



### Just Hanging Out

Todd Drye, 8, of Concord was hanging out at the public access area near the Sunset Beach pier Saturday afternoon, with his father and family friends gathered at the gazebo in the background. Their beach weekend was probably one that Todd won't forget soon, thanks to Sunday's out-of-the-ordinary snowfall.

STAFF PHOTO BY DORIS GURGANUS

## Landscaping Indoors Can Be Tricky

**Dear Plant Doctor:** We have just started construction on our house along the coast of North Carolina. We plan to have a glassed-in atrium in the center of our new home.

We want to line the base with gravel and some charcoal (about six feet down) and cover that with about three feet of sandy soil. The surrounding foundation is brick.

I plan to grow my hibiscus, Norfolk Island Pine, bamboo orchids, Hawaiian ginger, gerbera daisies, anthurium, *Ficus*, azaleas and bird of paradise in this atrium.

Can you suggest compatible groupings of these plants and exclusions of any which may cause harm to the others?

I also need a resource for purchasing the top three feet of potting soil. Should I request a particular soil blend?

Since the foundation surrounding the atrium will be brick, do you recommend lining it with plastic? If so, what kind?

Please respond as soon as possible as they are now laying the foundation.

**Answer:** You have asked some very good questions.

Indoor plant landscaping is a complex and rapidly-evolving field of horticulture.

Placing plants together in a common artificial environment can result in some very unusual problems.

### THE PLANT DOCTOR

C. BRUCE WILLIAMS  
Extension Area  
Turf Specialist



Some of the plants you are planning to use have the exacting environmental needs (tropical) for temperature and light (orchids, *Ficus*, Norfolk Island pines, anthurium, bird of paradise) while others are more suited to outdoor or protected growing conditions in southeastern North Carolina (hibiscus, Hawaiian ginger, gerbera daisies, azaleas).

The first thing I would recommend is that you purchase and read a copy of *Indoor Plants* by Briggs and Calvin (1987, Wiley and Sons Inc.). I think this is one of the best scientifically-based texts on indoor plants and you'll probably find it immensely helpful in answering many of your questions.

Many large indoor plant landscapes (like those you see in malls or business complexes) utilize clay or plastic pots that are buried. This allows you to quickly and easily remove any plant in your indoor land-

scape that becomes sick or insect-infested.

However, the main disadvantage is that the plants must be potted up and routinely maintained just as any other containerized house plant.

Pay special attention to the drainage and watering system of the atrium. More problems are created by improper watering or poor drainage than any other condition.

I do not know what in particular to recommend concerning the construction of your atrium. A good, experienced indoor landscape contractor can answer questions about construction much better than I can.

You will be spending a great deal of money during the construction of this atrium. Soil mixtures, design, construction and plant placement are problems that will not be easily corrected once the project is finished.

I would recommend that you consult with a reputable, licensed landscape contractor who installs or maintains indoor plants.

You can write or call the N.C. Landscape Registration Board, P.O. Box 400, Knightdale, N.C. 27545 (telephone: 919-266-1777), for individuals in your area who specialize in indoor plant design, installation and care.

Send your gardening questions with a SASE to The Plant Doctor, P.O. Box 109, Bolivia, N.C. 28422.

## Birthdays And Anniversaries

**Thursday, January 23**  
Claudia King, Bill Faver, Virginia Reynolds, Helen Wood, Fletcher Frink, Delmus Locklear, Wilma Simmons, Rhonda Hayes, Toby Russ, Jennifer Kuhnemann, Barb Foehrkolb.

**Friday, January 24**  
Jason Benton, Micaela Lyndra Price, Jason Gabriel Reynolds, James Bradford Wilson, Jeanette Mintz, Bonnie Cox, Elbert Clemmons, Jim Davis, Barbara Jones, Jack Caison, Jason Benton, Ruby Blanton, Billy Stanley, Nathan Wooten, Brock Shelton, Ruben Winston Hewett, Chris Parrish; Larry and Janice Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Clemmons, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Bellamy Jr.

**ADK Celebrates 25th Anniversary**

The Beta Beta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honor sorority for women educators, celebrated its 25th anniversary at Shalotte Middle School on Jan. 9.

Ruth White, one of four charter members of the local chapter, discussed the organization of the group in Brunswick County.

Other charter members at the anniversary celebration were Kay Barnes, Claire Evans and Virginia Winfree.

