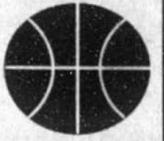


Fishing Outside?

A new column on offshore fishing debuts this week. Check with Captain Jamie Milliken for the latest information as well as tips and techniques. Page 9-C.

Island Living
SUPPLEMENT INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

All-County Honors
West Brunswick's Becky Buffkin and Ricky Daniels make basketball player of the year. Details on Pages 8-B and 9-B.



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Former County Employee Placed On House Arrest

BY TERRY POPE

A former Brunswick County employee charged with embezzling money from the county was placed under 45 days of electronic house arrest by a superior court judge last week.

Julius Drake "Buddy" Lewis, of Leland, was indicted last October by a Brunswick County Grand Jury for embezzlement of funds from the Brunswick County Building Inspections Department.

Lewis was interim head of the department when he resigned last August amid an investigation that he allegedly cashed a \$125 check given to him as payment for a building permit.

In Brunswick County Superior Court last Wednesday, Lewis pleaded guilty to misdemeanor larceny. Judge Giles R. Clark gave Lewis a two-year suspended sentence, placed him on two years' supervised probation and ordered that he pay a \$250 fine. Judge Clark also ordered that Lewis serve 80 hours of community service.

Lewis must also repay the county \$125 for the check he was given by Faith Original Freewill Baptist Church in Leland on April 4, 1990.

The church reportedly left the check blank so Lewis could use a departmental stamp. Lewis was accused of putting his name on the check and then cashing it.

The county did not uncover the problem until the church later requested a plumbing inspection and the staff discovered there was no building permit on record for the church project.

A placard at the church site on Village Road displayed a building permit and church officials were able to produce a check dated April 4 which was reportedly used to purchase the permit.

Lewis will become one of 15 people the court will order on electronic house arrest this year. The program is administered by the local office of the N.C. Division of Adult Probation and Parole.

Persons sentenced to house arrest must wear a small radio transmitter (See FORMER, Page 2-A)



TRAFFIC FLOWED smoothly Monday along the U.S. 17 detour route on Red Bug Road north of Shallotte. An accident on the route Friday resulted in hit and run charges against one driver. The Shallotte bypass is scheduled to open by Memorial Day weekend.

Driver Charged With Hit And Run On Detour Route

A Supply man was charged Friday with hit and run and driving while impaired following an accident at a stop light on Red Bug Road and N.C. 130 east of Shallotte, where U.S. 17 traffic now detours while construction of the Shallotte bypass continues.

Charles Kirby Smith, 35, was charged by State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt with driving while impaired, driving with no license and hit and run.

According to Barnhardt, Smith's 1976 Pontiac was traveling west on N.C. 130 when it traveled across the center line at the intersection and struck a 1973 Chevrolet driven by Michael Timothy Smith, 31, of Shallotte.

Charles Smith's car struck the other vehicle in the left quarter panel, Barnhardt reported. Michael Smith's car, traveling east on N.C. 130, was in the turn lane and had slowed to turn onto Red Bug Road.

No injuries were reported in the 7:50 p.m. accident. Damage was listed at \$350 to the Michael Smith car and \$500 to the Charles Smith car.

Child Struck

A Lincoln Primary School student was injured Friday after running into the side of a truck that failed to stop for a school bus near Leland.

Michael Anthony Orise, 8, of the Phoenix community, was treated and released from New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington after the 7:55 a.m. accident.

According to State Trooper C.E. Ward, the bus, driven by Pernelle Munn of Leland, was traveling north on Mt. Misery Road about four miles north of Leland, when it stopped to pick up four children.

Ward said a 1989 Ford truck driven by John David Goldbold Jr., 38, of Carolina Beach, failed to stop for the bus, which had displayed flashing lights and a stop sign.

Orise ran into the side of the Ford truck, Ward reported. Goldbold was charged with passing a stopped school bus.

No damage was reported.

Other Accidents

One vehicle ended up on top of another in a head-on collision Friday on N.C. 133 three miles south of Belville.

Five people were injured in that 5:30 p.m. accident. A southbound 1986 Ford driven by Tonya Jean Miller, 19, of Lincolnton, ran off the road, swerved back onto the pavement and struck a northbound 1986 Toyota van driven by Jana Lenora Alexander, 29, of Fuquay Varina, reported Trooper D.A. Lewis.

The Toyota van came to rest on top of the Miller car, Lewis said. Ms. Miller was charged with driving left of center.

