

It's B-E-E Time

Seventeen top Brunswick County spellers vie April 21 for a trip to the National Spelling Bee. Names and details are on page 7-B.

Island Living
Supplement included in this issue.

Trojans Streak On!

West Brunswick Trojans run their winning streak on the diamond to five games with a two-game sweep of rival Acme-Delco, page 10-C.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Gimme That Egg

Jesse Stiller of Southport reaches out to grab part of an egg she found during last Sunday's annual county-sponsored Easter egg hunt. The 22-month-old was one of about 200 kids who, after meeting personally with the

most famous of all bunnies, searched the complex grounds for eggs loaded with toy prizes. The event is coordinated by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

Local Teen-Ager Killed In Freak Traffic Mishap

A pedestrian was struck and killed last week near Belville within minutes after he escaped injury in a separate single-car wreck.

The victim was Robert Horace Blanton, 17, of Route 1, Winnabow, according to Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley.

The fatality was the second to occur this year in Brunswick County.

Ms. Oakley said the fatal accident happened last Thursday at 6:35 p.m., 1.4 miles south of Belville on Blackwell Road, about five minutes after Blanton's 1983 Ford struck a large mound of dirt at a roadside construction site.

As Blanton stood in the roadway and talked to a flagman for W.E. Blackmon Construction Company, a

1983 Ford operated by Venus Stanley Gainey, 53, of Leland, ran through warning cones at the construction site and struck the teen-ager.

Ms. Gainey's auto then traveled past the flagmen before hitting the mound of dirt and the other vehicle, causing the Blanton car to overturn in the roadway, Ms. Oakley said.

Damages were estimated at \$1,500 to the Blanton auto and \$2,500 to Ms. Gainey's vehicle.

According to Brunswick County Coroner Greg White, the teen-ager was pronounced dead on the scene.

Ms. Gainey was taken by rescue squad ambulance to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, where she was treated for incapacitating injuries. A hospital

spokesperson said the woman was released from care on Friday.

Ms. Oakley said no charges were filed in connection with the wreck, which was investigated by Trooper Gerald Williams.

Elsewhere, a Leland woman was hurt in a collision that occurred last Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Old Town Creek Road, 7.5 miles north of Bolivia.

According to Ms. Oakley, a 1984 Pontiac driven by Marsha Henry Renn, 28, of Leland, pulled onto U.S. 17 from Old Town Creek Road and struck a 1978 Pontiac driven by Polly Lanier Willetts, 51, of Bolivia.

Ms. Renn was taken by rescue squad ambulance to New Hanover (See TEEN-AGER, Page 2-A)

County To Defend Sheriff, Deputies 'To Fullest Extent'

BY RAHN ADAMS

County Attorney David Clegg said this week that Brunswick County will deny the charges of a Shallotte Point man who has filed a \$20,000 federal lawsuit claiming he was assaulted and falsely imprisoned by sheriff's deputies almost two years ago.

The suit was filed March 22 in U.S. District Court in Wilmington by Robert Hugh Hewson. He is represented by Shallotte attorney Davey L. Stanley.

Clegg said Monday that he had not yet filed an answer to the lawsuit, but that the county is "going to defend it to the fullest extent."

"I'm assuming that we'll answer it with a general denial," Clegg added.

Defendants in the suit are Sheriff John C. Davis, Chief Deputy John Marlowe, and Deputies Gregory Wood, Roger Harrington, Donald Gates and Carl Pearson.

When contacted Tuesday, Davis and Marlowe declined to comment on the lawsuit.

"I've been advised by the county attorney to make no comment on it," the sheriff said. Marlowe also said he had been advised not to make any statements concerning the case.

Hewson's allegations stem from an incident that occurred June 16, 1986, at his home in the Shallotte Point community.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Hewson was charged that day with resisting a public officer while he was being taken into custody on a civil contempt order. The suit states that the civil contempt order was from a county other than Brunswick but does not specify the county.

The arrest warrant, which listed Pearson as the arresting officer, stated that Hewson allegedly resisted

the deputy "by pushing him away and making threats" and by locking himself inside his residence.

However, according to Hewson's lawsuit, the N.C. Court of Appeals ruled last December "that the defendant officers herein lacked authority to enter plaintiff's home to arrest him on order for civil contempt, where they did not have warrant in their possession and that the record disclosed no basis for probable cause to believe that plaintiff herein had committed a crime or that exigent circumstances existed."

The Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office Tuesday confirmed that the Court of Appeals "vacated" the resisting arrest charge against Hewson on Dec. 15, 1987, after the case was heard in Brunswick County District and Superior Courts.

Hewson claims that on the night of (See COUNTY, Page 2-A)

Commissioners To Consider Creating Anti-Litter Post

BY RAHN ADAMS

County officials last week promised to "talk trash" soon and consider adding a litter coordinator to the county payroll to help clean up Brunswick County.

"It will definitely be looked into at budget time," said County Commissioner Chairman Grace Beasley, following a public hearing on litter last Thursday in Bolivia. "I think that (hiring a coordinator) is the first step."

