



J.V. AND AVA LEE CARLISLE (right) of the Holden Beach area are among local residents taking advantage of free income tax assistance offered through American Association of Retired Persons Tax Aide Program volunteers like John Arnold.

Trained Volunteers Provide Help Preparing Tax Returns

Sixteen volunteers trained by the Internal Revenue Service are offering free income tax assistance at three locations across Brunswick County. They are volunteers in the Tax Aide Program sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Local program coordinator Dan Beddard said free assistance was provided to 610 county residents last year in the form of answering questions, checking returns prepared by individuals and complete preparation of individual returns. While helping the elderly is the program's top priority, said Beddard, "We are instructed to help anybody who comes in the door." So far turnout has been "real good" this year, but volunteers could be even busier.

Volunteers are available according to this schedule:
 ■Shalotte National Guard Armory: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.;
 ■Brunswick Community College Campus Interagency Building: Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., by appointment only. Call Debbie Bryant, 754-6900, Ext. 400; and
 ■Southport Public Library: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
 Persons wishing to use this free service should bring with them copies of their previous year's federal and state returns and forms for the current tax year, including W-2s and other relevant records and materials showing income for the year.
 For more information contact Beddard at 919-278-4242 or Larry Nielsen at 845-2121.

WRECK REPORT

Driver Charged In Single Vehicle Accident Saturday

A driver involved in a one-vehicle accident early Saturday near Holden Beach was charged with a stop sign violation, driving while impaired and driving while his license was revoked, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

Gary Dean Small, 27, of Shallotte, was driving a 1983 Datsun truck on Boone's Neck Road (S.R. 1137) 4.7 miles west of Holden Beach Saturday at 12:04 a.m. when he ran a stop sign and crossed Seashore Road (S.R. 1139) and struck a ditchbank on the far side, according to the report filed by Trooper C.E. Ward.

Damage to the truck was estimated at \$1,400.

Small was injured but did not seek medical treatment.

In another one-vehicle accident Saturday, a vehicle lost the boat and trailer it was towing, with property damage in excess of \$35,000. No injuries were reported and no charges were filed in the incident, which was investigated by Trooper R.L. Murray.

At approximately 12:45 p.m. James Allen Golden, 43, of Wilmington was driving a 1976 Chevrolet truck, towing a boat and trailer, on N.C. 133 about 2.9 miles north of Yaupon Beach. The trailer came loose from the vehicle, rolled off the road onto the right shoulder and into the ditch. The boat then came off the trailer, slid across a driveway and struck a utility pole, Murray reported.

Multiple injuries were reported in a two-car accident that happened Monday Feb. 22, at 8:20 p.m. west of Grissetown on N. 904 at its intersection with Etheridge Road (S.R. 1308).

James Stevenson, 36, of Route 2, Supply, was driving west on N.C. 904 in a 1983 Nissan when he attempted to turn left onto Etheridge Road, failing to yield the right of way to an eastbound 1984 Ford station wagon operated by Donna Byro, 26, of Shallotte, reported Trooper J.H. Kerr. Byro's car struck Stevenson's car in the right passenger door.

Stevenson's Nissan overturned in the southeast corner of the intersection, while Byro's car spun around and then came to rest in the roadway.

Damages to the Stevenson auto were estimated at \$3,900, and to the Byro car, \$5,000.

Stevenson complained of injuries, and a passenger in his vehicle, Nathaniel Mitchell, 47, of Supply, was seriously injured and transported to The Brunswick Hospital at Supply. Mrs. Byro was listed as receiving serious, non-incapacitating injuries, as were her three passengers, James Byro, 33; Stephanie Byro, 4; and Brittany Byro, 3, all of Shallotte. Stevenson was charged by Kerr with driving while impaired, careless and reckless driving and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Sunset Chips In To Determine Value of Carolina Blythe Plant

BY LYNN CARLSON
 Sunset Beach Town Council has unanimously agreed to pay its half of the \$3,000 tab for a Raleigh public accountant to determine the dollar value of the Carolina Blythe sewer system to the newly-formed South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority.

However, Sunset Beach officials will not be asked to approve a negotiating contract shot down by the Calabash town board last week after the same accountant was accused of having overcharged the towns for an earlier study.

Purchase of the Carolina Blythe system, whose owners are asking \$4.5 million, is crucial to the first phase of the proposed joint sewer project for Sunset Beach and Calabash.

"We feel it is best to drop the negotiating and let (accountant George Denis) proceed with the value of the plant," said engineer Jim Billups. Billups defended an earlier Denis study which cost the two towns \$9,000 to establish how much a private utility might pay for Carolina Blythe, the Florence, S.C., company which currently provides central sewer service to Carolina Shores and other areas near Calabash.

Jack Brady, former Carolina Shores Property Owners Association, last week criticized the Denis report before the Calabash Board of Commissioners, claiming that nearly all the information in Denis' recent rate-base analysis of the Carolina Blythe sewage treatment company was pulled directly from reports available from the N.C. Public Utilities Company.

"Mr. Brady made assumptions that can't be borne out by fact," Billups told the Sunset Beach board.

Denis had asked for a negotiating contract under which he would have received a commission of three percent of the difference between the final negotiated purchase price and Carolina Blythe's initial asking price of \$4.5 million.

The Calabash board last week refused to authorize Denis to negotiate a purchase or to approve his requested commission.

The Denis rate-base analysis determined that the sewer system would be worth about \$1.5 million

to another private utility company. However, the engineers say Carolina Blythe would be worth more to a public entity such as the joint sewer authority formed by Sunset Beach and Calabash.

Under public ownership, the authority would not have to pay taxes or make a profit. It would probably cost the towns much more to build its own initial system than to purchase Carolina Blythe, the engineers say.

One citizen at the Sunset Beach board meeting urged the engineers to hurry up with substantiation of their estimated \$18 monthly per household and \$1,000 hookup cost for the sewer system.

Minnie Hunt, a former council member and an officer of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, said, "I want to know that there's a true economic basis for that figure."

Billups did not say when the documentation would be released. However, Mayor Mason Barber said, "You'll get it as soon as we get it."

Hunt criticized council for turning her questions over to the engineers. "I'd like to think my council members understand this, and not just their consultants."

SIX HEARINGS SET
 Six public hearings will be on the

agenda for the Sunset Beach Town Council at a special meeting Monday, March 15.

On that date, the board will hear comment on the town's proposed Coastal Area Management Act land use plan update and five proposed revisions and clarifications of the town's subdivision and zoning ordinances.

The ordinance changes set forth site development plan requirements for commercial or professional property in some zones, define the "sight visibility triangle" required at street intersections, set minimum parking requirements for businesses, clarify stormwater control regulations for parcels of less than one acre and state the permitted commercial uses of golf courses.

Winnabow VFD To Serve Barbecue

Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department will be serving barbecue on Saturday, March 6, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Plates will consist of pork barbecue, potato salad, coleslaw and hush puppies. Cost will be \$3 per plate, or \$4.50 for a "super plate."

The department is on Governor's Road off U.S. 17 in Winnabow.

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