

Preservation Society Will Seek Area Of Environmental Concern Designation For Bird Island

BY SUSAN USHER

Supporters of the preservation of Bird Island are pressing on toward a goal of purchasing the privately-held island and placing it in the public domain, but are also looking at other protective measures.

Last Thursday, Bill Ducker, president of the 1,600-member Bird Island Preservation Society, told members of the Coastal Resources Commission the society plans to submit a formal request for the island to be designated an area of environmental concern (AEC).

This additional layer of protection would, N.C. Office of Coastal Management Director Roger Schecter said when asked by a group of visiting Eastern Europeans, bring into play certain development and use standards "that benefit some interest groups and are a detriment to others."

Citing the island's near-pristine status, Ducker said the group feels that should the island be developed, it would mean the end to a number

of the species that live there or migrate through the island and its surrounding network of marshes.

The town has classified the island for conservation use in its land use plan and zoned it for limited single-family development in the uplands only.

"We would have liked to have seen it more restrictive in terms of development," said Ducker. "Perhaps that will happen in the future."

Local ordinances applying to an AEC must be consistent with the approved land use plan, while that is not a requirement for other areas. Also, a CAMA permit is required for a construction project in an AEC. CAMA and federal permits and proposals are routinely denied for projects in AECs that are inconsistent with local land use plans.

Janie Pace Price of Greensboro, owner of Bird Island, has had an application for a major CAMA permit pending with the state for nearly two years. She has proposed building a

bridge to the island, a pier and dock, and a cluster of single-family homes.

The society is seeking private and state funds to purchase the island should Price be willing to sell. The permitting process, among other things, should help determine the island's value. If it can be developed, its value will increase tremendously.

Ducker asked last week how a permit decision can be expedited.

"I think there should be some time limit set as to how long a

process like this can go on," he said.

Bird Island straddles the North Carolina and South Carolina lines just south and west of the town of Sunset Beach and much of the island falls within the town's extrajurisdictional jurisdiction for planning and zoning.

It has been designated as an undeveloped barrier island by the U.S. Government, meaning federal flood insurance and other federally-underwritten services or infrastructures are not available there.

CEDAR GROVE AREA

Accused Crack Dealer Arrested After Ramming Officer's Car

BY ERIC CARLSON

A suspected cocaine dealer was arrested in the Cedar Grove area Tuesday evening after he crashed into the side of a Brunswick County Sheriff's Department patrol car while attempting to elude capture by narcotics officers.

Although both cars were severely damaged in the crash, the deputy and the suspect were uninjured, according to drug squad supervisor Lt. David Crocker.

The suspect, Donas Johnson of Route 1 Bolivia, was charged with felony assault with a deadly weapon on a law enforcement officer, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and eluding arrest, Crocker said.

Detectives went to the area in response to a telephone tip from a concerned citizen who reported that Johnson was "dealing and in the possession of crack cocaine," Crocker said. After observing the suspect to confirm the report, officers began following his car.

"I turned on my blue light, boxed him in at an intersection and identi-

fied myself as a police officer," Crocker said. "He put the car in reverse and was trying to go around me when he crashed into the side of Sgt. Charles Wilson's patrol car."

After Detective Doug Todd placed Johnson under arrest, officers searched him and found a large rock of crack cocaine "slightly smaller than a ping-pong ball," Crocker said. He estimated its value at about \$500. Also found in Johnson's rear pocket was a wallet containing \$776 in cash.

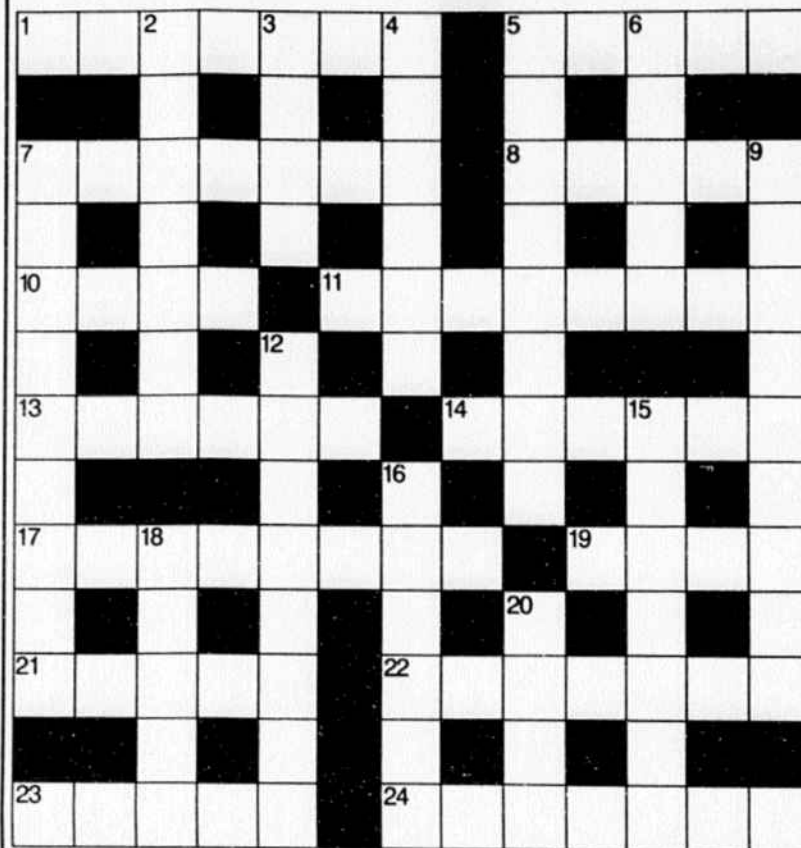
A search of the car turned up a pistol holster and two rounds of .380-caliber ammunition, Crocker said. No weapon was found.

Trooper C. Ward of the N.C. Highway Patrol also charged Johnson with an unsafe movement violation and driving without a seat belt, Crocker said.

Johnson was being held in Brunswick County Jail in lieu of a \$10,000 bond Tuesday night.

Crocker encouraged anyone with information regarding illegal drug activity to call the narcotics squad at 253-4797.

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1. Two-wheeler
5. Combat
7. Tasteless
8. Course
10. Avoid
11. Bully
13. Required
14. Catchphrase
17. Procured
19. Against
21. Wear away
22. Daybreak
23. Begin
24. Hurricane

CLUES DOWN

2. Woman's suit
3. Manage
4. Tolerate
5. Goodbye
6. Transparent fabric
7. Hint
9. Stretching
12. Tacitum
15. Authentic
16. Allow
18. Allotment
20. Stuff

(Answers are on Page 8-C)

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