

# Horseback Ride-A-Thon On Beach Benefits Fire, Rescue

A horseback ride along the beach strand by moonlight may sound like a chapter from a romance novel. But area horse enthusiasts will get a chance to ride the beach strand for a worthwhile cause February 29 at a ride-a-thon on Oak Island.

"Everyone dreams of riding a horse on the beach," said Tanya Kinney, project coordinator.

Area beach towns have ordinances prohibiting horses from the strand. That ban will be lifted temporarily at Long Beach for the special fundraiser.

Proceeds will benefit Long Beach volunteer fire and rescue units, said Ms. Kinney, who is already accepting reservations from horse owners across the state.

Participants may enter the event by raising \$50 from sponsors, with about half the total going directly to the fire and rescue departments.

Children under 17 can enter for a \$35 fee. Riders can solicit sponsors to cover the cost and to raise any additional donations.

Trophies and awards will be given to persons who raise the most money, to the oldest and youngest riders making the 20-mile trip and to winners in other categories. Each rider will also receive a commemorative bandanna.

Ms. Kinney is coordinating the event with help from Smokey J. Mountain, who publishes Trail Rider magazine in Charlotte.

Similar ride-a-thons held in Myrtle Beach the past 10 years have been successful, said Ms. Kinney. Last fall, a ride-a-thon on the Grand Strand raised nearly \$30,000 for the American Heart Association.

Riders will travel by moonlight on the strand to the Ocean Crest Pier at Long Beach Friday, Feb. 28.

Other events are Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 29 and March 1, including a 20-mile trip along the Oak Island shoreline to "The Point", where the Lockwood Folly River meets the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Times have been scheduled to coincide with the tides, and plenty of help will be on hand to help calm the horses, said Ms. Kinney.

"A lot of horses have never seen

the ocean," she said. "Sometimes you don't know how they will react."

Those entering the event will spend the night at the Long Beach Campground on 50th Street and must supply their own feed and hay. Two breakfasts and a dinner at the Long Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars building are sponsored by the Long Beach Merchants Association.

Non-riders will be charged \$5 for dinner, with proceeds to benefit fire and rescue.

"Our fire and rescue squads are always needing extra money," said Ms. Kinney. "This is a much better way to make money than holding raffles."

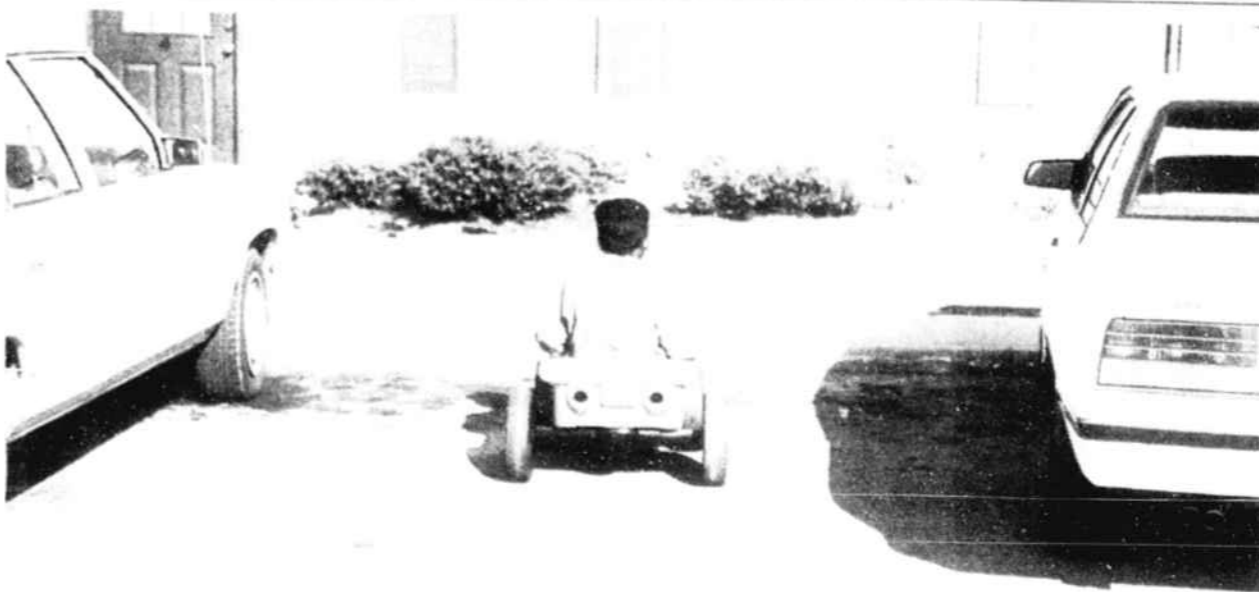
Promotional literature for the ride-a-thon says participants will "ride the beautiful undeveloped beach and exciting natural black water area of Oak Island. Nothing but sand dunes, sea oats and wildlife on this rustic untouched area."

