

## Red Cross Issues Urgent Appeal For Blood Donors

Officials of the Cape Fear Chapter, American Red Cross, have issued an urgent appeal for blood donations in the wake of the recent wintry weather across North Carolina.

They weather conditions throughout inland North Carolina cost the American Red Cross opportunities to collect more than 1,000 units of blood Monday and Tuesday of this week, said Dr. Jerry Squires, principal officer of blood services for the Carolina region.

"Even though donations have increased over the past few weeks, supplies have not reached the point that we can afford to lose 1,000 donations in a two-day period," Squires said.

The Red Cross is asking that those who live in areas not affected by snow and ice consider giving blood. "We must make sure that blood is available for every emergency need," Squires said.

The Red Cross Blood Center for this area is at 1102 S. 16th St., Wilmington. The center's hours will be extended to 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. this Friday, Jan. 21. Surf 107 radio will conduct a live remote at the site from 1-3 p.m. and local businesses will provide doughnuts and pizza to donors.

Locally, a blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. until noon at Elks Lodge 2679, 927 Carter Drive, Calabash.

According to a Red Cross spokesman, any units of blood collected exceeding the regional need will be sent to the Red Cross St. Louis hub to be available for use in California, in need after Monday's earthquake in the Los Angeles area.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (no upper age limit), weigh more than 100 pounds and be in good general health. Donors can give every 56 days (eight weeks).

## State DOT: Union Crossing Doesn't Merit Full Signal

BY SUSAN USHER

Efforts to convince the state to install a traffic control signal at the intersection of Union School Road and U.S. 17 hit a snag last week, but backers say they aren't giving up.

Last week state Transportation Secretary Sam Hunt advised Rep. E. David Redwine that traffic volume and traffic pattern studies of the intersection indicate a fully-phased signal is not warranted.

The department has decided that it would be appropriate to install an overhead flasher to warn traffic on U.S. 17 that vehicles may be entering the highway, and then conduct another engineering study once all four lanes of U.S. 17 are open to traffic this summer. Hunt also pointed out that N.C. 904 and Old Shallotte Road offer another access route to the school.

"We're not going to be satisfied with that response," said Earl Andrews, chairman of the school advisory council, who as of Tuesday had not received direct notice of the department's decision but had talked with Redwine.

"It's because of the safety of the children," Andrews said.

Most of the buses and family vehicles that transport students to and from the 900-student school use that entrance, though some do use Old Shallotte Road.

It is difficult now for cars and especially buses to enter U.S. 17, he said, "and I know it will be even harder to get across once all four lanes are open, because traffic will

be going faster."

The median is designed wide enough for one bus to fit between the north- and south-bound lanes, unlike at Supply Elementary School, but Andrews said that and a flasher aren't enough.

The advisory council is pushing for the state Department of Transportation to install a signal that can be operated just during the busy morning and afternoon periods at the start and end of the school day.

They have written transportation officials, Transportation Commissioner Odell Williamson and state legislators in their quest, and plan to keep trying.

"We're hoping they will reconsider installing a signal before it becomes four lanes," said Andrews.

## NBHS Band Boosters Set BBQ Dinner

The North Brunswick High School Band Booster Club will sponsor a barbecue plate in the cafeteria of Leland Middle School Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Plates are \$4 each, and all proceeds will go toward projects of the NBHS Band Boosters.

For free delivery of five or more plates, contact Brian Benton at North Brunswick High School, 371-2261, by Jan. 27.

## N.C. Dance Theatre Sets Family Performances

The North Carolina Dance Theatre will bring classically-based contemporary dance to Thalian Hall for two performances Jan. 29.

At 2 p.m., a special dance program for children and their families will be offered, featuring a narrated performance of dance works designed to appeal to young people. Tickets for this performance are \$5 per person.

At 8 p.m. that evening, a full dance concert will be presented, including the new ballet "The Rite of Spring." Leading the program are Tchaikovsky's "Allegro Brillante," choreographed by George Balanchine, and Yiannis Markopoulos's "Sundances," choreographed by Greek Cypriot Lambros Lambrou.