The other charter members were Gelene Russ, Ruth Smith, Ruby Sutton, Hilda Council, Merle Evans, Veneta Geedy, Janice Gore, Marianne Gore, Lila Hogg, Brightie Holden, Ruth Hood, Alice Lesh, Sarah Rogers and Clara Mae Russ.

The objective of Alpha Delta Kappa is to recognize outstanding women educators who are actively engaged in the teaching profession.

**Happy 18th Birthday GYPSY**  
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You know who!

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## Local Births Are Announced

### Kirby

Ray and Brenda Kirby of Supply have announced the birth of a son, Joshua Ray Kirby, Dec. 6 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington.

He arrived at 9:50 a.m., weighing 9 pounds, 10 ounces, and measuring 22 inches in length.

Josh joins a sister, Cheryl and a brother, Tommy.

His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kirby of Supply and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Boyd of Shallotte.

Josh's great-grandmother is Caric Kirby of Supply.

### Lewis

Shamika Lewis of Bolivia has announced the birth of a daughter, Tyshia Simone Lewis, Jan. 9 at The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

Born at 7:13 p.m., she weighed 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Her grandparents are Betty Lewis of Bolivia and James Rhett of Columbia, S.C.

Tyshia's great-grandparents are

Lou A. Lewis of Southport and James and Sylvia Rhett of Columbia.

### DesFonds

Richard Powers and Denise M. DesFonds of Bolivia have announced the birth of a daughter, Virginia Nicole DesFonds, Jan. 10 at The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

She was born at 7:08 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 18 inches long.

Virginia has a sister, Tabitha Starr, and a brother, Brandon Joseph.

### Milliken

Danny and Lhonda Milliken of Supply have announced the birth of a daughter, Linda Kay Milliken, Jan. 10 at The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

Born at 8:20 a.m., she weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Linda's grandparents are Eddie and Linda McCall of Shallotte and James and Jackie Shelly of Supply.

Great-grandparents are Eva Ward, Thelma McCall and Sidney Rhodes, all of Supply.

Great-great-grandparents are Martha Clemmons and Ella Clemmons of Supply.

### Robinson

Brent and Tanya Robinson of Grissetown have announced the birth of a daughter, Courtney Nicole Robinson, Jan. 7 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington.

She was born at 8:29 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Courtney's grandparents are Dale and Beverly Hewett of Grissetown, Toby and Linda Lewis of Ash, and Terry and Georgia Robinson of Boone's Neck.

Her great-grandparents are Frank and Barbara Hewett of Ash, Leon and Daisey Hewett of Ash, and Helen Hughes of Whiteville.

Her great-great-grandmother is Ellen Prince of Whiteville.

## ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

### 45th Azalea Festival's April 9-12

Visitors to the 45th North Carolina Azalea Festival will have a smorgasbord of activities from which to create their own festival experience April 9-12 in Wilmington.

A tentative schedule for this year's extravaganza includes a Thursday night concert, garden tours, a circus, variety show and fireworks on Friday, the Queen's Parade and street fair downtown Saturday, with continuous entertainment on five stages,

### Barbershop Chorus Needs New Voices

The Shallotte Barbershop Chorus is looking for new voices.

A special membership night will be held Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., at Camp United Methodist Church on U.S. 17 in Shallotte, said Tina Redman, publicity chairman.

Rehearsals are held each Tuesday. Women of all ages are welcome to join the four-part harmony, barbershop-style musical group. Selections include old-time, modern, novelty, patriotic and sacred songs and ballads.

For more information, call Belinda Formyduval, 754-5372.

and the queen's coronation that night. Sunday's quieter schedule includes ship tours, a horse show and tours of visiting ships.

Details and ticket information are available by writing the North Carolina Azalea Festival, P.O. Box 51, Wilmington, N.C. 28402, or calling 919-763-0905.

### 'Little Prince' Coming

Antoine Saint-Exupery's classic story of *The Little Prince* comes to Wilmington's Thalian Hall Jan. 25 in a new musical version for children.

Two performances of the family classic are offered: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each performance is about an hour long. Tickets are \$4 per person. For more information, tickets or free

study guides, contact the Center Box Office, 1-800-523-2820.

### Jazz Preview Set

It's too late to buy tickets for regular North Carolina Jazz Festival cabaret-style performances, but jazz fans can still get a taste of its quality offerings at the Jazz Festival Preview Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. on Thalian Hall's Main Stage in downtown Wilmington.

Tickets are \$8, \$12, and \$14 for the two-hour concert, which features eight musicians from the festival playing two sets of swing and classic jazz.

For tickets or more information, contact Center Box Office, 1-800-523-2820.

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