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STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS who competed in the World Oyster Opening Championship in Galway, Ireland Saturday are, from left, bottom row—Frank Baer of Norway, 9th; Cathy Carlisle of Brunswick County, USA, 8th; Peter Manzi of England, 6th; Josie Burke of Ireland,

World Champion; second row—Robert Schimer of Canada, 4th; Filadelfio Grasso of Switzerland, 5th; back row—Lennart Karlsson of Sweden, 2nd; Louis Rey of France, 3rd; and Walter Wolgast of Germany, 7th.

County's Champ Finishes Eighth In World Oyster Competition

BY EDDIE SWEATT AND CAROLYN SWEATT

"At least I didn't finish last," Cathy Carlisle grinned as results of the World Oyster Opening Championship were posted in Galway, Ireland Saturday afternoon.

The pretty 24-year-old blonde from Brunswick County finished eighth in a field of nine national champions in international competition, opening 30 oysters in 3:34 minutes, an average of one every 7.13 seconds.

The world championship was won, for the third time, by Ireland's own Josie Burke, who shucked an oyster every 5.03 seconds to post a time of 2:31. Burke, whose family owns an oyster house near Galway, won the world championship in 1974, 1984, and made another comeback this year.

Although Norway's champion, Frank Baer, finished 15 seconds faster than Ms. Carlisle, he lost 59 seconds in penalties to finish at the bottom, with an adjusted time of 4:18, compared to Mrs. Carlisle's 4:01, which included only 27 seconds in penalties.

The defending world champion from last year, England's Peter Manzi, finished in sixth place this year with an adjusted time of 3:18, just 43 seconds faster than Mrs. Carlisle's adjusted eighth-place time.

Mrs. Carlisle was just 57 seconds behind the fourth-place finisher, Robert Schimer, Canada's national champion, who she defeated last year in Maryland during the U.S. National

Oyster Shucking Contest when he was representing the state of Washington.

And, while Mrs. Carlisle, the only female national champion, may not have opened oysters quite as fast as seven of the other competitors, the hearts of festival-goers opened to the Boone's Neck woman who has shucked oysters for the past seven years at Lloyd Milliken's Oyster House at Shallotte Point.

She was definitely a favorite of the audience and the toast of the 33rd consecutive Galway International Oyster Festival.

Mrs. Carlisle won the U.S. national championship last fall in Leonardtown, Maryland, where she shucked and arranged 24 oysters in 2:40.77 minutes. The Leonardtown Rotary Club, which sponsors the annual national championship, pays the winner's expenses to the international contest in Ireland.

She became eligible for the national championship after claiming the state title during the 1986 North Carolina Oyster Festival sponsored annually here by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Her accomplishments in national competition won her recognition last May in Raleigh from Gov. James G. Martin and state representatives, including Rep. E. David Redwine, at the capitol.

The fanfare at Raleigh paled, however, in comparison to the festival in Ireland last week when Mrs. Carlisle and other national champions were winned, dined, paraded and interviewed.

Ireland was not the only thing foreign to Mrs. Carlisle, who said the Galway oysters used in the international competition are vastly different from those she is accustomed to shucking locally. The Galway oyster is smaller and tougher to open, the champion says.

Arriving in Ireland on Tuesday before Saturday's competition, she had several chances to practice opening the "foreign" oysters, and was coached by the young Irishman who won the world title for the third time, and last year's national Irish champion who has competed for 14 years.

Mrs. Carlisle is accustomed to shucking oysters by prying them open at the "hinge" side. She was advised to open the smaller Galway oyster at the "lip" or thin side, but had difficulty adapting to this method since it is more apt to break or shatter the shell, she noted.

One of her coaches ground the blade of an oyster knife to a sharper, thinner point to make it easier to open the opposite side, but Mrs. Carlisle decided to stay with her own style.

