

## Dune Doodler?

The answer can be found "under the sun" on page 1-B of this issue, which spotlights Homer Johnston of Ocean Isle Beach.

*Island Living*  
Supplement included in this issue.

## Spots Are Biting!

Area piers and marinas say fish are plentiful, although small. The fishing report is on page 7-B of this issue.

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STAFF PHOTO BY ETTA SMITH

### Easter Bunny Arrives

About 20 children who showed up last Tuesday for story hour at the West Brunswick Branch Library in Shallotte got to see the Easter Bunny in person. Shown are a few

of the children waiting in line to hug the rabbit, which was sent to the library from the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

### \$2,500 Reward Offered For Leads In Murder

**BY ETTA SMITH**  
Governor Jim Martin's office is offering a \$2,500 reward to anyone having information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Thomas Gilbert Summer of Yaupon Beach.

Summer, 32, the son-in-law of Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr

Davis, was found stabbed inside his van on Dec. 29, 1986.

According to Davis, the governor offered the reward on April 8 in response to a request from the department.

Law enforcement officers of the state or its subdivisions are not eligi-

ble for the award, according to Davis.

Anyone having information may contact the sheriff's department at 253-4321, or the SBI's Wilmington office at 762-6613. He added that the sheriff's department has a toll-free number where anyone can call from across the country. The number is 1-800-672-6379.

### AREA CHURCHES OBSERVE EASTER

## New Cross Marks Beach Services Site

**BY SUSAN USHER**

A sturdy new cross went up Monday afternoon along the dunes at Ocean Isle Beach, a visible reminder of the approach of Easter and the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

Constructed of six-inch timbers donated by Harry Carter, the new cross isn't likely to bend in the winds that gust along the coast as did its thinner predecessor. That cross had to be reset each spring.

"This is the size cross Christ was said to have carried," said Gary Dean Ward, one of the volunteers who helped mount the new cross. "It took three of us to carry it."

For 20 years, a white cross has marked the site of interdenominational worship services held on the strand at Ocean Isle Beach under the auspices of Shallotte Presbyterian Church. Last year, a crowd of nearly 3,000 attended Easter services beneath the cross, according to Rev. Dan Norman, pastor of the church.

The cross erected Monday is the third to stand in its place, each larger than the one before, according to Homer Johnston, who was mayor at the time the services were initiated and has taken responsibility for the cross.

The 1987 season begins with the 8:30 a.m. service Easter Sunday, then continues each Sunday from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

Visitors are asked to bring their own seating. Dress is casual.

Special Easter services elsewhere in the area include the following.

#### Jennies Branch

Rev. Bill Greer, pastor of Lebanon Baptist Church, will lead the sunrise worship service at Jennies Branch Baptist Church at 7 a.m. Sunday.

Afterwards, breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall. Rev. Jesse Bentley, pastor, invites the public.

The music ministry of the church will present the Easter pageant, "Calvary Love," April 17, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m.

This dramatization of Christ's earthly ministry will be directed by Isaiah Mejia. No admission is charged. The church is located on N.C. 179 near Brickland.

#### Little River

At Little River United Methodist Church, Holy Week observances continue with the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) conducted by Rev. Frank Hartsell.

At noon April 17, he will also lead a noon Good Friday service of prayer and meditation.

#### Harvest Fellowship Gospel Park

A sunrise service is planned at 6 a.m. Sunday at the Harvest Fellowship Gospel Park beside Jane's Seafood on the Holden Beach Road.

The Harvest Outreach Singers will provide music

(See NEW CROSS, Page 2-A)

## Water Assessment Plan Draws Calabash Protest

**BY ETTA SMITH**

About 25 Calabash residents asked their town council last Monday to let them vote on whether they want a new water system.

Council members, in turn, told residents attending their regular meeting that if the majority of the townspeople don't want water, then not paying their assessments would be a vote against it.

The town recently asked Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine to sponsor legislation which will give the town the authority to assess residents for the service before the system is built.

In the bill the town proposed to assess a maximum of \$400 for residences, \$1,000 for light commercial users and \$3,000 for heavy commercial users.

Several residents at the meeting said they could not afford the assessments and some said they are already on the county water system.

