

hours of the onset of symptoms, to be effective.

DeBarth says he saw the need for the clot-busting technology when he first arrived on the island in the fall of 1995.

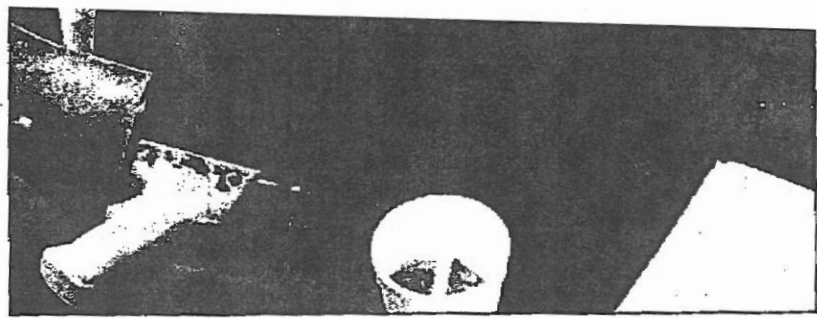
"The island is the perfect place to have this capability," DeBarth said. "It's a long time from my door to the Emergency Room door, even with a helicopter. The quicker you can get them started [on the therapy] after the heart attack, the more muscle you can save. Time is muscle."

But thrombolytic therapy is expensive. It requires special intravenous drug pumps and drugs to be effective, and a price tag that would normally be far above the budget for a tiny island clinic.

With the help of Pitt County Memorial and Norfolk General hospitals, and the support of Seaborn Blair and Al Hodges, his physician supervisors on Hatteras Island, DeBarth says both the pumps and a vial of the precious medicine were secured last fall.

Last week's call was the first time DeBarth and

See OCRACOE RESCUE Page 3A



DARYL LAW/SENTINEL STAFF

Son of a surfer man

Daniel Hawekotte, 5, of Point Harbor did his part to help run a surfing contest sponsored by the Eastern Surfing Association, Outer Banks District. While his father, Jay, competed, Daniel took charge of raising the green, yellow, and red flags associated with each heat.

That's because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires a cost-to-benefit ratio of 3-to-1.1, which means that every dollar of money spent to erect a man-made dune must protect at least \$1.10 of property.

Because pumping sand from the ocean floor to the beach is so expensive (nearly \$60 per foot of shoreline), undeveloped property doesn't generally meet that qualification.

So, sections of beach that have already lost houses to erosion — such as parts of Kitty Hawk and South Nags Head — won't get the chance to receive federal funding.

Sturza described the situation as a major conflict in federal goals between the Army Corps of Engineers on one hand and the Federal Emer-

gency on the other. In 1995, Hurricane Fran destroyed millions of dollars in homes.

The three sections of Dare County beach that have qualified for federal help, totaling 51,655 feet of shoreline, begin in the north at Lillian Street in Kitty Hawk and end in South Nags Head just beyond Hargrove Street. Kitty Hawk has 12 percent of the qualifying area, Kill Devil Hills has 36 percent, Nags Head, 52 percent.

Based on those numbers, Sturza has requested proportional amounts of money from each town to fund the steering committee.

In the coming budget cycle, the county would like Kitty Hawk to contribute \$900 and Kill Devil Hills to give \$2,700. Dare County would

See BEACHES Page 3A

Fireworks at Jockey's Ridge? Mayor lights a fuse

BY HART MATTHEWS
SENTINEL STAFF

The mayor of Nags Head did some good, old-fashioned political arm twisting this month to try to provide the town with an alternate site for its July 4 fireworks show.

Nags Head had asked the state park system twice whether Jockey's Ridge could be that site. But the state parks do not allow fireworks, and the state director has twice declined.

At the May 7 commission meeting, however, Mayor Renee Cahoon rearranged the board's agenda so the commissioners could make their request one more time — just

before they considered a petition by Jockey's Ridge to refund permit fees associated with the park's new visitors center.

Nags Head commissioners have the discretion to refund certain permit fees to a governmental entity if the cost of related improvements is higher than the amount of the fees.

Jockey's Ridge Superintendent George Barnes was placed in the awkward position of making the park's request for relief and simultaneously representing his boss's position that fireworks don't belong in a state park.

"Somebody turned off the air conditioning," remarked Barnes during the ensuing discussion.

"This chair wasn't this warm earlier."

In his most recent correspondence with the town, state parks director Dr. Phillip McKnelly explained his reasons for not allowing the fireworks request.

McKnelly said the state's no-fireworks policy protects the natural area from fire, the dune's visitors from injury, and the park's superintendent from liability claims.

"The division is concerned not only with the threat of fire to both the flora and fauna," he wrote, referring to the park's only fox den and the extremely rare woolly beach heather that grows there, "but the noise as well. The state has

a responsibility to offer an area of protection for the native inhabitants (both plants and animals) that is free from harassment caused by excessive noise, fire, and other artificial factors."

McKnelly also said he didn't want to make an exception at one park that could not be made at others.

But the town has few choices of location as prominent, elevated and central as the Jockey's Ridge dune, and the board of commissioners talked about contacting the area's legislators to apply a little pressure on the park director.

After much needling, Barnes, who has supported the town's posi-

tion in the past, agreed to relay the board's request to his director one more time.

The board then moved on to the next item on the agenda — the request for a refund of \$15,856.95 in permitting fees for Jockey's Ridge construction.

The park has spent \$31,500 to install a water main and place a fire hydrant near the visitors center, as required by town code.

The commission voted to waive \$14,268.55, as recommended by staff, for the park's water-impact fee and facility fee, but not to waive the \$1,588.40 site plan review fee.

Fuller explained later that the

two fees that were waived have a direct relationship to the money spent by Jockey's Ridge to install a fire hydrant. Revenues from the town's water-impact fees cover the capital costs of installing water lines, and revenues from facility fees cover future impacts to fire, police and administrative services.

"Did you get the message we want to move forward?" Cahoon asked the superintendent after the second vote.

"Sure did," said Barnes. "And somebody turned the air conditioning back on."

OUTER BANKS SENTINEL, MAY 15, 97