That style, while perhaps slower, apparently is neater. Since the presentation of the platter of oysters is important in scoring, she lost less in penalties for broken shells than did five other contestants.

The 1987 Galway International Oyster Festival got underway Thursday night and Mrs. Carlisle watched as contestants in the Irish Oyster Opening Championship competed

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Commission Delays Water Policy Decision

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County Commissioners delayed action Monday on a proposed policy that if adopted would change the county's direction in supplying water service to new subdivisions.

The commissioners, who met last Wednesday with the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board, had indicated they would take action on the policy when they continued that meeting until Monday.

The proposed policy, drafted by Commissioner Chris Chappell and County Attorney David Clegg, first would affect the Lockwood Folly subdivision in the Holden Beach-Varnumtown area, which has requested water service.

Commissioners Monday night tabled discussion of the Lockwood Folly water project after Commissioner Benny Ludlum questioned whether or not Lockwood Folly intended to eventually dedicate its water lines to the county system.

However, UOB Administrator John Harvey told commissioners that Lockwood Folly had informed the UOB in June that the subdivision's five miles of water lines would be given to the county.

Also, Water System Manager Kenneth Hewett said Lockwood Folly's state permit application indicates that the water lines would be dedicated to the county system.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon made the motion to table the matter until the county board's Oct 5 regular meeting. Commission Chairman Grace Beasley said Lockwood Folly representatives would be given the opportunity to appear at that meeting to explain the subdivision's intentions.

If the "rough draft" policy proposed by commissioners is approved, the county and the developer of Lockwood Folly would each pay roughly half the cost of running water lines the 1.6 miles to the entrance road to the subdivision. The county would then allow Lockwood Folly to reclaim its costs through free connections to the subdivision water system.

According to Chappell, the proposed policy, which in effect underwrites the cost of extending water lines to a major subdivision, could also apply to future extensions, to "get the most

use for our water and get some lines in the ground."

The UOB earlier went on record opposing the commissioners' proposal, which was presented to the utilities board for comment at its Sept. 14 meeting.

The UOB, in turn, recommended to commissioners that the county board adopt a policy similar to its original special assessment district policy. The UOB asked that the county require the developer to pay the maximum six-inch line assessment for property owners along the extension who would not be assessed under the terms of the commission proposal.

At a Sept. 23 joint meeting, UOB Chairman Robert Nubel outlined that proposal and several other policy options for commissioners. He termed the commissioners' proposal the "least desirable" alternative.

Nubel said the UOB's main concerns about the commission proposal were the need for "fairness" in assessing for water line installations and that the county's revolving fund would not be replenished for future water projects.

Ms. Beasley emphasized that her board's proposal was simply a "rough draft" and that "it was not something that was carved in stone."

Also, Ms. Beasley, Chappell and Clegg all reiterated that the policy draft had not been previously discussed in executive session by the commissioners, despite indications in UOB meeting minutes that the draft was given to Harvey "from a county commission meeting" on Sept. 14.

Clegg said the proposed policy was distributed to commission members at the end of the meeting, and that there was no discussion of the draft.

Also at the Sept. 28 joint meeting, commissioners accepted detailed plans and specifications for water projects planned for special assessment districts No. 1 and No. 2, and authorized the county staff to submit the material to the state for review.

S.A.D. No. 1 is located in the North Holden Beach area; S.A.D. No. 2 is located in the Brick Landing Plantation and Bent Tree Plantation area.

Harvey told commissioners that the projects should be ready to begin by mid-November.

Calabash Council To Stagger Terms

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Town Council Monday unanimously approved an ordinance amending the town charter to create staggered four-year terms for council and the mayor.

The ordinance will first take effect following the 1989 municipal election. At that time, the three elected council members receiving the fewest

number of votes will initially serve a two-year term.

The next election for these three seats will be in 1991. Thereafter, these three seats will be up for election every four years.