Councilwoman Patti Lewellyn explained to them that the assessments are based on the estimated cost of the water system. She said that the town will refund money to residents if the construction costs are lower than estimated.

Resident Ronald Scheid asked council, "Tell me where it helps me

to put down \$3,000 for a service I already have."

Mayor Doug Simmons explained that with a water system, the value of residents' property will go up, and that fire insurance rates will go down.

Simmons also said that the town had advertised several public hearings to receive public input on the proposed system and assessments, and that the majority of those attending those hearings were in favor of the system.

"Where did you advertise them (hearings)," asked resident Johnnie Mae Thomas. When Simmons replied that the ads appeared in The Brunswick Beacon, she said she didn't read the paper because it's just "street talk trash."

The residents then submitted petitions stating the undersigned registered voters object to the assessments of their property. There were 63 signatures on the petitions.

According to Simmons, of those who signed the petitions eight are not registered voters in the town, and 22 of them are already on the county water system.

"The few who have water and don't want a town system are trying to stop those who need it from getting it,"

said Simmons. "If this thing (bill) is delayed we might be missing an opportunity to get water soon. The price will never be cheaper, so waiting won't help matters."

Councilwoman Sonia Stevens told the crowd she had talked to the town attorney, Mike Ramos. She said he told her the town could put a lien on land belonging to people who don't pay the assessments, but that if enough people refused to pay them, the town can stop its efforts to construct the system.

"We're not going to shove water down anybody's throat," said Lewellyn. "If the majority of the people don't want it, then we'll drop it."

#### Other Business

In other business the council:

• Heard a report from Town Clerk Janet Thomas that the new town hall presently under construction was vandalized sometime over the weekend, and that she had no estimate of the loss incurred. Thomas said someone threw a rock through a screen and window, which also damaged a wall.

• Asked the clerk to send the N.C. League of Municipalities a letter opposing a bill in the legislature that would keep towns from banning manufactured homes within their boundaries.

## County Commissioners Cut Back Overnight Vehicle Use—Again

**BY SUSAN USHER**

All but six county employees last week lost the privilege of keeping county vehicles overnight.

Meeting Wednesday morning, commissioners returned a vehicle policy first established in 1984 and then amended on various occasions. They also hired the former county manager as a budget consultant and moved one of two meetings each month to a daytime slot.

Vehicles remain permanently assigned to these positions only: county manager, animal control on-call officer, landfill director, garage/operations manager, building and grounds director and parks and recreation director. Excluded are sheriff's department vehicles, which are under the sheriff's jurisdiction.

However, commissioners left a route for other employees to be reassigned a vehicle on a short- or long-term basis.

They will consider case by case requests submitted to Acting County Manager David Clegg by individual department heads for themselves or for employees they supervise. Written justifications must accompany the requests.

Before Wednesday's meeting ended, the first such formal requests were already before them for later review. Sheriff John Carr Davis asked that the wrecker driver and a mechanic be allowed to drive vehicles home from the garage because they are frequently called out at night by his officers, as well as other departments.

"We can't leave a marked vehicle unattended out in the county for long," said the sheriff. "It's a target for vandalism."

If a department head decides an employee should be allowed to drive a vehicle home in a particular situation, Commissioner Frankie Rabon told the county manager, "They

should be coming back to you for authorization."

By commissioners' estimates, at least 17 employees are known to take county vehicles home regularly or on occasion, several of them not authorized either under the previous policy or amendments to it.

Several department heads said one or more employees in their departments sometimes drives a vehicle home if their assigned place of work the next day is closer to their homes than is the county complex or if they are likely to be called out at night to repair vehicles or equipment.

"My view is we've got to do something about it. I could live with six (being allowed to keep vehicles), but I'd just as soon park them all," said Commissioner Benny Ludlum, who had called complaints about use of the vehicles to the commissioners' attention.

Former County Manager Billy (See CLEGG'S, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

LIFTING THE NEW CROSS in place overlooking the Ocean Isle Beach strand are Gary Dean Ward, Gary Seagle and Vince Beckum, as Rev. Dan Norman,

pastor of Shallotte Presbyterian Church, and Homer Johnston, former mayor, look on. This season marks the 20th year the church has held services on the beach.