

# Democrats Hold Uneventful Convention

BY ERIC CARLSON

There were plenty of handshakes, campaign promises and pep talks, but no open disagreements Saturday afternoon as the Brunswick County Democratic Party met for its annual convention in Bolivia.

Party Chairman Roney Cheers told the gathering that he was "a little disheartened" to see a number of precincts not represented, but was otherwise pleased with the outcome.

During the business meeting, Moses Stanley was elected third vice president as a replacement for Leo Hewett, who died last year.

The members selected 37 delegates to the Democratic Party District Convention on May 14 at Bladen Community College and the state party convention in Raleigh on June 11.

Democrats declined to endorse a resolution repealing the law that allows convicted criminals to choose imprisonment instead of probation at the time of sentencing.

Rep. David Redwine told the group that defendants frequently take advantage of early release policies in the overcrowded prison system to avoid lengthy probation periods. The bill now under consideration in the N.C. House of Representatives would also require that criminals who choose a prison sentence would lose their drivers license and any occupational licenses, Redwine said.

Keynote speaker for the event was Stan Smith, former pastor of the Camp United Methodist Church and a self-described "lifelong Democrat" who reviewed the accomplishments of his party's past leaders and told the group to uphold the principals for which they stood.

"I remember the words of George Bernard Shaw that Sen. Robert Kennedy used to use in his stump speech," Smith said. "You see things



**RONY CHEERS**, chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party, addresses the group's annual convention on Bolivia Saturday afternoon.

as they are and ask, 'Why?' I dream things that never were and say, 'Why not?' Those words are the hallmark of the Democratic Party."

Beginning with President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs, Smith said Democratic presidents have continually upheld those

traditions. As examples, he cited President John Kennedy's dream of putting a man on the moon and President Lyndon Johnson's civil rights efforts and "Great Society" programs.

Smith praised President Jimmy Carter for beginning the Mideast peace process and strengthening relations with China.

"Now we have another Southern Democrat in the White House who inherited domestic chaos and a health care system in crisis and is doing his best to address those problems," Smith said. "He belongs in a long line of Democratic leaders who have asked, 'Why not?'"

Smith urged fellow Democrats to build on the party's strengths, "to uplift the less fortunate" and to support programs aimed at improving health care, education and the status of elderly Americans.

"We all need to look around us and see what needs to be done and ask ourselves, 'Why not?'" Smith said.

Several candidates seeking the Democratic Party's endorsement in the May 3 primaries spoke to the convention, including sheriff candidates Jerry Dove, Ronald Hewett and John Marlow; Don Warren and Randy Stanley, District 1 county commissioner; Tom Rabon Sr. and Tom Simmons, District 4 commissioner; Michael Ballard and Bill Sue, District 5 commissioner; and school board candidates Bud Thorsen, District 1; Clara Carter and Polly Russ, District 2; and Donna Baxter, District 4.

Also appealing for support were District Court Judge Candidates Tom Aldridge and Wayne Long and State Senate candidate Ron Taylor.

The convention observed a moment of silence for Kathryn Yelton, the wife of County Manager Wyman Yelton, who was killed in an Easter Sunday automobile wreck on Interstate 40 in Durham.

It was announced that the total number of registered voters in Brunswick County stood at 32,131, including 18,558 Democrats, 11,244 Republicans, 2,318 unaffiliated and 11 Libertarians.

## Letter Carriers Food Drive To Benefit Needy

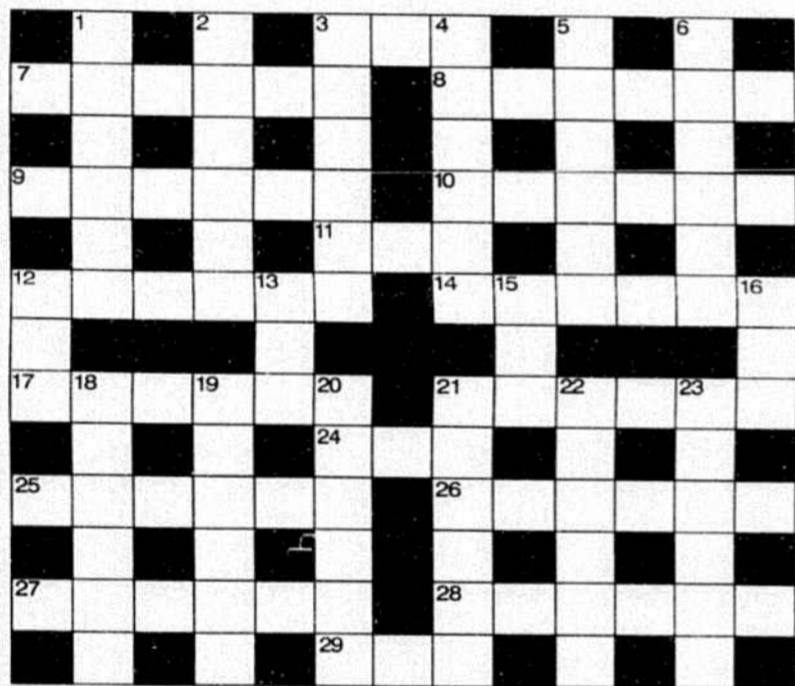
City and rural carriers in the "284" postal code areas will hold a food drive on Saturday, May 14, to benefit the Food Bank of Coastal Carolina.

The drive is a joint effort of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, the U.S. Postal Service, the AFL-CIO and United Way.

Letter carriers will pick up non-perishable food donations left beside mailboxes as they deliver the mail. The food will be given to the food bank in Wilmington to help families in need throughout the area. The letter carriers will be assisted by students at UNC-W.

The drive will be conducted simultaneously across the country by the National Association of Letter Carriers.

## WEEKLY CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- 3. Toothed wheel
- 7. Opportunity
- 8. Complied
- 9. Pious
- 10. Release
- 11. Regret
- 12. Efface
- 14. Irskome
- 17. Vibration
- 21. Roadway
- 24. And so forth
- 25. Motionless
- 26. Chef formula
- 27. Talented
- 28. Enroll
- 29. Clamor

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Joke
- 2. Chant
- 3. Middle
- 4. Tumbler
- 5. Guard
- 6. Comeback
- 12. Speck
- 13. Also
- 15. Erode
- 16. Obtain
- 18. Vibrate
- 19. Reason
- 20. Disc
- 21. Shelter
- 22. Recollect
- 23. Reveal

(Answers are on Page 6-C)

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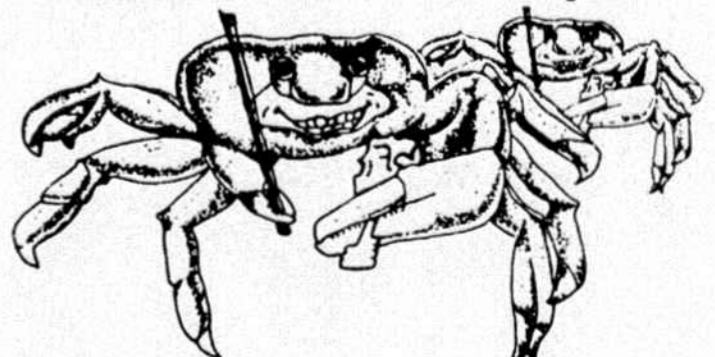
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