The two elected council members receiving the highest number of votes during the 1989 election and the

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HEARING SET OCT. 5

Beach Access, County Zoning Among Policies Supported In CAMA Plan

BY RAHN ADAMS

"Brunswick County supports the current growth trend being experienced and, to the extent possible, will plan for and accommodate future growth while simultaneously maintaining and improving the quality of life for current and future residents."

That is the "over-riding theme" of Brunswick County's proposed Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan, which citizens will have the opportunity to comment on during a public hearing Oct. 5 at 7:30 in Bolivia.

The most significant changes from past plans are policy statements supporting beach access programs and countywide zoning.

According to Brunswick County Planning Director John Harvey, it is an "excellent plan"—one that planning officials don't expect will draw the same criticism as did an earlier draft submitted to the state last year.

The current CAMA draft was prepared by the Brunswick County Planning Board, with technical assistance from the Brunswick County Planning Department and planning consulting firm Edward D. Stone Jr. and Associates of Wilmington.

The land use plan, which must be updated every five years, is intended to deal with projected land use needs and potential related problems facing Brunswick County, which is identified as the second fastest growing county in the state next to Dare County.

According to population growth estimates outlined in the plan, Brunswick County's current population of more than 51,000 will increase to 75,500 by the year 2000 and to 96,000 in 2010.

But the land use plan in itself has been something of a problem in receiving approval from the Coastal Resources Commission (CRC).

According to Harvey, an original

draft of the county's CAMA plan, which was submitted to the CRC last September, was "sent back for more citizen input."

As a result, work on the revised draft included public hearings held May 11 through 14 at the Leland Community Center, South Brunswick High School, West Brunswick High School and the Brunswick County Government Complex.

Public workshops previously were held in November 1985 in the Northwest, Lockwood Folly, Town Creek, Smithville, Waccamaw and Shallotte townships. A total of 77 persons attended those workshops.

Harvey says he doesn't expect the current "public hearing draft" of the proposed CAMA plan to attract as much attention as previous updates.

He said approximately 500 people appeared at a public hearing on the 1980-81 plan, with main topics of concern being urban growth and the possibility of an oil refinery being located on the Cape Fear River.

"Through all the workshops and hearings (on the current update), the public has not shown the interest that they had in the 1980-81 update," Harvey said. "Far fewer people have shown up at the public hearings."

County commissioners and planning board members participated in special work sessions last month, to iron out details of the draft. During those sessions, planning consultants Glenn Harbeck and Barry Griffith emphasized the draft's policy section.

"The policy section is the section that people outside Brunswick County are going to be really looking at," Harbeck told county officials.

Earlier this month, copies of the public hearing draft were distributed to the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, 14 local municipalities, Wilmington and neighboring counties including Columbus, New Hanover and Horry County, S.C.

Harvey said last week he has received no comments "of substance" on the proposed plan from any other governmental bodies.

During a special joint work session last month with planning board members, Brunswick County Commissioners voiced no opposition to any specific parts of the CAMA plan, including inclusion for the first time of a policy which supports county participation in state beach access programs.

The proposed policy states: "Brunswick County supports and encourages efforts to provide reasonable public access to the beaches and coastal waterfronts."

However, the policy does not specify that the county participate in the beach access programs with financial support.

Commission Chairman Grace Beasley said following the work session that she did not comment on the beach access policy since she knew the commission would be getting

public input on it at the upcoming hearing.

"When it's their (the public's) tax dollars you're spending, they have the right to give their input and have it heard," Mrs. Beasley said last month.

She added that county involvement in future beach access programs would be considered on an individual basis, with cost as a determining factor.

Work sessions last month also yielded suggested changes in the CAMA plan including: creation of separate policies relating to marinas and floating homes, to discourage the location of floating homes in Brunswick County; deletion of the term "floating zone" in another policy, to avoid the inference that creation of floating zones is supported here; and addition of a policy to encourage the eventual construction of underground utilities in the county.