Both drivers and three passengers in the Miller car were seriously injured and taken to New Hanover (See ACCIDENTS, Page 2-A)

Police Charge Students With School Break-Ins

BY DOUG RUTTER

Two West Brunswick High School students have been arrested in connection with weekend break-ins and vandalism at the high school and Shallotte Middle School.

The schools were broken into late Sunday and early Monday and equipment at both facilities was damaged. Law enforcement officers and school officials have estimated the total loss at more than \$10,500.

Brunswick County and Shallotte lawmen have filed charges against Kerry Douglas McCall of Route 3, Shallotte, and Larry Edison Hewett of Shallotte. Both of the suspects are 16 years old.

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said the two students were arrested Monday night and charged with one county each of breaking and entering and larceny in connection with the middle school break-in.

Lt. Donnell Marlow of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department said the teen-agers also have been charged with breaking and entering and larceny, injury to real property and injury to personal property.

The county charges relate to the break-in at the high school, which is located outside the Shallotte town limits.

Gause said the middle school was broken into around midnight Sunday. A window at the back of the school had been pried open with a screwdriver or another tool.

He said whoever broke into the

school entered about five classrooms. Paint had been poured on computers, desks and cabinets, and several desks were knocked over.

The chief said officers found a Satanic symbol and the numbers "666," a figure also associated with Satanism, painted on a homemade quilt in the school.

Gause said approximately \$224 in cash, baseball cards, video game cartridges, food and other items were stolen from the school. Police recovered everything but \$40 in cash that was apparently taken from a teacher's desk.

Shallotte Middle School Principal Mark Owens estimated damage at \$1,200, including about \$800 for a computer keyboard and printer.

Owens said students were escorted to their classes Monday morning to keep them away from officers investigating the crime scene. "We were able to get into place and carry on without any interruption," he said.

Marlow said the high school was broken into and vandalized early Monday morning. "They ransacked several rooms, poured paint over the desks and threw papers all over the floor," he said.

Damage at the high school was estimated at \$9,412. Marlow said three computers had been thrown on the ground and broken.

Marlow said several items were stolen, but as of Tuesday school officials were still trying to figure out exactly what had been taken.

SEASON ENDS SUNDAY

Brunswick Oysters Make Comeback

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County oysters that have battled pollution, killer parasites and "red tide" the last three years made something of a comeback this season, say local seafood dealers.

"We've got a better supply down there now than we did opening day," said Carson Varnam, who owns an oyster house in Varnamtown. "All I've heard about is new growth and small oysters that will be ready next year."

The 1990-91 oyster season started in October and comes to a close

Sunday at sunset. In the years to come, this season may be remembered as one of resurgence for the local oyster population.

Over the last few years, the county's rock oysters have been up against obstacles such as bacterial pollution, which has become progressively worse over the past decade.

State environmental officials have blamed the problem in the Lockwood Folly River on faulty septic tanks and stormwater runoff, which carries pollutants into the rivers.

The state's first documented case (See OYSTERS, Page 2-A)

"We've got a better supply down there now than we did opening day. All I've heard about is new growth and small oysters that will be ready next year."

—Carson Varnam
Oyster dealer



Detour Leaves Some Along Dead-End Road For Easter

BY TERRY POPE

Traffic flowed smoothly through Shallotte Tuesday as motorists and businesses began adjusting to a detour route of U.S. 17 along Red Bug Road, a week prior to what is expected to be a busy Easter weekend for the South Brunswick Islands.

The N.C. Department of Transportation blocked off a portion of U.S. 17 around noon Friday so highway construction crews could begin work on the last segment of a four-laned U.S. 17 bypass of Shallotte.

For motorists traveling both north and south on U.S. 17, traffic has been detoured along Red Bug Road and N.C. 130 west. A stoplight has been installed at the intersection of Red Bug Road and N.C. 130, where one accident was reported by the State Highway Patrol Friday.

The bypass is scheduled to open by Memorial Day.

The detour, twice postponed by Propst Construction Co., the contractor for the paving

project, came just a week prior to what would have been a busy Easter weekend for businesses that now sit on a dead-end street.

Stores and restaurants along the portion of U.S. 17 closed to through traffic just north of Shallotte want area residents to know that they have not disappeared.

"I don't know what the long-range impact will be, but it's certainly going to affect us," said Tommy Chandler, sales manager of Jones Ford in Shallotte.

