

ARRIVALS

Jeffrey and Marsha Schenk of Boiling Spring Lakes have announced the birth of a son, Zachary Bryon, on November 16, 1992, at The Brunswick Hospital.

Paternal grandparents are Garry Schenk of Cocoa Beach, Fla., and Linda Peterson of Jacksonville, Fla. Maternal grandparents are David and Sally Cuthbert of Boiling Spring Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Coffelt of Rt. 1, Bolivia, have announced the birth of a daughter, Amanda Louise, on November 14, 1992, at The Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Coffelt and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Dupree.

Melissa St. George and Mickey Holcomb have announced the birth of a son, Joshua Tyler, on November 14, 1992, at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington. The couple resides in Boiling Spring Lakes.

Bryant and Elizabeth Harlee of Boiling Spring Lakes have announced the birth of a son, Cameron Cline, on November 12, 1992.

Grandparents are Arthur and Betty Harlee of Summerton, S. C., and John and Nancy Drayer of Muncie, Ind. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. D. I. McLeod of Summerville, S. C., Mrs. Katherine Kiser of Huntington, W. Va., and Mrs. Marjorie Drayer of Muncie.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Huff of Boiling Spring Lakes have announced the birth of a son, Sherman Michael, II, on November 29, 1992, at The Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Huff of Bolivia and Mr. and Mrs. Len Thompson of Boiling Spring Lakes. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Damon Huff of Leland and Evelyn Thompson of Long Beach.

Donald and Laura Maggard of Boiling Spring Lakes have announced the birth of a daughter, Ashley Irene, on November 29, 1992, at The Brunswick Hospital.

Grandparents are Jerry and Frances S. Maggard of Boiling Spring Lakes and Rex and Pam Potter of Moncks Corner, S. C.

Tuesday concert

To show appreciation to Trinity United Methodist Church for providing weekly rehearsal space, the Brunswick Concert Band will give a free concert for the church membership.

The public is also invited to the concert, which will be held in the sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 15.

Christmas music, as well as other selections, will be presented.



Local wildlife rehabilitator Cathy Creech said she rescued this young squirrel from a woman who took him in as a pet but stopped feeding him after he bit her a few times. Creech said the squirrel was nearly dead when she got him, and that she occasionally

had to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to aid the squirrel's breathing. The squirrel is now consuming nuts by the half-pound bag, and is storing them in Creech's furniture for the winter.

It's a zoo sometimes at the Creech house

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

Cathy Creech's trailer at Dutchman Creek Acres, just outside Southport, looks more like an indoor wildlife sanctuary than a family home.

In the bathroom, a seagull that swallowed a fish hook recuperates in the bathtub, while in the living room a one-winged screech owl, two doves, a sick crow, a pet cockatoo named "Speckles" and a hyperactive squirrel have their run of the place. Two cats and a baby possum sleep peacefully, away from it all, in the bedroom.

Creech said she has been rescuing sick or injured animals since she was ten years old, and has finally decided this year to become a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator. She is also bonded and insured to run Cathy's Pet Sitting Service, for pet owners who would rather have their animals cared for at home than at a boarding kennel.

'... I pulled the snake out from under my pillow. Now (my husband) just don't want anymore snakes in bed, but he doesn't mind them in the sock drawer.'

Cathy Creech

Creech visits the pets as often as the owner requests, and charges \$10 for each 30-minute visit.

"I love it," she said eagerly. "Sometimes, I'll walk the dogs on the beach and throw sticks and scratch their bellies. Then I miss them when the owner gets back."

Over the years, Creech said she has harbored all sorts of creatures, ranging from a two-foot lizard to a 1,000-pound pig. Her husband has usually been tolerant, she said, but occasionally gets a little rattled.

"My husband woke up one morning and said, 'I thought you caught a snake yesterday.'" Creech recalled. "And I said, 'Yeah, here it is,' and I pulled the snake out from under my pillow. Now he just don't want any more snakes in bed, but he doesn't mind them in the sock drawer."

Creech's affection for animals apparently is mutual. She said in the summer she frequently swims in a pond near Boiling Spring Lakes with turtles, snakes, fish and a four-foot alligator.

"Nobody believed I swam with snakes until they saw it," she said with a giggle. "Sometimes the

snakes would lay on me while I was feeding the turtles and things. And then when I was swimming sometimes me and the baby alligator would follow each other. I'd follow him a while then he'd follow me."

Creech concedes that her love for animals is not shared by the general population, and that the thought of swimming with snakes and alligators would probably never occur to most people. But, she said, anybody can enhance his or her appreciation of animals by learning to view them as living creatures that, like people, suffer and feel pain.

To help children -- who sometimes have a cruel streak when it comes to animals -- understand this concept, Creech said she regularly visits local schools with injured birds and explains what the animals have been through. The results have been encouraging, she said.

"The first time I took an injured dove to school one boy said, 'I just killed a dove like that.' Now they all call and find out how the birds are doing and if they're getting better. It's completely different," she said.

Anyone who discovers an injured bird or animal can call Creech 24 hours a day at 457-9459. She also said she would be glad to take any unwanted cages people have lying around.

With a screech owl that eats steak but prefers mice, a squirrel that devours nuts by the half-pound bag, and seven other hungry beaks and mouths to feed, Creech said she can use all the help she can get.

"The point is to see them all fly away someday," she said. "Then I can get more."

MUSICAL PROGRAM

The Oak Island Presbyterian Church chancel choir will present a musical program entitled "Prophecy Through Fulfillment" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, December 13.

Luminaries light the way

Clear plastic two-liter soft drink containers are being collected to light up the Southport waterfront for the Bicentennial Christmas celebration.

The bottles will be made into luminaries to "provide a waterfront glowing with candlelight during the upcoming '200th Christmas' celebration weekends," the second and third weekends in December.

The visitors center at 107 E. Nash Street will be the drop-off point for the containers. For pick-up or more information, persons should call the visitors center at 457-7927.



This holiday season you can help Western Sizzlin' support a very good cause.

Buy a holiday ornament and \$1.00 of each purchase will be donated to Volunteer Information Center for Needy Children in Brunswick County.

Supplies are limited. Buy yours today.



SHUCKERS

6220 E. Oak Island Drive, Long Beach, 278-4944

Join Us Saturday, Dec. 19 for Our 4th Annual Christmas Party

Four Cash Prizes to be awarded

Members only will receive tickets for these cash prizes. For more information check bulletin board at Shuckers. Entertainment by J.D. the DJ

Make your reservations now! New Year's Party Entertainment by RIO

MONDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Seafood Steam Pot
Domestic Draft by Pitcher \$3.50

TUESDAY
Domestic Beer \$1.00
Hot Wings \$2.00 dozen

WEDNESDAY
Mexican Night
Tequila Sunrise \$2.75

THURSDAY
Domestic Draft 50¢
Oysters 25¢ each

FRIDAY NIGHT
All-You-Can-Eat Crab Legs
Margaritas \$2.75

Shag Club Meets Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Members & Guests Welcome • No Cover • Free Jukebox