

## Deadly Consequences

SADD members Mindy Keill, Kristy Poulos and Heather Hardee direct WBHS students' attention to the dangers of driving drunk. Page 14-A.



# Island Living

Supplement included in this issue.

## Soaring Scorpion

North Brunswick's Maduka Ballard set a state record last week when he cleared 7 feet, 2 inches in the high jump. The story's on Page 13-B.



# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

12/31/99  
HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY  
P. O. BOX 182  
SPRINGPORT HI 49284

Thirtieth Year, Number 24

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Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, April 16, 1992

50¢ Per Copy

110 Pages, 4 Sections Including Supplement, 3 Inserts

## Voter List Stands At 29,921

Approximately 29,921 residents will be eligible to vote in the May 5 primary in Brunswick County.

That's the number of people who were registered to vote before the deadline passed last Monday, April 6.

"I thought we were going to top 30,000 voters," said Lynda Britt, Brunswick County Board of Elections supervisor.

Of those registered, 17,691 are Democrats and 10,783 are Republicans. Another 1,447 are listed as unaffiliated with any political party.

In North Carolina, an independent party isn't recognized so voters must either register as Democrat, Republican or unaffiliated.

The county gained 1,563 voters since October 1991, when 28,358 were on the registration books.

Democrats gained 679 voters, up from 17,012; Republicans gained 651 voters, up from 10,132; and unaffiliated voters increased by 233 persons, up from 1,214.

Voters will go to the polls at 22 Brunswick County precincts to vote for local candidates for the board of education, board of commissioners, (See VOTER, Page 2-A)

## Charge Dismissed Against Cop

A trespassing charge against a Shallotte police officer was dismissed last week in Brunswick County District Court.

Assistant District Attorney Ola Lewis dismissed the second-degree trespassing charge against Cpl. Ray Altizer last Wednesday.

Altizer was served with a criminal summons last month after a neighbor accused him of going on his property after being told to stay away.

Perritt Alford, who served as a town policeman from April 1989 to January 1990, had pressed the charge before a magistrate on March 12.

Ms. Lewis said Tuesday that both parties agreed to dismiss the charge. "We all came to an agreement behind closed doors," she said.

Altizer's lawyer, James Payne, said the assistant district attorney did the right thing.

"A prosecutor has an ethical obligation to dismiss baseless charges such as this one," Payne said.

To find someone guilty of second-degree trespassing, Payne said the state must prove a defendant was on the property of another after being asked to leave.

"The state simply did not have any proof that any of this ever happened," Payne said. "Corporal Altizer is a fine example of an honest and ethical police officer in whom Shallotte should take great pride."



### In Time For Easter

Lynne Carr of the Shallotte Junior Woman's Club delivers Bunnygrams filled with candy and surprises to Colin Lewis (right) and Andrew Lewis last Friday. The Easter program is the club's annual spring fund-raiser. Colin and Andrew are the sons of Mark and Betsy Lewis of Shallotte.

STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

### NEW BRANCH OPENS MAY 4

## Post Office Moving Day Nears

Moving day is right around the corner for most Shallotte post office personnel who will be reassigned to the South Brunswick branch postal station.

The move will take place Saturday, May 2, when equipment will be loaded into vans and transferred to the newly-constructed post office on N.C. 904 between Grissetown and Seaside.

No date has been set for dedication of the new branch facility, said Shallotte Postmaster Frank Bringoli.

At the new site, in a 13,450-square-foot facility, the majority of the mail-handling for the South Brunswick

Islands will be done. With three times the floor space of the Shallotte post office, it is located on four acres of land, providing parking spaces for 55 customers.

It is here that most postal action will originate, beginning Monday, May 4, the first day of operations. Both Bringoli and Ron Reeves, superintendent of postal operations, will have their offices at the South Brunswick station incoming mail will be sorted and taken by carriers from the station as well.

Post office boxes at the new location can be rented (See POST OFFICE, Page 2-A)

## Baxter Cleared Of DWI Charge

BY TERRY POPE

A driving while impaired charge was dismissed Tuesday against Brunswick County Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter.

Donna Baxter, who is running for re-election in the May 5 primary.

SBI lab tests showed Ms. Baxter's blood-alcohol content following a March 16 traffic accident in Boiling Spring Lakes was .032, prompting District Attorney Rex Gore to drop the charge in Brunswick County District Court.

In North Carolina, a blood-alcohol reading of .10 or higher is considered too drunk to drive.

"I believe this serves as a lesson that if one cooperates fully with any investigation," said Ms. Baxter, "and all of the evidence is gathered, the truth will eventually be known and the innocent will be exonerated."

Ms. Baxter, 43, was charged with DWI and improper passing by Boiling Spring Lakes Police Officer Richard Timberlake. In court Tuesday, she pleaded guilty to improper passing and was ordered by Judge Jerry A. Jolly to pay court costs.

The DWI charge was filed after Ms. Baxter told the officer she had

consumed one and a half beers over dinner with friends prior to the wreck, a statement from Gore's office indicates.

Ms. Baxter sustained a concussion from a head injury after her 1989 Oldsmobile was totaled in the accident on Boiling Spring Road near the intersection with North Shore Drive.

Gore said Tuesday that because of her statement to Officer Timberlake, the DWI charge was filed pending blood test results. Her injuries prevented the officer from conducting the usual roadside sobriety tests.

"The test results also indicated that there were no controlled substances in Ms. Baxter's system," said Gore.

Gore said he thought Officer Timberlake acted properly at the time, considering the adverse circumstances he had to deal with—an accident, physical injuries and with transporting the injured to the hospital.