Participants will also take steps to preserve the beach.

"There will definitely be no riding on the dunes," said Ms. Kinney.

The registration fee will increase to \$60 on Feb. 28. Persons can register by calling Ms. Kinney, 278-7772, or Mountain at 1-800-638-8491.

STAFF PHOTO BY DORIS GURGANUS



His Own Parking Space

Chris Davis, 8, of Shallotte found the perfect parking space for his pedal-operated car Sunday. Davis boasts that his car doesn't use as much gasoline as the average automobile. An unlike most drivers, every road trip helps him stay in good physical condition.

## Flouride Program Awash With Unexpected Delays

An unexpected problem has temporarily delayed plans to add flouride to Brunswick County's water supply.

Some wrong equipment recently arrived at the Southport Water Treatment Plant, and contractors had to reorder, said Brunswick County Health Director Michael Rhodes.

But County Manager David Clegg said the delay is only temporary. The county is moving as quick as it can to purchase and install the right equipment.

"There's nothing to stop it now," said Clegg. "From an administrative standpoint, what's been done is what needed to be done."

When the equipment arrives, it will be installed immediately.

All county water customers will be notified before the flouride is added to the system. A public notice is mandated by state law.

Area physicians, dentists, pharmacists and the media will also be notified 60 days before the flouride is added, said Rhodes.

The actual date flouride will begin to be added to the water supply is not yet known.

Rhodes said the county engineer had to order a new tank, part of the equipment needed for the Southport

water plant. Equipment was installed when the county's Northwest Water Treatment Plant in Malmo was built in 1986.

Flouride is added to water supplies to help fight tooth decay, especially in younger children. Those opposed to flouridated water say high content of flouride may cause cancer, but Rhodes said scientific evidence has failed to link any diseases to the minute amounts placed in drinking water.

The Brunswick County Board of Health has lobbied for a flouridated water system for years.

The most recent campaign began in October 1990. Brunswick County Commissioners voted last year to seek state grants to help pay for the equipment.

All residents on county water lines will benefit from the flouride program. Those include streets and subdivisions lying along the county's main trunk lines on U.S. 17, N.C. 87, N.C. 179, N.C. 211, N.C. 133 and N.C. 130. Also, customers include municipalities who purchase water from the county and those homes in 13 Special Assessment Districts (SADs) adjacent to the main lines from Leland to Calabash.

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Librarian's Article Published

An article contributed by Maurice "Reecie" Taylor, director of the Brunswick County Library, recently appeared in "Word of Mouth," a readers' advisory service column for library patrons, in the November issue of *Library Journal*, a national professional publication.

In the article, Ms. Taylor recommended "sleepers"—well-written books that haven't received wide exposure—to readers of various genres of fiction.

**Johnson Graduates**

Airman 1st Class John J. Johnson III has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

He is the son of John and Parthenia Johnson of Route 2, Bolivia, and a 1991 graduate of South Brunswick High School at Boiling Spring Lakes.

**Murphy Makes List**

Kathleen L. Murphy attained the fall 1991 semester dean's list at

Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind.

A senior, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy of Calabash.

Saint Mary's is a Catholic college for women.

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