Tickets for the evening performance are \$17, \$15 and \$10 and include a free performance preview with Artistic Director Salvatore Aiello at 7 p.m.

Discounts are available for groups or members of Thalian Hall. For tickets or reservations, call or visit the center box office at 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, or call 1-800-523-2820.

The performances are presented by Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, with financial support from the N.C. Arts Council.

# Upcoming Meeting Is Another Step In Sunset Bridge Replacement Study

BY LYNN CARLSON

N.C. Department of Transportation planners will present 11 revised alternatives for replacing Sunset Beach's single-lane pontoon bridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway when they come to town Feb. 1 for a "citizens' informational workshop."

The public meeting will take place from 4 until 7 p.m. in Sea Trail's Jones-Byrd Pavilion. It is part of a process scheduled to culminate with completion of an environmental impact statement in the summer of 1995.

The 11 basic concepts for a new bridge are the same ones DOT put forth two years ago, but proposed routes have been revised, according to DOT planner Julie Hunkins.

In addition to a tunnel and ferry linking the mainland and island of Sunset Beach—options that Hunkins admits "don't look too promising"—DOT continues to study nine basic bridge replacement choices involving a 15- or 30-foot-high drawbridge or a 65-foot fixed span. One of each has been mapped on corridors west, center and east of the existing bridge for study and discussion.

Since DOT's first "scoping meeting" in late October 1992—the first step in studying the environmental implications of replacing the bridge—consultants under contract to DOT have been refining possible bridge routes after studying possible biological, economic and lifestyle impacts, Hunkins said.

"I don't want the public to get the impression that they'll be looking at the same options they did in '92," she said. "These (bridge) alignments differ in the land they would require to be taken, houses to be displaced and businesses which would be affected."

However, the state has still not ruled out the possibility of keeping the old bridge. One "no-build" alternative includes trying to improve the existing single-lane, steel-barge swing-span drawbridge, which the DOT calls "structurally deficient and functionally obsolete." That would be accomplished "piece-by-piece," according to Hunkins, via a stepped-up schedule of routine maintenance, "which would, of course, be more and more frequent as times goes on."

A second "no-build" alternative would be to rehabilitate the old bridge by shutting it down for

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—Julie Hunkins, DOT Planner

periods of time—Hunkins used six hours per day for six months to a year as an example—so that workers could remove a portion at a time, work on it and replace it.

That option would likely meet stiff opposition from police and emergency workers who have said the existing bridge endangers public safety because it is subject to breakdown, slow to open and close, and must be shut down during strong winds and astronomical tides. During the March 13, 1993, "Storm of the Century," the bridge had to be shut down for more than nine hours with more than 100 cars bearing day visitors stranded on the island.

During the first 11 days of July 1993, DOT staffers clocked 81,147 cars crossing the bridge. Daily traffic peaked on July 3 with 8,943 vehicles.

Since the 1992 meeting, DOT staff and consultants have been looking not just at routes and costs, but at what Hunkins calls "secondary and cumulative impacts" such as how a new bridge would likely affect real estate development and change other land uses.

"We've done some research into how (high-rises) affected Ocean Isle Beach and Holden Beach, but we've not quite finished formalizing those, and I don't think we're ready to announce any conclusions yet."

The engineering firm Greiner Inc. of Raleigh, under contract to "develop and study feasible and functional replacement and rehabilitation options" for the bridge, this week mailed its first "Sunset Beach Bridge Replacement Newsletter" to citizens who those who signed up for the mailing list at the 1992 workshop.

The six-page document includes aerial photos with the bridge replacement options and routes denoted and gives this project schedule:

- draft environmental impact statement completion, fall 1994;
- pre-hearing workshop, winter 1994-95;
- corridor public hearing, winter 1994-95;
- final environmental impact statement completion, summer 1995.

Greiner also has a toll-free hotline for comments and questions regarding the bridge project study. It can be reached by calling 1-800-233-6315.

Fifteen years ago DOT began discussing plans to replace the Sunset Beach bridge with a high-rise fixed span. At the time, there was heavy opposition from island residents and homeowners, and the issue led to organization of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association.

