



STAFF PHOTO BY DORI C. GURGANUS

Merrily We Roll Along

The Rambler, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter out of Charleston, S.C., rolled down the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway at Sunset Beach Saturday afternoon, carrying equipment to repair navigational aids. Petty Officer Jeff Blocker at the Coast Guard unit on Oak Island said the cutter often ventures north to set pilings for day markers along the waterway.

Holden Beach May Revise Rules On Overgrown Lots

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach's regulations against tall grass and weeds may end up on the chopping block in the near future.

Complaints from property owners and questions from town commissioners may lead to some changes in the rules, according to Town Manager Gary Parker.

"We're probably going to look at that ordinance and decide if we need to tailor it for our unique situation on the beach," Parker said Monday.

"Maybe it needs to be a different approach than what you see at other sites such as those inland," he said.

Holden Beach recently mailed notices of violation to about 250 property owners who had apparently allowed their yards to get out of hand.

The ordinance adopted two years ago prohibits the growth of noxious weeds or grass over 12 inches high and other conditions that are considered detrimental to public health or safety.

The accumulation of trash and rubbish or anything else that could cause a fire hazard or attract rats, snakes and other pests is also considered a violation of the ordinance.

Parker said a majority of the landowners who received notices have been willing to comply with the rules, but there also have been many complaints.

Some property owners have asked if they should be required to cut their lots if the weeds and grass are providing habitat for birds, Parker said.

Other landowners have asked for more time to correct the violations. The ordinance gives people 15 days to trim or clean up their lots before the town can step in, do the work and bill the owner.

Parker said the town has been cooperating with non-resident property owners who say they don't have time to improve their lots within 15 days.

"They've been given more time so they can clean up the lots when they travel to the beach."

Based on the responses of property owners and town commissioners, Parker said he thinks the board will be taking a closer look at the rules at a future workshop.

Several town officials indicated at a recent meeting that changes may be needed in the ordinance to allow the growth of natural vegetation found in the harsh ocean environment.

Commissioner Gay Atkins said the regulations were originally adopted to get property owners to clean up their lots following Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and to correct a rodent problem along the finger canals.

Southport Celebrates 200th

Southport is celebrating its bicentennial this year, with several activities to kick off the benchmark.

The bicentennial flag was unveiled Monday and presented to Mayor Norman Holden in a community gathering at City Hall. It was presented by Southport 2000 representatives Mike Agner, president of the corporation, and Eleanor Smith, chairperson of the bicentennial committee.

All city buildings will fly the flag during the bicentennial year, said Joanne Wesson, executive director of Southport 2000. The corporation, she said, is a public/private economic revitalization organization helping out with activities for the 200th celebration.

As part of the ongoing celebration, the Southport Historical Society will present "A Bicentennial of Women in American History" to the public Friday, Feb. 14.

The production will begin with a social and buffet luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Southport Community Building on East Moore Street. The show will begin around 12:15 p.m., said Ms. Wesson.

Periods in American and Southport history will be represented by music and clothing of the different eras. Members of the Historical Society as well as other residents will serve as models.

Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased from members of the Historical Society or at the door.

Sunset Beach Couple Indicted

A Sunset Beach couple has been indicted by a South Carolina grand jury on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and six counts of wire fraud.

Harry Heilig and his wife, Beverly Heilig, are accused of defrauding a convicted murderer by offering to free him from prison for \$80,000 by bribing state officials. Heilig, an attorney, has an office at Seaside.

The maximum sentence under the charges are 35 years in prison and a \$1.75 million fine.

The indictment accuses the Heiligs of approaching Hansel L. Butler, a prisoner at the J. Reuben

Long Correctional Center in Conway, S.C., in September 1990 and with offering to buy his release from jail through the South Carolina governor's office.

Butler was convicted of murder in September 1990 and is serving a life sentence. The money would allegedly be used to bribe a member of the governor's staff, the Horry County Sheriff's Department and a Brunswick County probation officer.

The Heiligs are accused of taking Butler's money and depositing it into a bank account held by the couple. The incident allegedly occurred between Oct. 1990 and Sept. 1991.

Vandals Set Fire To Checks In The Mail

BY TERRY POPE

The checks were in the mail Sunday, but vandals set them on fire.

Someone took letters from a rural postal box at River Run Plantation near Sunset Harbor and tried to torch them, Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Long reported.

Harry Yoder, president of River Run Properties, said the suspects also took a fire extinguisher, damaged several signs and destroyed a section of fence along Folly Drive. An estimate of the damage is not available.

The letters taken from a mailbox included checks and bank statements that someone set on fire, said Long. The case is under investigation.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

■ A car reported stolen from Oceanway Auto Sales at Grissetown was returned by the thief Friday, Deputy J.M. Adams reported. The 1983 Ford LTD valued at \$2,700 was left

CRIME REPORT

parked behind a building with the keys in the ignition and the license tag on the vehicle. No one saw the suspect return the car.

■ Four windows and a glass door were broken by vandals at Kimberly Jo's Boutique on N.C. 179 at Ocean Isle on Sunday, reported Adams. An alarm sounded, and entry was not gained.

