



**More Access?**  
Permanent and seasonal Ocean Isle Beach residents differ on the need for more beach access there, indicates a recent survey. For the story, see Page 6-A.

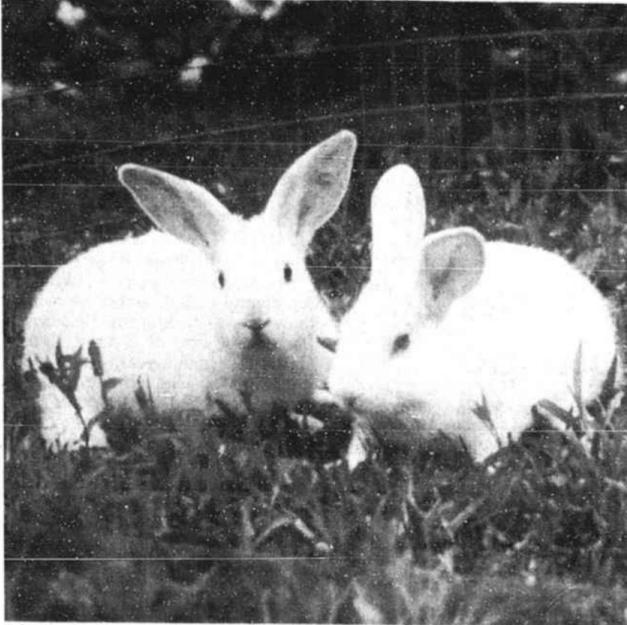
*Island Living*  
Supplement included in this issue.

**Owners To Meet**  
Several property owner and taxpayer groups plan Saturday meetings this holiday weekend. Check the details in a round-up on Page 12-A.

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# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

**The Easter What?**

While they look the part, neither of these rabbits claims to be the Easter bunny. The New Zealanders are just enjoying a picture-perfect spring morning out of their cage at Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Canady's Rabbit Country Club near Grissetown.

**LIVES OUTSIDE DISTRICT 5  
Benton Withdraws; Leaves  
Shaw Without Primary Race**

Republican Donald Shaw of Leland no longer faces a May 8 primary in his bid for the District 5 seat on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners following the withdrawal Tuesday morning of his only GOP opposition, Rudy Benton.

Benton withdrew two days before the Brunswick County Board of Elections was scheduled to conduct a hearing as to whether he actually lives within the District 5 boundaries.

In his letter of "resignation" delivered to the elections board, Benton said he was withdrawing "because controversy has arisen" over his candidacy.

After questions were raised regarding Benton's residency, Shaw had formally asked the elections board to investigate. In checking district maps, Board of Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt said Tuesday, she found that Benton's residence is, in fact, "a few hundred yards" outside District 5.

His filing from that district apparently was "an honest mistake," she added.

While candidates for board of commissioner and board of education are elected at-large, they file for the seat representing the district in which they reside.

(See BENTON, Page 2-A)

## School Board Fires Kaufhold; Says Contract Ends June 30

BY SUSAN USHER

Less than 15 months after voting unanimously to extend his contract until June 30, 1992, the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday fired Superintendent John A. Kaufhold on a 3-2 vote to not renew his contract.



KAUFHOLD

The vote was based on a prevailing board viewpoint that the contract in question is not valid and that Kaufhold's contract actually ends less than two months from now. It came the evening before arrival Tuesday of a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools accreditation team of educators from across the state. Their two-day visit in the schools is the culmination of two years of preparation to apply for 10-year reaccreditation of the county's eight elementary schools and administrative offices.

In turn, Kaufhold announced near the close of the called meeting that he intended Tuesday to institute a lawsuit against the board for hiring him "under false pretenses," and to

also file personal lawsuits against Chairman Dorothy Worth, Robert Slockett and Donna Baxter seeking personal damages and court costs. He later said he intended to seek salary compensation for the additional two year period thought to have been covered by his contract.

Slockett made the motion not to renew the superintendent's contract in a scripted scenario played out in the opening minutes of a special meeting Monday evening at the board's offices in Southport. Approximately 30 onlookers were present, including two on-duty Brunswick County sheriff's deputies. Worth broke a 2-2 tie, voting with Slockett and Baxter. Doug Baxley and board Vice Chairman James Clemmons opposed the move.