In 1990, the SBTAs successfully won a legal battle over the bridge when U.S. District Judge Earl Britt ordered the state to compile a full environmental impact statement and voided permits already obtained for the multi-million project.

## Deputies Seek Two Who Fled After Chase

Two Thomasboro area men sought in connection with a series of thefts remain at large despite a Friday chase involving sheriff's deputies, highway patrolmen and a police dog.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective John Ingram said Tuesday that law enforcement officers are continuing to seek Curtis Hill, 27, and Charles Edward Stanley, 64 in connection with breaking and enterings, burglaries, a grand larceny and possibly an armed robbery. The incidents occurred in both Brunswick County and Horry County, S.C., Ingram said.

Ingram was driving through the area where the suspects live on Friday morning when "I caught them on the highway." Sheriff's deputies and highway patrol troopers joined in pursuing the suspects near the state line, but the two escaped into the woods.

Anyone with information about the suspects should call the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department at (910)253-4321.

## Jesse Thomas Reaves, 37, Killed In Thomasboro Crash

A 37-year-old man lost his life Monday night in a single-car accident on Pea Landing Road in the Thomasboro area, according to Trooper Bobby Wilkes of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Jesse Thomas Reaves, for whom the trooper had no address, "was just going to fast, when he skidded off the road and turned over," Wilkes said.

Wilkes said he believes Reaves was a Shallotte area native recently residing in South Carolina. Reaves was alone in his 1981 Toyota when he lost control of the vehicle.

Three other persons suffered serious injuries in two single-car accidents on Brunswick County roadways last week, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

A driver and his passenger were both taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington following an accident Friday, Jan. 14, that happened at about 9:55 p.m.

William Ray Brennick, 18, of Winnabow, was driving south on (S.R. 1518) 9.3 miles south of Leland when his 1993 Nissan truck ran off the left side of the roadway, reported Trooper C.E. Ward. The truck struck a ditchbank and overturned three times before striking a utility pole at a point about six feet in the air. It landed upside down beside the pole.

Brennick was listed as having serious, non-incapacitating injuries, while his passenger, 16-year-old Christina Diana Price of Southport, sustained more serious incapacitat-

ing injuries.

Brennick was charged with failure to reduce speed, according to Ward's report.

Damages to his vehicle were estimated at about \$12,000.

In another single-car accident that happened Saturday Jan. 15, near Ocean Isle Beach, driver Cheryl Evelyn Woods, 33, of Shallotte, was seriously injured and taken to The Brunswick Hospital.

According to Trooper B.L. Wilkes' report, at about 1:50 a.m. Woods was driving north on N.C. 179 approximately 3.2 miles north of Ocean Isle Beach near Shallotte when her 1974 Plymouth ran off the right side of the roadway. It traveled across Village Road (S.R. 1143) and struck a tree.

No charges were filed against

Woods.

The Plymouth sustained about \$500 in damages.

## Yard Sale Helps Victims Of Fire

Shallotte VFW Post 11275 will hold a yard sale Friday and Saturday to benefit a local family whose home was seriously damaged by fire earlier this month.

Proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Paul Smith family. Fire gutted the kitchen and caused other damage at the Smith residence off Holden Beach Road on Jan. 6.

Yard sale hours will be 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday in front of the Idle Hour Tavern on Holden Beach Road.

## Coastal Waters Theme Of Contest

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor an amateur photography contest with the theme "Coastal North Carolina Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Intracoastal Waterways."

Deadline for entries is Monday, May 16, and photographs should not be sent in any earlier than May 2. Photos entered for competition must have been taken between August 1993 and May 1994 and must be from the coastal North Carolina region.

Entries may be in color or black and white and must be 5-by-7 inch-

es, 8-by-10 or 11-by-14 and framed.

The contest is open to all amateur photographers in coastal North Carolina. Prizes will be awarded to winners, and the photos will be on display during June at Franklin Square Art Gallery in Southport.

For more information, contact Emma T. McGraw, special events coordinator at the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

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