

Golf Course Opens

Earl Heffner, golf writer and former Beacon staffer, returned to Brunswick County to play and write about the new course, Sea Trail Golf Links at Sunset Beach. His stories trace the development and construction of the course, give tips on how to play it, introduce personnel and conclude with a personal opinion column. The pictures and stories are included in the special souvenir Section C of this issue.

Townpeople Go To Polls Tuesday

Voters go to the polls in all but one Brunswick County town Tuesday, with polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Residents of two special districts—Leland Sanitary District and the J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital Tax District—will also vote. Across the county, candidates are seeking a total of 55 seats. In four towns, the entire slate of candidates is running unopposed, while mayors of seven towns have no opposition. The mayor of one beach town will be chosen from within the governing board's membership following the election. Mayor's races exist in Shallotte, Long Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes only. Election coverage begins on Page 1-A and continues inside Section A.

Festival Is Fun

The annual N.C. Festival by the Sea at Holden Beach this past weekend drew record crowds. Stories and pictures of the events are in Section B of this issue:

- Sand sculpture contest winners 4-B
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- Festival by the Sea parade pictures 16-B

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Wallace Martin, state beach access program coordinator Julie Shambaugh and Rep. David Redwine joined Ed and Dinah Gore of

Sunset Beach Monday at the site of the proposed public access area.

Sunset's Gore Renews Offer Of Parking Area

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach developer and Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Gore renewed his efforts Monday to persuade the town to accept a gift of 35 acres of oceanfront property near Madd Inlet for public parking and beach access.

With various media on hand at the town hall Monday, he announced the outright donation of the property—and noted he understands applications from the town for beach access funds would be viewed favorably by the state.

"It won't solve all the town's parking needs," Gore acknowledged, "but it's a first step in that direction."

Gore had offered the property to the town before, in spring 1984, only to be turned down for a variety of reasons. "I hope this time it will move forward."

Monday Mayor Jim Gordon was on hand to lend his endorsement to the proposal, saying, "I'm interested in anything that will improve the town." Both Gordon and Gore are seeking re-election to public office next Tuesday. Beach access, parking and similar demands related to growth are issues brought up repeatedly in the past year.

The proposed access area makes up about 1,600 feet of oceanfront on the west end. Without disturbing a high ridge of vegetated frontal dunes, 30 percent or more of the tract could be used to provide parking for 200 or more cars, estimated Gore and Julie Shambaugh, public beach access program coordinator for the N.C. Office of Coastal Management, N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Development could also include picnicking sites, showers, restrooms and similar amenities.

Access Costly
Access would be costly regardless of how it is provided. A number of op-

tions exist—including a causeway or bridge over the edge of Madd Inlet or a road from a nearby beach access cutting in front of several existing houses. The town anticipates obtaining funding assistance from transportation and recreation programs as well as the state's beach access program, Town Manager Wallace Martin said.

"We're excited that the town and Ed Gore are willing to do this," said Shambaugh. "We like seeing agencies work together."

"I'd like to see the community work together with other agencies in developing it. Donations of supplies from other businesses and support from community groups would help to bring the cost down of an already popular project."

The only factor that might limit the project's development would be lack of community interest, she said.

Gore renewed his offer of the property after getting a call from Rep. David Redwine.

"I had been reading this stuff in the paper," said Redwine, "and I knew something wasn't right. So I called Ed to talk it over. I said, 'If you can do this, we (the state) can do this.'"

Coastal Problem
Sunset's problem is one shared by growing communities all along the coast. As the island and surrounding area becomes more intensely developed, the space available for parking by both residents of the town, nearby "day" visitors and tourists becomes more limited as demand spirals.

Objections
Gore and Gordon agreed that not all property owners would approve of the project, but that the benefits would outweigh that.

Objections would also be nothing new.

A committee appointed by the town to study the parking situation more than a year ago cited increasing demand as one reason for not accepting Gore's offer. The committee was composed of Councilman Donald Safrin, Town Manager Wallace Martin and Sunset Beach Taxpayers' Association Vice-President Warren

"Bud" Knapp. When they reported on June 25, 1984, the committee recommended not accepting Gore's offer, but offered no alternative solution. Another member was added, attorney Mason Anderson, and the board was to report back later.

The committee basically said the problem of parking and access for users from outside the town is one that should have been addressed in the state's long-range planning rather than by the town. If the town provided parking, it suggested, the spaces would immediately fill up and the town would be faced with adding more.

Committee members were concerned about beach parking being available to mainland town residents. One member, Knapp, recommended issuance of stickers for a town-leased parking lot.

When he was president of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, John McCarthy told the board the organization opposed use of town financing in provision of parking lots because it would "further destroy the beach" and increase traffic. Members have also expressed concern about construction in the dune area.

Gore's offer was also publicly questioned by beach developer Al Odom. In June 1984 he wrote then Mayor Frances Kanoy that Gore's offer "would appear to be an effort to have the town provide the money to construct a bridge across Madd Inlet to the property" to provide access to "another eight to 12 front row lots for Ed Gore to sell."

Designated uses for the land include parking and a public swimming pool but no traditional private development.