The vote was held without discussion of the motion and over recommendation by Clemmons and Baxley, and by board attorney Glen Peterson, to first go into executive session to seek Peterson's advice on the matter.

Peterson had not had an opportunity to review with the board the legal opinions he had obtained at members' request regarding the contract.

"We've already discussed it in

executive session," said Slockett just before the vote, which Clemmons criticized as "prearranged" and "offering no advantage" to the county's students.

Again following a script distributed later to reporters, Worth announced that Ralph Ward, personnel director, was to "assume the duties of acting superintendent immediately," without action of the board and despite Kaufhold's holding office through June 30. Baxley challenged her authority to appoint Ward, since hiring an acting superintendent is the statutory right of the board. To his objection, Worth first replied, "This is a statement not to be debated," then added that the board could discuss the matter later.

Should Kaufhold want to leave office sooner than June 30, Worth's script stated, he would receive full salary and benefits to that date. After the meeting she referred newspaper reporters to the contract itself, without further comment.

In her opening statement, Worth had announced that the board had obtained from three sources legal opinions that indicate only an initial contract negotiated in February 1988 by a previous board and Kaufhold was valid. That contract entitled Kaufhold to serve for the

remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1988, and then a two-year period ending June 30, 1990.

To Seek 'Do-It' Person

Slockett would not discuss Kaufhold's evaluation by the board, but did describe the type of superintendent he thought would be seeking as Kaufhold's successor. "We're going to look for a superintendent who would advance the progress of Brunswick County students at a faster pace."

He suggested the new administrator should be more like New Hanover County Superintendent Tom McNeel, whom he compared to Kaufhold: "He improves the education of kids in an efficient manner. He spends a lot more time in the schools. He has more personal contact with programs. He's not delegating as much; he's a do-it kind of person."

Opinions Cited

In opinions requested by the board approximately a month ago and dated as late as April 6, attorneys with the N.C. Attorney General's Office and the firm representing the N.C. School Board Association indicate that addendums that provided for extension and automatic renewal of Kaufhold's contract

(See SCHOOL, Page 2-A)

## 47 Applicants Seek Top Administrative Position

BY RAHN ADAMS

Forty-seven applicants from seven states have applied to become Brunswick County's top administrative official.

Kelly Winfree, secretary to Interim County Manager David Clegg, said Tuesday that five Brunswick County residents are among 31 North Carolinians who applied for the permanent county manager position by Monday's deadline.

Other applicants include eight South Carolinians, three Virginians, two New Yorkers and one resident

each from Connecticut, Georgia and Florida. Ms. Winfree added that applicants are both men and women.

To her knowledge, none of the applicants has been previously employed by Brunswick County.

Brunswick County Commissioners Chairman Gene Pinkerton told the *Beacon* Tuesday that he "wouldn't be surprised" if the county board began reviewing the applications at a recessed meeting Wednesday (April 11) at 9 a.m. in Bolivia. Ideally, the selection process would take only two to three weeks, he said.

However, Pinkerton noted that the main purpose of Wednesday's meeting was for the commissioners to discuss proposed capital improvement projects. Also, the chairman added that he would ask commissioners how they wished to re-

view the applications, since controversy surrounded the board's aborted hiring of William Kopp in February.

Kopp, controller for the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety and a Brunswick County native, was unexpectedly hired Feb. 5 on a 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Pinkerton, Frankie Rabon and Grace Beasley supporting Kopp's selection.

Commissioners Kelly Holden and Benny Ludlum, and county Republican Party Chairman Malcolm Grissett opposed the surprise manner in which the board filled the then unadvertised county manager's post. In response to mounting public and political pressure, commissioners rescinded Kopp's hiring Feb. 16 and advertised the position. The job notice appeared during

the six-week application period in metropolitan newspapers across the state, local weekly newspapers and statewide local government publications. The advertisement stated, in part, that "the successful applicant shall have demonstrated organizational and budgetary experience as well as experience in dealing with issues of growth and development...Salary and benefits are negotiable."

Pinkerton commented that late last week he "scanned" 22 applications that had been received as of then. Based on seeing those first resumes, he noted that there are at least "six or eight good applicants."

