



Grady Harris cut a hole in the base of the Southport water tower Monday, preparatory to sandblasting of the tank's interior later in the week. Sand will fall down the standpipe and out onto the ground to be carted away. Work on the tank is expected to continue into next week.



Newly elected members of the Brunswick County Board of Education were sworn-in Monday night by clerk of court Diana Morgan. Elected to two-year terms were Thurman Gause, Bill Fairley and Donna Baxter. Baxter was re-elected chairman of the board for a third consecutive term.



Members of the reorganized Brunswick County Board of Commissioners include (from left) three new Democratic members sworn to office Monday, Wayland Vereen, Don Warren (chairman) and Tom Rabon (vice-chairman), and two Republican commissioners completing four-year terms, Jerry Jones and Donald Shaw. Outgoing board members Kelly Holden, Frankie Rabon and Gene Pinkerton were awarded plaques in commemoration of their service to county government.

The holiday in Southport

Southport will be the primary setting for this weekend's holiday celebration with a variety of events planned for children and adults.

Yuletide Harbor, located at the corner of Howe and Bay streets, will be the backdrop for a holiday market and entertainment beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, December 12. At 10 a.m. storyteller Felecia Hardy will take the stage. The Southport Seacoast Cloggers will perform at 4 p.m., and at 7 p.m. the Sea Notes Choral Society will be in concert.

Nearly 1,000 luminaries will be lighted along the city's waterfront at 5 p.m. Saturday, marking the way for the candlelight tour of historic homes that will continue until 9 p.m.

On Sunday, holiday entertainment will be featured at Yuletide Harbor beginning at 1 p.m. with the arrival of Santa Claus. It will also be the setting for a children's gift-making workshop at 2 p.m., a performance by the St. James Choir at 3 p.m. and a children's Christmas sing-along at 4 p.m.

All of the events are part of Southport's 200th Christmas waterfront celebration, sponsored by Southport 2000, Inc.

Area residents and businesses can sign-up for the "best decorated" contests sponsored by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. There is a charge for homes and for businesses that are not members of the chamber of commerce, but the money will be used to make the holidays happier for needy families. Judging will be done unannounced between 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, December 11, and Sunday, December 13.

Food and toys will be collected at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 10, during the annual Trim-a-Tree party hosted by the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce. Several local families will have happier Christmases thanks to the generosity of area residents and businesses.

Christmas colonial style will be celebrated at Brunswick Town State Historic Site on Sunday, December 13. The visitors center, which opens at 1 p.m., will feature traditional decorations, baked goods and music throughout the afternoon. At 5 p.m. a candlelight vespers service will be held at the ruins of St. Philip's Church, led by the Rev. Robert Beasley of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Southport.

Also on Sunday, December 13, Southport Baptist and Oak Island Presbyterian churches will present special Christmas programs. Both begin at 7 p.m.

More detailed information on these and other holiday events can be obtained from the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce, 457-6964, or Southport 2000 Inc., 457-7927.

Joshua Continued from page 2

book is based on historical fact, Carson said. "As far as I know, everything I put in there is authentic. I didn't put footnotes because I'd still be writing it. If there's anything there that's not true, I got it from some other source. "I tried to make it intimate, too. Since I'm so genealogically inclined, I tried to mention every name I could."

She named the book for the town's founder, Joshua Potts, whom she said she has grown to love.

"Joshua Potts had a vision that this could be something," she said of the area that would in 1792 become Smithville and later Southport.

Carson focuses the story on the town's first 150 years, up to World War II.

"I dealt lightly with the late periods. We're too close in time to that period to really analyze it," she said.

When she was given the first of 100 special hardcover editions of *Joshua's Dream* on Friday, Carson was definitely touched. She cried, and then laughed about being speechless.

"This is better than I could ever

have hoped for. No one will be able to top this for me. I thought Founders Day was it," she said, wiping the tears from her eyes.

And Monday night, amid friends, family, fellow historians and city officials, Carson's excitement was evident.

"This is one of the highlights of my life," she told those gathered at the CP&L visitors center. She seemed to be walking on air as she passed out signed copies of her book along with hugs.

Now that the history of Southport has been written and published, Carson has begun another historical missive. She's working on the history of the Brunswick Baptist Association's Women's Missionary Union, organized in 1902. She also plans to write about her mother, who grew up in "backwoods Brunswick County" and corroborate with Bill Reaves on a history of Brunswick County.

"There are so many more things that can be written," Carson said.



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