When the offer was first tendered, a check with the region's Coastal Area Management Act field officer suggested permits could possibly be obtained to develop public parking.

Parking Banned
The parking problem at Sunset Beach looms large currently partly

(See GORE, Page 2-A)

TWO SEEK MAYOR'S POST

Seven Compete For Two Shallotte Board Seats

BY SUSAN USHER

Seven candidates, including one incumbent, are seeking the two available seats on the Shallotte Board of Aldermen.

They are Michael J. Arnold, Gary A. Cheers, Joseph "Yankee" Ebright, Alderman Paul Wayne Reeves, Danny Roden, Sarah L. Tripp and Charles W. Williams.

A newcomer to local politics, but not local civic affairs, Frankie L. Bennett, joins Alderman Jerry Jones in seeking the job of mayor long held by Beamon Hewett, who did not file for re-election.

"I want to see the government turned back over to the people," Ben-

nett said. "It seems one man in the past has run the town."

There needs to be more clean-up of trash along the streets and repair of potholes—things he called small but important details—and the management of the town "could be better than what it is," he said.

"I'm not sure a city manager is the answer; I don't know if the town can afford it. But that could be one way of tightening up on the reins," he said.

Bennett, 57, and a Shallotte native, is retired from manufacturing coin-handling machines of his own design, but works part-time with his son's business, Seaworthy Systems. He graduated from Georgetown Univer-

sity in Washington, D.C., with a degree in mechanical engineering, spent four years in the U.S. Navy, and is active in the Brunswick County Shrine Club. He was 1984 president of the South Atlantic Mini Motors Association.

Jones, 40, said his four year's experience as aldermen should qualify him to handle the job of mayor. He wants to continue building on some existing projects—such as expansion of the wastewater treatment plant capacity and working with the state on the bypass and U.S. 17—and to look at some new projects.

He would like to see sidewalks ex-

(See SEVEN, Page 2-A)

Davis Wins Three-Way Race For ATMC Director

BY SUSAN USHER

By a scant 16-vote lead, Marion Davis of Supply emerged the winner in a tight race for the District 5 seat on the Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. board of directors Friday night.

Only 36 votes separated the high vote-getter from the low vote-getter in a three-man race that attracted a record turnout for the cooperative's annual meeting. General Manager Russell Price said 458 members registered at the meeting, with another 1,339 sending proxies for the election.

"It is the largest attendance we've ever had," said Price. "It's a remarkable turnout."

Davis captured 597 votes to longtime board member Wilson Arnold's 581. Trailing was Kenneth "Mack" Long with 561. Davis and Long were nominated by petition; Arnold by the nominating committee.

"It was very, very close," commented Price. "I didn't expect it to be that close. I had no idea the three of them would be jammed together that closely."

After the door prizes were awarded, a group of more than 50 members lingered, curious to hear the election results. Co-op members clustered outside the window of the classroom where the election committee was tabulating results.

Re-elected to the board were Charles Mills of Leland, District 7 director; and P.R. Hankins of

Bolivia, at-large director. They were unopposed.

Before the meeting, campaigning among members, Davis said his goal in seeking the directorship is to improve telephone service and to extend cable TV service, to get the cooperative "moving."

"I got the franchise from the county to provide cable service," he said, "and it hasn't done it. I want to find out why and do something about it."

Registration for the meeting began during the day for ATMC employees and opened to the public at 4:30 p.m. At 8:30 p.m., nearly an hour after the

meeting began, the last members were completing registration. Confirmation of proxies—up to five per member—caused the delays, said purchasing agent/spokesman Percy Woodard.

Some members brought proxies only to find those proxies had already been registered. Woodard said this could happen in one of several ways—a member could have changed his or her mind and decided to attend the meeting, canceling the proxy, or he could have given his proxy vote to more than one member, with the first proxy holder to register get-

ting to vote the proxy. Nothing in the bylaws prohibits giving a proxy to more than one person, but they can be voted only once.

Price said he was pleased with the way the computerized registration system worked.

The system's capacity had been doubled from a year ago for Friday's meeting and with an additional enhancement, Price said he expects to be able to register up to 5,000 persons by the 1986 meeting.

In brief comments to the membership, Price reviewed operations for the past year and the co-op's upgrading of service.

That upgrading will continue, he said, noting plans for a new outside plant contract of roughly \$1 million for improving facilities throughout the system.

"We are going to try to improve the system and provide for new services on a timely basis," he said.

The annual financial report for the period ending June 30 showed a net operating income of \$1.4 million for the telephone company and a net operating loss of \$37,790 for the cable television company. Net operating margins were reported of \$900,268 for the telephone company and a negative margin of \$173,560 for the cable TV company, primarily because of debt retirement expenses, for a total net operating margin of \$726,708.

As predicted when the new service was offered, the cable operation is still operating in the red.



CHARLES MILLS



P.R. HANKINS



CANDIDATE MARION DAVIS (left) stuffed the ballot box Friday night at the Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. annual meeting. It was legal, however, as elections committee member Roy Swain (right) could testify. Davis filled the box with proxy votes cast for him by friends, as did competitor Mack Long at another ballot box a few feet away. A third candidate, incumbent Wilson Arnold, was seated on the podium and didn't get to join in the activity.