Chandler said car sales and service depends on passing traffic. The service department has noticed a drop in business since the detour opened Friday, he added.

"Hopefully, the weather will stay pretty so they can go ahead and get it knocked out," said Chandler.

A sign on U.S. 17 at the north end stoplight says motorists can still use the road for access to businesses beyond the barricade, but that the road is closed to through traffic.

The delays in detouring traffic has the manager of one restaurant there angry.

"It's not very nice, and it's not very fair," said Nordis Hewett, night manager at Joe's Barbecue. "With traffic being what it is, people are not going to fight past a barricade to come down here."

She said DOT told the restaurant a sign would be placed at the barricade listing the businesses that were on the dead end portion of old U.S. 17. Ms. Hewett said the delay in detouring traffic will cut into a normally busy season for the restaurant.

"This is normally our busiest time of the year," Ms. Hewett said. "We do most of our business in the summer months with tourists coming through. Even for the local people who know we are here, it's a pain."

The detour was twice delayed by Propst Construction since January. Company officials said they had trouble getting materials to complete the paving job and were concerned about winter weather.

Seaside UMC

The South Brunswick Islands Interchurch Council is sponsoring an Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. at the Seaside intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904, at the N.C. Oyster Festival site.

Seaside United Methodist Church of Ocean Isle Beach and its pastor, the Rev. Camille Yorkey Edwards, are hosts.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served following the service.

St. James the Fisherman

The earliest service Sunday is an Easter vigil that begins at 5 a.m. at Sea Mist Camping Resort at Brick Landing and includes celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

This service culminates Holy Week and begins the celebration of the resurrection, said the Rev. Dr. Richard W. Warner, rector of St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church, sponsor of the service.

The celebration continues at the church

on Main Street, Shallotte, with a special service at 9 a.m. for families with children, with the traditional flowering of the cross. After the church service, an egg hunt for children is planned on the church grounds.

At 11 a.m. the celebration of the resurrection with the Holy Eucharist will begin.

Calvary Baptist

At Calvary Baptist Church on Village Road (N.C. 179) in Shallotte, the adult choir will present a cantata during the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday.

The cantata will be a compilation of music.

Also, Sunday school for all ages begins at 10 a.m., said the Rev. John Landers, pastor.

Village Point

William Webb will speak at the 6:30 a.m. sunrise service at Village Point United Methodist Church. Afterward refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall, said

spokesman Patty Jones.

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. The Rev. Robert Hargrove, pastor, speaking at the 11 a.m. Easter service.

The church is located on Village Point Road at Shallotte Point.

Jennies Branch

Jennies Branch Baptist Church will hold its Easter sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Sunday. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. in the fellowship hall, sponsored by the Men's Young Adult Class, said the Rev. Herman C. Absher, pastor.

St. Brendan's

Holy Week services at St. Brendan's Catholic Church begins with a Mass of the Lord's Supper Thursday at 7:30 p.m., followed by adoration until 11 p.m.

On Good Friday the solemn liturgy is scheduled at 7:30 p.m., with a communion service.

(See CHURCH, Page 2-A)

Area Church Services Will Celebrate Christ's Resurrection

Area churches will celebrate the resurrection of Christ with Easter cantatas and special services for local residents and visitors alike.

On Easter Sunday morning flowers and greenery brought by church members will replace the black drapings of the cross on the lawn at Camp United Methodist in Shallotte, a visible symbol of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Services at all three area beaches will be geared to vacationers, offering opportunities to worship in an informal, natural setting in casual dress.

Worshippers are encouraged to bring their own beach chair or towel to these services.

Ocean Isle Beach

Two services will be conducted at 8:30 a.m. Sunday on the strand at Ocean Isle Beach.

Ocean Isle Beach Chapel will offer an ec-

umenical service at the site of the cross just west of the fishing pier.

Shallotte Presbyterian Church will hold its interdenominational service on the strand one-half mile west of the cross, the same location as its services last summer, said the Rev. William Thomas, interim pastor.

Sunday's message is entitled, "Easter Changes Everything". Henry Gehander will serve as song leader.

Sunset Beach

At Sunset Beach an Easter service will be held on the strand just east of the fishing pier at 8 a.m., the first of a summer season of interdenominational services to be sponsored by Calabash Presbyterian Church.

Holden Beach

Holden Beach Baptist Mission will hold an Easter sunrise service at the fishing pier at Holden Beach starting at 7 a.m.

The pastor is the Rev. Jack Hancox, a former military chaplain.