

Annual N.C. Festival By The Sea Opens Friday At Holden Beach

The schedule of activities, stories and pictures are in a tabloid supplement inside this issue

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Carlisle Wins National Oyster Shucking Contest

BY SUSAN USHER

Cathy Carlisle's hands went into the air last Saturday afternoon just one second ahead of the competition for what Tom Burke called "the most dramatic finish we've ever had."

Before an enthusiastic grandstand crowd of 500 to 600 spectators, the 23-year-old Boone's Neck resident had shucked 24 oysters in two

minutes, 10 seconds to claim the title of U.S. Oyster Shucking Champion. "The place just exploded," said Burke, director of the St. Mary's County Oyster Festival in Leonardtown, Md., which for 20 years has hosted the national championships. "All the old-timers say we've never had one this close before."

As the national winner, Mrs. Carl-

isle will get an expense-paid trip to Galway, Ireland, next September to compete for the world title. Her entry in the U.S. competition was jointly sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce and the host festival.

"This is really great for our area and for her," said Anne Marie Schettini, local chamber director.

Chamber President Alan Holden predicts that Mrs. Carlisle's success in Maryland will increase interest not only in the South Brunswick Islands but in the state shucking championships next October.

"I don't think we'll have any problem recruiting contestants," he said.

Mrs. Carlisle has been a piecework

shucker at Lloyd Milliken's Oyster House at Shallotte Point since age 17, opening 50 to 80 pints of oysters per day for 50 cents a pint.

Last year, sponsored by Plant Manager Charles Bazen, she entered the state contest which is held each year in conjunction with the local N.C. Oyster Festival. She was runner-up to Milton Williams of

Seaside, a repeat winner. Williams forfeited his right to compete on the national level to allow Mrs. Carlisle to enter in his place.

Mrs. Carlisle is now a dual title holder. One week before leaving for the nationals, Mrs. Carlisle won the state championship, earning the right to compete at St. Mary's again (See CARLISLE, Page 12-A)



CATHY CARLISLE . . . waiting for the results of the qualifying heat. The third of the four shuckers to finish, Cathy didn't think she had made it into the women's contest, but went on to win both the women's and overall shucking championships.

ARRESTS BEGAN MONDAY NIGHT

Jury Indicts 32 On 174 Drug-Related Charges

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Sheriff's officers stayed busy throughout the night Monday arresting and processing defendants indicted Monday by a Brunswick County Grand Jury on drug-related charges.

The jury returned 174 indictments against 32 defendants from Brunswick, New Hanover and Columbus counties following what may have been the largest undercover operation to date involving the sheriff's department.

According to Detective Sergeant David Crocker of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Drug Squad, most of those indicted are street dealers or a step higher and most are from Brunswick County.

Approximately 20 of the defendants were arrested Monday evening in a sweep involving approximately 30 officers. Their bonds were set at levels from \$500 to \$25,000 each.

Some of the persons charged were released on bond Monday night; first appearances and in some cases bond reduction hearings were scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday for others

still incarcerated, according to Detective Douglas "Sonny" Padgett. Charges range from sales and possession of marijuana, cocaine, LSD and crack to maintaining a dwelling or a vehicle for distribution of cocaine. There are eight charges of trafficking in cocaine, six charges of possession of LSD.

Seized were 14 dosage units of crack, a solid form of cocaine that is smoked.

According to Easley a "modest rise" in the possession of cocaine has been seen since the last undercover operation in February, "Operation Street."

Sheriff John Carr Davis also noted that the investigation revealed the new availability of LSD in the county. "We haven't had it in about three years and now we have this," he said. "We're not sure what it means."

The indictments resulted from a five-month undercover investigation conducted by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department with the assistance of the New Hanover-Wilmington drug and vice squad, the Columbus County Sheriff's Depart-

ment and the State Bureau of Investigation.

According to Sheriff Davis, the undercover work began in May and was completed in early October, when felony reports were turned over to the district attorney's office.

Davis said the project was conducted on a "limited" budget, with all participating agencies pooling funds as well as personnel in order to make the drug buys that led to Monday's arrests.

While begun as the second phase of "Operation Street," a multi-county effort to target street dealers, the investigation evolved into something bigger and more successful than the first phase of "Operation Street" had been this spring, according to Crocker and Davis.

"It was hard work and dangerous," added Davis.

According to Easley, this is the biggest undercover operation the department has been involved in.

Indictments (and initial bonds where known) are as follows:

- Philip Autwell, Leland, \$10,000, maintaining motor vehicle for sale of

marijuana, possession to sell and sale of 7.6 grams marijuana;

- Stoney Autwell, Leland, possession to sell and sale of 9.8 grams marijuana;

- James Berry, Navassa, \$25,000, possession to sell and sale of 18.6 grams marijuana and .74 grams cocaine and conspiracy to sell same; and possession to sell 1.26 grams cocaine;

- John D. Bryant, Route 1, Leland, maintaining a dwelling to sell cocaine (seven counts), possession to sell and sale of 1 gram of cocaine (six counts each), conspiracy to sell cocaine (one count), possession to sell and sale of 3 grams cocaine (one count each); manufacturing cocaine (one count);

