

s," Mercer  
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"that (the

Clinton's proposal to improve conditions for working families and their children came during his State of the Union address Tuesday night.

ADULT/2A

Kelly Robins, executive director of

(child care) and access to affordable child care is an issue in Onslow County," Robins said.

But rather than depend on the federal funds coming through, Robins said a grassroots effort consisting of

statement and formed goals along with activities and objectives to meet those goals.

"We will have that developed and ready to turn in to the North Carolina Partnership (for Children) by April 1,"

Hunt's Smart Start received national recognition through Clinton's State of the Union address.

"(Clinton) is using Smart Start as his model, and other states are sitting

SEE CHILDREN/2A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Winter storm brings overwash

Kitty Hawk public works employee Jim Watters drags a trash bin through water to Earnest Bass as Jean Wilson watches from in front of her home. While snow fell in the mountains, overwash was reported along the Outer Banks and on Bogue Banks, where as much as eight feet of shoreline was lost to the storm at Emerald Isle. See 8A.

## Watson asks state elections board to investigate Farmers for Fairness

### Group's hard-sell ads oppose her re-election

BY DENNIS PATTERSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH — State Rep. Cindy Watson is asking the State Board of Elections to investigate whether a group of corporate hog farmers fighting her re-election is a political committee that should be subject to campaign finance laws.

Farmers for Fairness, a group of the state's largest pork producers, has been running ads criticizing Watson, a Republican from Duplin County, for helping last year to impose tougher restrictions, including a two-year moratorium, on hog operations.

The group also has run ads statewide referring to pork producers as "family farmers" who protect the environment and are subject to tough government regulations.

"What they're putting out in their ads is not the truth; it isn't the truth at all," Watson, who also represents Onslow County, said Wednesday. "I think anyone east of Interstate 95 knows they're not telling the truth."

"It is my understanding that an organization or group attempting to influence an election by raising money and spending money for same is required to file as a campaign



Watson

committee and is subject to contribution limits and reporting requirements," Watson wrote in a letter Tuesday to Gary Bartlett, executive director of the state elections board.

She included copies of radio, television and newspaper ads from her area which specifically criticize her.

Lu-Ann Coe, a spokeswoman for Farmers for Fairness, could not be reached Wednesday despite repeated phone calls.

Bartlett said Watson's complaint would be researched by the elections board staff, but

SEE HOGS/2A

## Contaminated water cleanup at cleaners finally begins in April

### EPA: 5 wells to be drilled

BY CHRIS POWELL  
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Thirteen years after contaminated groundwater was linked to a Jacksonville business, the process of cleaning up the site is finally getting under way.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

the effort will focus on groundwater beneath ABC One-Hour Cleaners, which has operated at 2127 Lejeune Blvd. since the mid-1950s.

Five vertical wells will be drilled around the business to extract the water. Then a filtration system will be constructed by the end of February to remove the contaminants tetra-

chloroethene, trichloroethene, dichloroethene and vinyl chloride.

The cleanup is scheduled to begin by April. Treated water will be discharged into North-east Creek.

Estimated to cost about \$4 million, the contaminated site at ABC One-Hour Cleaners made the EPA's National Pri-

orities List — commonly known as the Superfund list — in March 1989 after it was linked to the 1985 contamination of two Tarawa Terrace wells aboard Camp Lejeune.

A study released last summer by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the U.S. Public Health Service, stated that boys

born to mothers who lived at Camp Lejeune during the 1980s were likely to be smaller than average because of contamination in the base water system.

The base has not used the contaminated wells since 1985.

Owners of the business, who could not be reached for com-

CLW  
CLW

SEE EPA/3A

bent on programs of mass destruction, Albright said, adding "we cannot, must not, and will not let him succeed."

President Clinton is sending Albright and other envoys

■ EPA/FROM 1A

ment Wednesday, have said they were unaware of the damages caused by dumping cleaning fluids behind their store.

When the liquid cleaning fluid is removed from clothing and solids are filtered out, a dust is produced. The business dumped the dust on the one-acre lot, including using some to fill potholes in the business driveway and parking lot. Since 1985, the business has paid to have the dust hauled away.

Since the cleanup for this site is being led by the EPA, funding from the Superfund budget did not become available until September 1996. Bids for the project were accepted during the summer of 1997, and Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp. was awarded the contract.

Jon Bornholm, remedial project manager for the North Carolina section of the EPA, said despite the lengthy delay, the contaminants probably have not traveled beyond the range

action against Iraq. Of course, if we do it now, some people are going to say it's to divert attention (away from the sex scandal). I don't think so. It's been planned for a while." **CLW**

Boss?", has signed with Columbia TriStar Television to produce and star in a series next fall.

band struck her with a disc at least twice on Sept. 13 while they were in a tour bus in a hotel parking lot.

0000002948

of the recovery effort.

"Typically, contaminants don't move as quickly through the ground as groundwater itself," Bornholm said. "Where a molecule of water might take 13 years to move a certain distance, it might take 25 years for a molecule of contaminants to move the same distance."

The Superfund gets money from a federal tax on production and sale of hazardous chemicals and is used to pay

for environmental cleanups when the people cannot afford to do so.

While he would have liked to see the project started sooner, Onslow County Health Director Danny Jacob said he is glad to see the end is in sight.

"It obviously has taken some time to get this far, but I am very gratified they are at the stage to start the process of addressing some of the concerns in our community," he said.

*Caring*

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