

Sunshine Lures Crowds To Beaches For Holiday

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN
Rental agents were gleeful, shopkeepers glum in the aftermath of a Memorial Day weekend where sunshine reigned supreme across Brunswick County.

The experience of successful realtors was summed up by Pat Murray, co-owner of R.H. McLure Realty at Ocean Isle Beach.

"Did you have a busy weekend?" she was asked. "Yes!" she gasped. "We did," was the rest of her breathless reply. "I'm still out of breath from it. It was wild!"

Ocean Isle was the scene of considerable traffic and activity, with the beaches and restaurants particularly full. Police officer Timothy McGinn said, "It was the biggest weekend this year, but we had only one arrest for driving while impaired, and no other problems."

Although the parking lots were full, McGinn said, all beach accesses had available spaces.

The newly-opened Courtyard restaurant had a report similar to that of Ms. Murray. "It was crazy!" said manager Mary Ann McSee. "We had tremendous business, and needed to have been broken in easier than this." It was the first weekend the causeway restaurant had been open, with space for 120 diners and 40 persons in the lounge.

A different view of the holiday came from realtors who don't deal in rentals. "We can't complain, but our business wasn't as good as the restaurants," said "Tweet" Thompson of Causeway Realty.

That was echoed by Betty Pait, owner of First Choice Realty at Ocean Isle. "We don't handle rentals, so it wasn't much to brag about," she said of weekend business. "We had a few drop-ins and calls, but that's all."

Meanwhile, on Holden Beach, Alan Holden Realty was managing a capacity load of tenants. Diane Holden said, "We were booked heavily, with just a few open places in the dunes. There weren't many no-shows, either."

Holden's police officer Dennis Pickard said more people were on the island than last Memorial weekend. "We had a few parking problems at accessways, but nothing else," he observed.

Sunset Beach was variously described as "unusually quiet" by Chip Harrison of Odom Realty, and "having some reports of noise," by Town Administrator Linda Fleugel.

Harrison spoke of a carefree island weekend, the bridge functioning well, ("I never saw lines backed up,") and no parking complaints, despite the two free lots packed with cars.

Fleugel quoted police chief William Hill as saying officers went to one house on the island in response to a complaint about noise, and asked for quiet. "They got quiet right away," Fleugel reported.

As might be expected with such glorious beach weather, inland shops did not get the expected holiday rush of business.

"We didn't do so well," Doris Smith said of the Brunswick Village shops on U.S. 17 in Shallotte. "We didn't stay open on Sunday, but it was

slow for all of us the other days. People must have been at the beach."

The East Sing restaurant on Hwy. 130 in Shallotte had the same experience. "It was a better than normal weekend, but not as good as we'd hoped for," said employee Faye Pittman.

One exception to the dismal shopping picture was the Trendsetter dress shop in Twin Creek Plaza. "Saturday business was very good," said owner Vickie Arbidson. "I checked my records, and it was better than last year. There were lots of county residents in the shop, too."

A little farther from the lively beaches, some restaurants in Calabash proved once again why that's the seafood capitol of the world.

Rhoda Solano, assistant manager of Larry's Calabash Seafood Barn, declared his business was better than last year. "People were here from everywhere," he said.

Gift stores didn't fare quite so well. At Calabash Gallery of Fine Art and Framing, Rose Marcisyn said, "Saturday was busy, but Sunday and Monday were not." In explanation, she noted, "I saw lots of people in town Monday with sunburns."

Fun on the beach and the happy ring of cash registers was somewhat overshadowed by violence on the county highways.

From Shallotte's police department and the N.C. Highway Patrol came news of five accidents in the county and another five in Shallotte over the three-day weekend. (See accident story elsewhere.)



CATHY CARLISLE meets the press again, this time in a series of interviews with capital area affiliates of all major networks. While sharing her experiences as a

champion with two networks, she shucked oysters at the Governor's Guest House, where she and Chamber Executive Director Anne Marie Schettini stayed.

Carlisle Shucks Way To Capitol

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the U.S. national championship each year in St. Mary's County, Md.

Ms. Carlisle's road to the capital began back on Oct. 11, when she won the North Carolina Oyster Shucking Championship at Ocean Isle Beach.

She posted a time of 3:28 in that competition for shucking 24 oysters and arranging them attractively on a tray.

From there she went on to the na-

tional competition, where she shucked her way through the women's competition with a time of 2:44 and the finals with a time of 2:40:77, just ahead of second-place finisher Duke Landry of Louisiana. He clocked in at 2:41:33.

Ms. Carlisle has been making a living at oyster shucking since she was 17 years old, working at Milliken's Oyster House at Shallotte Point.

Cathy Carlisle will have her work cut out for her when she heads to Ireland in September. The United States has not won a world title in eight years. However, its competitors have never finished lower than fourth place.

The next month, she will be given the opportunity to defend her state title at the 1987 N.C. Oyster Festival, Oct. 10-11.