- Teresa Forney, Route 1, Leland, on the basis of a search warrant, \$25,000, possession to sell four to five ounces of cocaine, manufacturing cocaine;

- Judy Carter, Leland, \$10,000, maintaining a dwelling to sell marijuana, possession to sell and sale of 6.2 grams marijuana;

- Roy Lee Carter Jr., Leland,

\$10,000, maintaining a dwelling to sell marijuana, possession to sell and sale of 6.2 grams of marijuana;

- Mike Curtis, Leland, \$10,000, possession to sell and sale of 11.7 grams of marijuana;

- Terry Darcy, Wilmington, possession to sell and sale of 10.7 grams marijuana;

- Terry Evans, Supply, maintaining a motor vehicle to sell marijuana, possession to sell and sale of 28 grams of marijuana;

- William Sanford Fetty, Leland,

\$10,000, manufacture of marijuana; •Gerald Floyd, Southport, manufacture marijuana;

- Lester Fuller, Leland, \$11,000, possession to sell and sale of 28 grams marijuana;

- Eileen Gibson, Wilmington, maintaining a motor vehicle to sell marijuana (two counts); possession to sell and sale of 40.1 grams marijuana, 55.7 grams marijuana, 56 grams marijuana;

- Maronna Hunt, Lake Waccamaw, (See JURY, Page 2-A)

It's Time To Adjust Clocks

Spring forward, fall back. Once again, it's time to remember that useful catch phrase, to gain an extra hour of sleep Sunday morning when daylight saving time comes to an end.

During the summer months, the sun rises earlier and sets later and there are more hours of daylight. If clocks are set ahead in the spring by one hour the sun will rise and set later in the day as measured by civil or standard times.

National year-long daylight saving time was adopted as a fuel-saving measure during the energy crisis of the winter of 1973-74. In late 1974, standard time was reinstated for the four-month period of winter with the fewest daylight hours.

Three Deaths Bring Highway Toll To 18

BY SUSAN USHER

Three deaths in two auto accidents this week brought the number of highway-related fatalities in Brunswick County to five for the month and 18 for the year to date.

At the end of October last year, the patrol had recorded 11 highway-related deaths in the county.

Two county men were killed Monday afternoon when a moving van crossed the center line and struck their car head-on, according to Trooper Joel Dove of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Killed in the 5:15 p.m. crash one-third mile north of Shallotte on U.S. 17 were Keith Delno Inman, 52, of Route 2, Shallotte, and Garland Houston Hale, 27, of Route 1, Supply. William C. Leisure, 44, of Indianapolis, Ind., driver of the tractor-trailer, was charged Friday night

with two counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle, careless and reckless driving and driving without an operator's license. According to Dove, Leisure has not had a license since 1983.

He was being held in the Brunswick County Jail on \$2,300 bond.

Inman and Hale, both mechanics for Jones Ford in Shallotte, were traveling north on U.S. 17, trying out a vehicle they had repaired when the truck, registered to North American Van Lines of Fort Wayne, Ind., and loaded with furniture, crossed the center line and struck their car head-on.

The officer said the truck was en route to Charleston, S.C.

According to Dove, Leisure said the sun was glaring in his eyes as he approached Shallotte at an estimated speed of 30 mph. He said he saw the car ahead of him stopping and had

applied his brakes when the truck crossed left of center. Dove said the truck left 70 feet of skid marks on the pavement before striking the auto.

Leisure and a passenger, Johnny White, 27, of Jacksonville, were treated and released from Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Both the truck, a 1979 GMC, and the auto, a 1986 Ford, were demolished, said Dove.

In a one-car accident Friday night on the Myrtle Head Road (S.R. 1335) near Exum, Tommy Warren Babson, 43, of Ash, died of massive head injuries after when his 1980 Toyota ran off the road. He was a longtime employee of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp.

Babson was traveling north on Myrtle Head Road at about 11:30 p.m. Friday when the accident occurred. The car went off the road onto the right shoulder, went out of con-

trol, spun sideways across the road and then went off the left shoulder and hit the side of a creek.

Trooper B.D. Barnhardt said the car became airborne across the creek and slammed into the bank on the opposite side. It fell back into the water with the right half partly submerged.

Babson's body was found Saturday about 8:30 a.m. after a passing motorist spotted the skid marks on the road and called the Highway Patrol.

The car was resting on the embankment, with the right side partly submerged. Babson was slumped over the console, with his head and shoulders submerged. His head had struck the windshield, said Barnhardt.

The trooper added that Babson had not had his seatbelt on.

Poe Is Teacher Of The Year

A classroom veteran was named Brunswick County's 1987-88 Teacher of the Year Friday following interviews in Southport.

Margaret Anne (Meg) Poe, a math teacher at South Brunswick High School, has been with the Brunswick County Schools for 13 years as a classroom teacher.

She was selected from nominees representing each school in the county. She will receive a plaque and \$1,000, of which \$500 must be used for professional development. She will also represent Brunswick County in District 13 competition.

According to Board of Education spokesman Jean Parker, judges said they had a difficult decision this year due to the strong credentials of the candidates.

Selection is based on a point system, with each candidate's application and interview weighted equally.

Mrs. Poe succeeds Betty Chaisson of Leland as Teacher of the Year.



MARGARET POE