corp's of Engineers Coastal Projects Presentation to the Wilmington Engineers Club on March 7.
- **Phil Edge, Lock Master at W.M. O. Husk Lock and Dam**, made a presentation to the Coast Guard Auxiliary on March 8, on Boating Safety in and around the Lock and Dams. The highlight of the videotape was a viewing of the videotape "The Drowning Machine."



- **Congratulations to George Lovelace** who was selected as Assistant Master on the Dredge Merritt.
- The Office of Student Development at Cape Fear Community College has recognized **Shannon Rinehart, Office Automation Clerk, Internal Review**, for Outstanding Academic Achievement. He will be receiving the honor at the annual Student Recognition Ceremony.
- **Jeffrey B. Whiting, Student Employment Coordinator for the District** has been nominated for membership in the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. This nomination is in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement as an MBA Student at UNCW. Jeff will graduate in May 2001.

# RETIREE NEWS



By Bob Swart

A group of 17 gathered for this month's luncheon. Those present were Max Grimes, Gloria and Paul Woodbury, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Eric Matzke, Virginia Uzzell, Bettye and Bob Swart, Doris and Ken Old, Lawrence Crawley, Sylvia and Rex Phillips, Dan Grimsley, and last but not least, De and I. B. Strickland. As can be noted, many regulars were not present, with this being the first day of the month and payday.

I felt a little remiss in that we did not have the flags flying all over the place, since Edith Vithalani is now an American Citizen as of February 23, 2001. She had missed out on the trip to India, expecting to be sworn in at any time. However, now she is saying "watch out you old citizens . . . here I come!" She said that when the letter came she was almost afraid to open

it, because they might have wanted to get her fingerprints one more time. We are happy that this was the right letter, and we are certainly glad for her. Congratulations! Jim stated that the epicenter for the 7.8 earthquake in India was only 60 miles from where his family resides. The family is all safe and alive, but can't say that about the houses they lived in. See, Edith, there are some good reasons for staying home.

We were happy to have De and I. B. with us this month. De said that she is fully retired now, giving up her job with the Commissioners of Greene County, Pennsylvania. They are very active with the church—choir, assistant minister, secretary, council and so on. I.B. is a part time limo driver, one of those stretch Lincolns 37 feet long. That's a tough one to parallel park! He chuckled as he said he was also keeping De straight. They traveled last year to Hawaii, Denmark, and Germany, taking the opportunity to

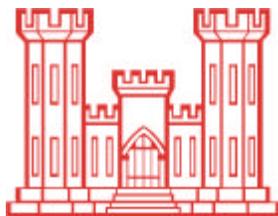
attend the passion play at Oberammergau, a once in a decade event. De said, "Y'all come to southwest Pennsylvania (Rice's Landing) and visit us!" Their email address is dlstrickland@juno.com.

Paul Woodbury is looking forward to spring break. He will be running away from home headed to the Grand Turk Islands for some diving fun. Sylvia Phillips had to brag a little since her granddaughter, Lauren, was in the all county chorus on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The sudden and unexpected loss of Henry Jerome brought sorrow to the meeting. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Henry's family. Joe Lewis and Joe Spahr attended Henry's memorial service, which was held in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

All of you field and local retirees out there, come join with us each month and help us to kind of keep track of you. We meet at the Pier 20 restaurant each first Thursday of the month.

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