

## Grill/Barbecue The Bird

Mild weather frequently gives South Brunswick Islands residents the option of cooking their holiday bird outdoors.

A 12-pound unstuffed turkey will require about three hours' cooking time in a charcoal covered kettle grill. The result: a succulent barbecued turkey on grill with a mild smoky flavor and pink meat just under the skin.

For a 22-inch grill, use 25 to 30 briquettes on each lengthwise side of drip pan. Drip pan should be larger than turkey.

Burn coals to gray ash, about 30 minutes. Place rack in grill with handles over coals. Insert meat thermometer deep into turkey thigh next to body, not touching bone. Brush skin with oil. Place turkey on top rack over drip pan. Cover. Leave vents open. Add five to eight briquettes to each side every hour to maintain 325 degrees. Cook to 180 degrees or 185 degrees in thigh.

Other cuts: Cook bone-in breast to 170 degrees in thickest part of breast. Cook boneless breast/turkey to 170 to 175 degrees in center of roast.

## Shelter Offers Lab/Chow Pups

A variety of pets are up for adoption this week at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter.

Recommended are two female Labrador retriever/chow pups, a male short-haired kitten and a female small mixed breed dog.

The lab/chow pups are black, about three months old and playful. The kitten is domesticated, is orange

stripe and is very loving, while the small dog is brown with a black tint, about one year old. "Misty" has had some of her shots and is described as very loving.

These and other animals can be seen Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Brunswick County Animal Shelter, of N.C. 211 south of Supply.

## Temperatures, Rainfall Should Be Near Normal

Near normal weather is expected over the next few days in the Shallotte area, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady said the area can expect temperatures to range from the upper 30s at night to the upper 50s during the day.

Rainfall should measure about one-half inch.

For the period of Dec. 8 through 14, the average daily temperature of 53 degrees was six degrees above normal, Canady said.

The average daily high temperature during the period was 65 degrees, and the average nightly low temperature was 42 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 72 degrees on Dec. 9, while the minimum low temperature was 32 degrees on Dec. 14.

Canady measured .11 of an inch of rainfall during the period.

## Barbeque Scheduled

Calabash Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a pork barbeque dinner Saturday, Dec. 19, starting at 11 a.m., at the Calabash Fire Station.

Price is \$3.75 per plate. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the fire department.

## Scrap Lumber On Sale Today

A special sale of scrap lumber damage is planned Dec. 17 (today) at the U.S. Army's Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The wood will sell for \$20 per cord, indicated Myrtle D. Meade, public affairs officer.

## Long Beach Voters Drop Proposed Election Appeal

BY DOUG RUTTER

A proposed appeal of a Brunswick County Board of Elections decision to dismiss complaints concerning the Nov. 3 election at Long Beach was dropped last week.

According to Tom Heller, a Yaupon Beach attorney who represented the 11 voters who had previously filed notice of appeal with the county board, "It was the general consensus of my clients that it would be in the best interest of the town to drop the appeal."

The Long Beach election initially drew 76 complaints concerning a period of time when there were no ballots at the polls.

On Nov. 19, the county board of elections conducted a fact-finding hearing and dismissed the complaints, concluding that the outcome of the election was not affected.

Heller, who also represented 58 voters at the hearing, said, "I think it was a fair hearing. I believe the county board honestly deliberated and came to a conclusion that they thought was right."

H. Michael Oxford, who lost the mayoral race to incumbent John W. Vereen III by 10 votes, was the only candidate who had filed a notice of appeal.

He said of the hearing, "The county board was very receptive. They wanted to hear the facts. They were just not convinced that the violations of law were enough to change the outcome of the election."

State law requires that polls be open for 13 hours and that the board of elections supply ballots totaling 105 percent of the town's registered voters.

A county Board of Elections report entitled "Finding of Facts and Conclusions of Law" was sent to the state board of elections Dec. 4. Heller said he received the report Dec. 7.

Despite the fact that the publication of the report coincided with the decision to drop the appeal, Heller said there was no connection between the two.

Heller explained that he hadn't even read the county report when the decision was made to discontinue the appeal.

"That really wasn't the basis for the decision," he said. "At the time of the decision to drop the appeal, the written findings weren't even discussed."

He said one aspect which was taken into consideration in dropping the appeal was the fact that his clients wanted to get the operations of the town "back to normal."

"We certainly could not be sure what the outcome would have been at the state level," explained Heller. "No one wanted to see it dragged out. It was a divisive issue, and my clients just wanted to see the candidates sworn in at the normal time."

And after more than a month of speculation that a new election may have to be held, newly-elected commissioners Kevin Bell, David Drum-

mond and Jean Gray were scheduled to be sworn in along with Vereen at Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. town board meeting.

According to Bell, who filed one of the 76 original complaints with the county, "I'm glad it's all over with. I'm looking forward to Long Beach becoming a community again."

If there had been an appeal to the state, the board could have either dismissed the appeal, called for another hearing or simply called for another election.

Johnnie McLean of the state office said that the four-member board might have called for another hearing or election if evidence was presented demonstrating that "irregularities were sufficient enough that it could have caused the outcome

of the election to be different."

Even if the appeal had been dismissed by the state board, she added, it could still have been appealed to the Wake County Superior Court where the state board is located.

Heller explained that before the appeal had been dropped, complainants had located voters who could have provided additional evidence at the state level if it had been needed.

"We would have been able to present more evidence than we did at the local hearing," he said, "but whether that would have been enough to overrule the county decision, I don't know."

Oxford concluded, "I believe the board of elections made an honest mistake. I just hope it never happens again."

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