Ms. Baxter said she appreciated the thorough investigation conducted by the police department and was confident the lab results "would establish my innocence of the alleged violation."

"I did not make a statement about the accident earlier," she said, "because I believe that it was appropriate for the investigation of this matter to be completed before making any comment."

(See BAXTER, Page 2-A)



BAXTER

## Corps Plans Maintenance Dredging Of Shallotte Inlet

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

A long-standing effort to get Shallotte Inlet dredged for boating safety and fishing interests, finally achieved success, Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson announced at a Ocean Isle Beach Town Council meeting Tuesday morning.

The original pursuit of a channel dredged to a six-foot depth by the U.S. Corps of Engineers was thwarted when a Corps study reported last month that such a project was economically unfeasible.

However, the Corps suggested that it could do annual maintenance dredging of the inlet with equipment used to maintain the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Dredge spoil would be placed on the critically eroded east end of the island.

"I think this is fantastic," exclaimed Dr. Kendall Suh, OIB board member. "It saves Ocean Isle taxpayers some tax dollars and it will help the east end erosion, too."

The first dredging action will take place this fall, said Commissioner Debbie Fox.

The board had earlier applied for a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) major development permit, with a view to funding its own dredging project. The permit application proposed a channel 150 feet wide by 1,000 feet long and eight feet deep between Ocean Isle and Holden Beach.

"After Hugo caused such erosion here," Williamson explained, "we requested the Corps' feasibility study; then we decided to apply for this permit, because if the Corps' work is insufficient and we have a permit in hand, we can pursue additional dredging with the equipment already in place."

Williamson said another feasibility study has been requested by the board, regarding the nourishing of the strand on Ocean Isle Beach.

"This will, of course, be a cost to taxpayers, but we definitely need an erosion control plan," she said. "The results of this one will be ready this summer."

## South Brunswick Churches Mark Easter With Special Services

A number of local churches plan special services this weekend in observance of Easter.

Many will hold traditional outdoor services at or near sunrise, possibly on the strand of a local beach; others will celebrate with special music. Visitors are welcome.

**Calvary Baptist**  
Calvary Baptist Church will celebrate Easter with the dedication of its newly renovated sanctuary with baptistry and a cantata, *Rock of Faith*, by the choir.

The service begins at 11 a.m. with the 30-minute cantata, followed by the dedication and the first baptisms in the new baptistry. Afterward a covered dish lunch is planned. The Rev. John Landers is pastor.

**Calabash Presbyterian**  
Calabash Presbyterian Church worshippers will meet just east of

the Sunset Beach Pier, 8 a.m., Easter Sunday and again each Sunday morning between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The Rev. Francis Womack, pastor, and other ministers will lead the services. The style and content is non-denominational and will not take the place of regular services. It is intended to provide a place of worship for vacationers and tourists on the beach.

The church began services on Sunset Beach last year for the first time. An estimated 2,000 people attended from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

The church is located on Old Georgetown Road.

**St. James Episcopal**  
St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Shallotte will hold three services Easter Sunday, with a

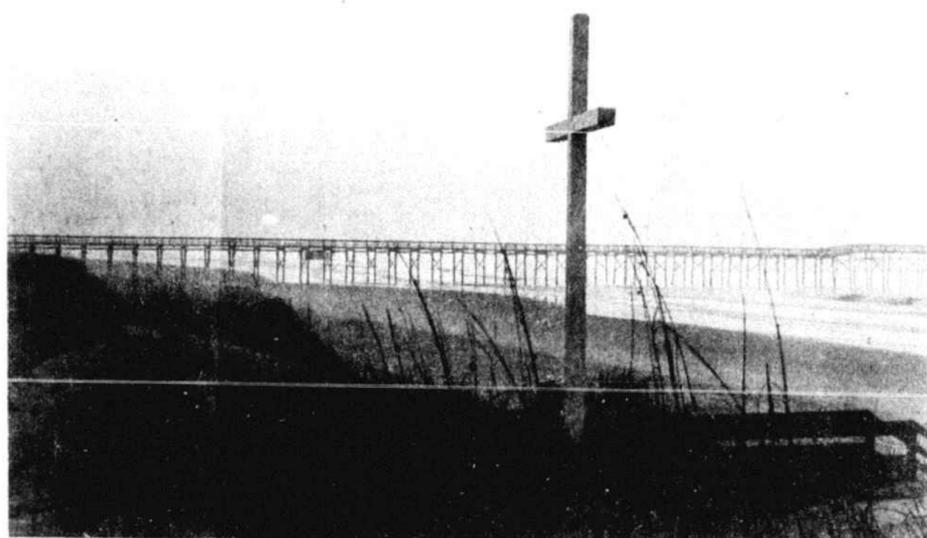
6 a.m. Easter Vigil Service at Sea Mist Camping Resort on the waterway at Brick Landing.

A 9 a.m. family service will be held at the church, 4941 Main Street, including the flowering of the cross and an Easter egg hunt for children on the church grounds.

An 11 a.m. Festive Celebration of our Lord's Resurrection with the Holy Eucharist will be conducted with the Rev. Thomas Wright, retired bishop, presiding followed by a light reception. The Rev. Richard W. Warner Jr. is church rector.

On Saturday, April 18, a Holy Saturday Liturgy service is planned at 10 a.m.

**Holden Beach Chapel**  
The Holden Beach Chapel on Rothschild Street, Holden Beach, (See CHURCH, Page 2-A)



THE SUN peeks over the horizon at Ocean Isle Beach prior to Easter services there last year.

BEACON FILE PHOTO