■ Damage is estimated at \$500 to a front door at the Quarter Deck Restaurant on N.C. 130 at Holden Beach, reported Deputy Patti Hewett. Someone kicked the glass out of a front door on Sunday.

■ A rear door was pried open but nothing was taken from KBK Enterprises Inc. at Leland Industrial Park Saturday, Deputy Pete Moore reported.

■ A burglar broke into a home on Dogwood Road in Leland Saturday, but was frightened away by the

owner, Deputy Charles Wilson reported. The resident was asleep when he was awakened by a noise and saw a man standing in the hallway. The intruder ran out a back door.

■ Two farm tractors taken from Leland Mobile Home Estates, valued between \$1,500 and \$2,500 each, were found at a Leland residence, Deputy Pete Moore reported. The park owner said a former employee had been instructed to repair and return the tractors.

■ Thieves entered a garage in Oak Hill Subdivision on Sea Shore Road and took \$732 in tools between Feb. 4-7, reported Long.

■ A stereo stolen from a van in Old Mill Mobile Home Park in Leland last June was found Sunday, reported Long. The sister of the victim told deputies that she saw the stereo in the dashboard of another pickup truck.

■ A 12-speed bicycle valued at \$150 was stolen from a yard on Wayne

Drive in Leland between Feb. 5 and 7, reported Deputy William Hewett.

■ Thieves entered a home on N.C. 179 south of Shallotte between Jan. 28 and Feb. 7 by tearing a screen and breaking a window, reported Deputy Phil Bryant. Taken were tools, a television, heater, linens, clock, medicine cabinet and vacuum cleaner, all valued at \$475.

■ Someone pried open a window on a pickup truck parked at a home on N.C. 179 near Ocean Isle Saturday. Stolen was a wallet containing \$200, a speaker worth \$525 and speaker box valued at \$300, Bryant reported.

■ A drill worth \$140 and a saw valued at \$500 were stolen from a home in Baldwin Estates in Leland Friday, Hewett reported. Someone kicked open a front door, causing \$150 in damage.

■ A Route 1, Southport, resident said the windshield to his car was smashed while it was parked at a home Saturday, Deputy Robert Allen reported.

Future Of KAB Committee In Hands Of Commissioners

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

By changing the number of members on the Keep America Beautiful board, two Brunswick County officials are hoping they can breathe life into the almost inactive group.

"They're paralyzed," said county attorney David Clegg in a telephone interview Monday. "They're really good people who want to do something, but they can't because they aren't able to get a quorum."

He has asked the county commissioners to slim membership of Keep America Beautiful down to seven people.

One of the main problems plaguing the group is the inability to act regularly on issues. With a membership of 13 Brunswick County residents, it takes eight to constitute a quorum.

According to Bobby Jones, director of the county Parks and Recreation Department, a quorum has been achieved only twice since July of last year.

It was then, he said, that KAB was separated from the Brunswick Clean County Commission, and transferred to the recreation department.

"We've got to make some changes if we're going to keep this

thing going," Jones said. That's why he asked Clegg to request of the commissioners that the membership be cut back to around seven members.

That move, he said in a telephone interview last week, would enable the group to act more quickly and efficiently on issues concerning the local environment.

Currently the membership stands at 12, Jones said, including Paul Austin, Mary L. Russ, Jane Gilbert, Susan Green, Leo Hewett, Rosemary Long, Katherine Shawver, Gary Shoemaker, Delores Wilson, Wendy Long and Holly Richards.

William Potts recently resigned, Jones said, and the terms of seven members are about to expire.

The current board is part of a new membership that was appointed by the commissioners last fall. The board has seen a complete turnover of membership since its formation in January 1990.

Clegg asked the county commissioners at a recent board meeting to consider cutting the KAB membership back, but he hasn't received word of any action being taken on the matter.

"I did mention it," he said, "but

it's really not that much of an issue."

Clegg said he heard the suggestion not only from Jones but from some members of KAB during a recent dinner meeting.

They had requested something be done to allow them to act more efficiently, he said, but did not specifically ask for membership to be slimmed down.

"They like the broader-based representation," Clegg said, but they said they needed something done to allow them to actually fulfill their duties.

Jones also said he had suggested staggered terms for members of one, two and three years. He added that many of the former members had joined the KAB board when it was involved with recycling duties in the county.

Many of the recycling enthusiasts, Jones said, resigned when recycling was handed over to the sanitary landfill department.

Member Holly Richards of Shallotte, executive vice president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, said that the scheduled time of the meetings was the reason she has not been able to attend every meeting.

"I can't really say whether a smaller membership would help, since I haven't seen a full quorum meet," she said.

KAB meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., which Ms. Richards says is hard for a person with a busy schedule to accommodate.

"I'd love to help," she said, "but I just can't because of my schedule."

Candidate Coming Next Wednesday

Phil Ginn, a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor of North Carolina, will be meeting voters Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 12 noon at the Brunswick County Democratic Headquarters building.

Ginn is presently a judge in the 24th District, said Crawford Hart, chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party.

A free lunch of hot dogs and baked beans will be served, courtesy of the Democratic Party.

The headquarters building is located on U.S. 17 north of Supply, across from Brunswick Community College.



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