Clegg has served as interim county manager since the Dec. 4 firing of John Smith, who was employed as county manager here for approximately 2 1/2 years.



PHOTO BY CHARLES PAHL

A SEAPLANE TANKER from New Bern scoops water from the Intracoastal Waterway at Holden Beach to help douse a wildfire that burned 253 acres of woodlands off N.C. 211 Sunday. This photo was taken from High Point Street as the N.C. Forest Service tanker made one of several runs.

## Sunday Blaze Chars 253 Acres

Wildfire blackened 253 acres of woodlands south of Supply Sunday in Brunswick County's worst blaze yet of the still-young 1990 fire season.

Brunswick County Ranger Miller Caison said Monday that the cause of the woods fire remains under investigation.

The N.C. Forest Service was on the scene for approximately seven hours, working from air and ground to knock down the fire. Two small "spotter" planes helped guide in two air tankers—a large cargo plane based for the season at Bear Pen in the Green Swamp north of Supply, and a smaller seaplane based in New Bern—as well as three smaller Kinston-based planes called "snows" that have a 200-gallon capacity each. On the ground the service had 18 people and several tractors.

Also on the scene to help protect homes and businesses were volunteers from seven local fire departments: Tri-Beach, Supply, Southport, Bolivia, Long Beach, Civietown and Sunset Harbor-Zion Hill. Caison said no structures ever were in "real immedi-

ate danger" from the fire.

The blaze started at approximately 11:30 a.m. and spread quickly, he said, burning through mostly "bay type" area off N.C. 211 approximately four miles south of Supply toward Southport. "It was burning pretty hot when it went through, but I don't know how much of the (vegetation) was killed," said Caison.

Caison said the blaze was the largest so far of the county's 1990 fire season, and the first in which the tanker has been called out.

The fire mainly spread across privately-owned property, with some burning of paper company owned land.

At the time of Sunday's fire, the local Forest Service office was at the midway point, 4, on its readiness scale, which is based on a formula that takes into account not only weather conditions, but also the availability of equipment and personnel. On Monday, the office upped the marker to five.

"Things are right to burn," said Caison. "We'll just have to see what happens with the weather."

## Services Mark Area's Celebration Of Easter

Special services are planned throughout the South Brunswick Islands area this Easter week, including a number of waterfront Easter morning services planned specifically with vacationers in mind.

For these services, dress is casual, with worshippers asked to provide their own lawn chair or blanket for seating.

### Sunset Beach

At Sunset Beach, the Continental Motel will hold its annual Easter service on the lawn at 8 a.m., said Randi Moon. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Bobby Causey, pastor of East Side Fellowship in Shallotte.

### Ocean Isle Beach

Two 8:30 a.m. services are planned at Ocean Isle Beach. Shallotte Presbyterian Church will conduct its annual Easter service at a site on the strand approximately one-half mile west of the Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier, with public access from Driftwood Drive, Isle Plaza and Duneside Drive. The Rev. Dan Norman, pastor, will be the speaker.

The Rev. George Blanchard, pastor of Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte, will present the message at the Easter service sponsored by the Ocean Isle Beach Chapel at a site just west of the Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier. GiGi

Lewis will be the guest soloist.

### Calvary Baptist

The cantata *Then Came Sunday* will be presented by the Calvary Baptist Church adult choir and soloists Sunday during the 11 a.m. worship service, said Kit Jackson, music director.

The public is invited. The church is located on N.C. 179 in Shallotte.

### Holden Beach

The Rev. Douglas Ponder of Shallotte will lead the annual Easter sunrise service at the Holden Beach Fishing Pier. The non-denominational service begins at 6:30 a.m. adjacent to the pier and should last approximately one hour, said spokesman Gil Bass.

Dress is casual; participants are invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating.

### Camp UMC

Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte continues its Lenten season observance with a Maundy Thursday service today at 7:30 p.m., with celebration of Holy Communion.

The Altar Guild has erected a cross on the front lawn of the church, which will be draped in black for Good Friday. Guild members are encouraging members of the church and the community at



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS Hilda Hall and Margaret Hardin are shown with a cross erected on the lawn of Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte. The cross will be draped in black on Good Friday, then adorned with flowers brought by worshipers Easter morning.

(See SERVICES, Page 2-A)