About 100 local residents gathered in the Public Assembly Building for the two-hour meeting, to voice their concerns about the county's litter problem and to hear an hour-long presentation from representatives of the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) program.

In addition to the full board of commissioners, State Rep. David Redwine and fellow state house candidates Glen Peterson and Rozell Hewett attended the public hearing.

Lena Ross, chairman of Citizens Against Toxic Shenanigans, and Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber were also on hand to make brief remarks.

The featured speakers at the public hearing were Sarah Humphries, coordinator of the Onslow Clean County Committee and a national KAB trainer, and Jean Dodd, director of the N.C. Department of Transportation's KAB program.

Ms. Humphries, who had spoken to county commissioners about 1½ years ago, used a video and slide presentation to outline how a community can get involved in the KAB program. Also, she offered suggestions for maintaining an ongoing anti-litter effort.

A key to an effective program is the hiring of a litter coordinator, she said. She noted that litter in Onslow County has been reduced by 72 percent over the nine years that she has served as coordinator there.

She said other important factors are community education and involvement, and the adoption and enforcement of a strict anti-litter ordinance.

According to Ms. Dodd, Brunswick County's cost to join Keep America Beautiful would include a \$2,000 initiation fee and the salary for a coordinator. Some 24 KAB programs are active in the state.

Ms. Dodd also mentioned another anti-litter program being planned by N.C. DOT. Volunteer groups will be asked to "adopt" two-mile stretches of highway and pick up roadside litter at least four times a year.

Redwine said he recently contacted Carteret County about a successful KAB program there which utilizes a part-time coordinator. He said he was told that Carteret's program costs about \$20,000 per year.

"The key to it all is having a leader in the community who can keep us all (See ANTI-LITTER, Page 2-A)

Community Celebrates Easter In Wide Variety Of Settings

Worship opportunities abound in the South Brunswick Islands over Easter weekend, as the Christian community sets aside time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Sunrise services, cantatas, a Passion Play and interdenominational services are planned in a variety of settings.

For this Easter season, Dixon Chapel United Methodist Church at Varnumtown has revived a passion play it first gave approximately 10 years ago, said Marlene Varnam. It will be presented Saturday, April 2, at 7 p.m., with the public invited.

Church members will dramatize the Passion, from the Lord's Supper through the Ascension, against the background of a taped narration.

"It touches everyone who sees it," said Mrs. Varnam, "and it moves the people who participate in it as well."

On Sunday, the church will hold its annual sunrise service, at 7 a.m. inside the sanctuary, with breakfast afterwards in the church fellowship hall.

On The Strand

Once again, the strand west of the pier at Ocean Isle Beach will be setting for an 8:30 a.m. interdenominational service sponsored by Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Dan Norman will deliver the message. Dress is casual, with worshippers providing their own seating. Offerings are accepted to help offset the cost of the church's summer ministry at the beach, which resumes Memorial Day weekend.

The Presbyterians' regular Easter worship service will follow at 11 a.m. at the church on Sellers Drive in Shallotte.

By The Pier

At Holden Beach, Sabbath Home Baptist Church will hold a sunrise service at 7 a.m. at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier. Later, the church holds its regular Easter services at the church on Sabbath Home Church Road,

with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m.

In The Gardens

Also Sunday, for the first time, the churches of the South Brunswick Interchurch Council will sponsor a sunrise service at 7 a.m. at Brunswick Memorial Gardens on U.S. 17 of Shallotte, next to St. Brendan's Catholic Church. Following the service, a light breakfast will be served in St. Brendan Hall.

At Calvary

Calvary Baptist Church will present its Easter cantata, "He Is Alive," by Joe B. Parks, at 7 p.m. Sunday at the church, located on N.C. 179 in Shallotte.

Rev. Douglas Ponder is pastor. Kit Jackson will direct the adult choir.

Shallotte Point

Village Point United Methodist Church, located on Village Point Road near Shallotte Point, will hold its annual Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m., with refreshments served afterwards.

Town Creek

Zion United Methodist Church at Town Creek will hold a sunrise service at 7:30 a.m. behind the church, with breakfast served afterwards in the church fellowship hall.

Rev. Billy Peele, pastor, will officiate.

Little River

Three identical Easter Sunday worship services will be offered by Little River United Methodist Church on Sunday. Times are 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., said spokeswoman Mary Cobb.

On The Waterway

A sunrise service sponsored by Ocean View Baptist Church begins at 6:45 a.m. Sunday at the foot of Harbor Street in Marlee Acres, just south of the church on N.C. 179 between Ocean Isle and Sunset beaches.

Breakfast will be served immediately afterwards in the church fellowship hall, with regular services to follow, Bible study at 10 a.m., worship services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

VOLUNTEERS DOUG VOGEL and Percy Woodard distribute palm branches to participants in Sunday's "Blessing of the Palms" at Shallotte Municipal Park. Several churches of various denominations par-

ticipated in the brief service, sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Interchurch Council. Additional interdenominational services are slated over Easter weekend.