Budget Includes Tax Increase

(Continued From Page 1-A)

tions for the Sheriff's Department; a jail van (new); a forklift, frame hoist and replacement ¾-ton truck for Maintenance; replacement two-ton truck and van for Parks and Recreation; a district technician in the Soil and Water Conservation Office, funded 50 percent by the county; and a park maintenance specialist to do in-house carpentry and plumbing, funding and part-time help to maintain school athletic fields and to coordinate fitness classes for Parks and Recreation;

Also included for review is a proposed \$25,000 "incentive grant" to help communities get recreation facilities built using the county's "expertise and funds."

As for the general fund balance, commissioners were cautioned last week it would be better to build it gradually over several years up to 15 percent of the budget, to create a larger cushion for emergencies and meeting the budget during the months when few funds are collected.

If a large sum is used to supplement the next budget, the county in his opinion should freeze most spending until property tax revenues begin to come in.

Expenditures reflect an anticipated \$2.3 million increase in debt service payments, including the annual payment on the Brunswick Technical College bond issue; a 5 percent across the board pay increase for employees, \$1.5 million for lateral water line funding; \$450,000 to \$500,000 toward a four-year mapping project; \$28,000 for disability insurance for employees; and a 5 percent increase in the current expense budget for the schools and Brunswick Technical College as well as funding of the capital outlay request for the third year of the school system's four year plan.

If all were funded, budget requests represent a 75-cents tax rate, a memo from Ms. Hahn indicated.

Untouched in the budget document are requests from the health and social services departments, which are based on studies done at the commissioner's request.

These items include one public health nurse, two animal shelter employees, three sanitarians, a nutritionist, three eligibility specialists, one eligibility investigator and 1½ social workers, as well as a radio-equipped truck for the animal shelter and four cars for the social services department at a local cost of \$16,000, with the bulk to be paid by the state.

Installation of an enhanced 911 emergency communications system is not included in the working budget, the memo noted, because several steps must be taken first, such as road naming and house numbering and replacement of missing road signs, as well as installation of a new console for the sheriff's department telecommunications staff and compilation and maintenance of an accurate data base by trained staff.

"There's more to it than deciding today we want 911 and having it tomorrow," said Carter. Agreed Clegg, "You have to jump some hurdles first."

Also left out of the working budget are future convenience stations, bond refunding, major land purchases and the water budget, which should be ready soon.

As for community contributions' the document initially includes agencies aided last year and omits new requests. Allocations for fire and rescue units show no proposed increase, though support of units in Bald Head Village will be considered.

Commissioners also met for 40 minutes behind closed doors to discuss a contractual matter, with no action taken in public session.

Warm Dry, Spell Continues

Weather across the South Brunswick Islands should stay pretty much as is over the next few days, with temperatures near normal and rainfall below average.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the area can expect temperatures to range from the mid-60s at night into the mid-80s during the day, with less than a half-inch of precipitation.

"It's pretty much the same pattern," he noted. "Until it breaks I don't expect any general rainfall that would relieve the dry conditions in the topsoil."

For the period May 19-25, he recorded a maximum daily high of 85

degrees, which occurred on both the 23rd and 25th, and a minimum low of 61 degrees, which occurred on the morning of the 21st.

An average daily high of 83 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 65 degrees, for a daily average temperature of 74 degrees, which is about two degrees above normal.

At Shallotte Point, Canady recorded .22 inch of rainfall.



REP. DAVID REDWINE and Ms. Carlisle join South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce President

Alan Holden (right) in presenting 1987 N.C. Oyster Festival T-shirts to Gov. Martin.

Bullington To Reveal Candidacy Decision

Ocean Isle Beach Mayor LaDane Bullington will announce her decision today (Thursday) as to her entry into the 1988 race for North Carolina lieutenant-governor.

She recently told the Beacon she would end several months of speculation at the annual Mayor's Day event in Raleigh. "I think that's an appropriate time to announce what I'm going to do," she said.

Bullington said some time ago that she was considering the race, and has made weekly trips to Raleigh, to "explore the possibilities" with state officials and Democratic leaders.

Her father, Odell Williamson, said incumbent Lt. Governor Bob Jordan, expected to be a favorite in the gubernatorial race next year, had

recently told the family he had no plans to support another candidate for his present job. "We would not want to enter this if Bob Jordan was behind anyone else," Williamson said.

Mayors of all state municipalities are invited to visit the General Assembly on this date each year.

Mayors of Brunswick County towns who attend will eat lunch with Rep. E. David Redwine and Sen. R.C. Soles, and will have an opportunity to talk with these representatives.

A survey of towns in the south end of the county revealed Bullington will be the only mayor in this area participating in the event.

Bird Dog Is Pet Of Week

A nine-month-old male bird dog is among pets recommended this week by Zelma Babson, animal control supervisor for the Brunswick County Health Department.

Others are a white female kitten

and a small male German shepherd.

These and other animals can be seen at the animal shelter, just off Hwy. 211, from 8 a.m. till 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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