

State Audit Discloses Problems At Brunswick Community College

BY DOUG RUTTER

A state audit of Brunswick Community College made public last week disclosed more problems within the college's continuing education program than previously indicated by school administrators.

Audit findings cite "serious problem areas that need to be addressed by management" within the program and said the college "maintained and reported the enrollment of students in continuing education courses in an improper manner."

The audit included a review of continuing education courses taught by the college during the period from the winter 1984 through winter 1986 academic quarters, while

the institution was still named Brunswick Technical College.

The report continued, "We found students enrolled in the same courses for multiple consecutive quarters, students enrolled in class as long as 12 hours a day, students enrolled in two or more classes with overlapping schedules, and even students enrolled in classes that met simultaneously."

The review also disclosed a "very low class attendance," with an average of 29 percent attendance for the 14 classes visited by auditors.

Previous College President Dr. Joseph Carter, who was fired Aug. 24, had previously said the college had

some cases in which students had scheduled two classes at the same time, but college administrators had not previously acknowledged other "problems" within the continuing education program which were disclosed in the audit report.

State Auditor Ed Renfrow recommended the college discontinue class scheduling under the following conditions: classes which enroll students who are not expected to attend; classes which experience chronic low attendance; classes in which the primary benefit appears to accrue to the entrepreneur on whose business premises the class is located; classes in which a person provides custodial services for tools and equipment receives

remuneration as an instructor; and classes in out-of-state locations.

The program was also investigated by the SBI for possible violation of state laws, with the agency's report turned over to 13th District Attorney Michael Easley.

In September, Easley reported those findings to a Brunswick County Grand Jury, which instructed Easley to continue the investigation and report back on Nov. 2.

Easley told the grand jury the alleged offenses involved classes taught by Bertie Faye King of Kingtown.

The grand jury at that time issued six presentments against Ms. King. Easley explained that a presentment is (See AUDIT, Page 2-A)

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Twenty-fifth Year, Number 51

Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, October 22, 1987

25c Per Copy

38 Pages

Oyster Season Expected To Produce Small Harvest

BY DOUG RUTTER

Oystermen at Varnumtown say they probably won't be too disappointed with this year's harvest because they don't expect much to start with.

And as most harvesters pulled into the docks along the Lockwood Folly River last Thursday, the first day of the season, with a bushel or two apiece, the unanimous feeling was that another long oyster season had just begun.

Harry Varnum, who picked oysters for most of his life before developing back problems, said, "I don't believe they're going to get too many oysters this year."

He continued, "There's just been too many clambers down there turning the rocks up, and it's killing off all our oysters."

Oysterman Roy Varnum said, "I got about one bushel, and that's just enough to eat."

"There ain't much of anything going on down there today," he added. "Our oysters are just about gone around here from the pollution and clambers."

He said that he wouldn't be surprised if the entire local industry had to close down within the next five years.

Fellow oysterman Sherman Varnum was one of the luckier ones last Thursday with 4 1/2 bushels, but said "you just can't make it on that."

He added, "It's the worst we've ever had, absolute is the worst it's ever been."

Sherman Varnum said the hot weather has stunted the oysters' growth. "I believe they'll start picking up when the weather turns a bit cooler, at least I hope so."

Gerald Dixon returned with two bushels and said the tide was just too high with the northeasterly winds.

Numbers can often tell the story of any season's opening day, and Marlene Varnum, wife of oyster house owner Carson Varnum, said they only bought about 12 bushels.

"There were only enough for everyone to eat, not really enough to fill any of our orders," she said.

Mrs. Varnum said a good opening day would have brought in about 100 bushels, but said the tides just didn't cooperate.

According to Harry Varnum and countless others, "It just didn't make a low tide today."

Despite the specific problem with low tide on opening day, oystermen said they expected the whole season

(See SMALL OYSTER, Page 2-A)



SHERMAN VARNUM was one of the luckier ones during last Thursday's slow opening day of oyster season. In this photo, he unloads some of the 4 1/2 bushels he landed.

Court Requires Paine To Post \$25,000 Bond

BY SUSAN USHER

A former Shallotte physician charged last week with fraud in an 89-count federal indictment was to post a \$25,000 bond secured by real estate with the clerk of U.S. District Court in Wilmington no later than 5 p.m. Oct. 21.

Dr. Karen Nicholson Paine was charged with Medicaid, Medicare and mail fraud in the indictment returned Oct. 13 by a federal grand jury in Fayetteville.

Information on 23 patients used to support the counts specify more than \$25,000 in public and private insurance payments Paine allegedly received for services that were not performed.

Arrested Oct. 15 in Shallotte by the U.S. Marshal's Service, her first appearance was before U.S. Magistrate Karen Boyle in Wilmington. At that time she was released on a temporary \$5,000 cash bond in order to arrange for the other bond, which is to be secured by Brunswick County real estate owned by John and Ingeborg Nicholson and of sufficient value to satisfy the obligation. Arrangement and other proceedings have not been scheduled.

Paine's release was predicated on her following a number of other restrictions specified in the order in addition to posting the secured bond,

namely that she is 1) to restrict her travel to within the eastern district of the state and Horry County, S.C., except for court appearances and consultations with her counsel from Oct. 24, 25 and 26; 2) to be allowed to travel to and from Charlotte, reason unspecified; 3) to avoid all contact with 26 specified persons who are identified as either alleged victims or potential witnesses, except after notice to attorney they may be contacted regarding preparation of her defense; 4) to report to the U.S. probation office within 24 hours of release and thereafter as directed by that office; 5) to refrain from possession of a firearm, destructive device or other dangerous weapon; and 6) to obtain no passport.

The federal indictment was the result of a two-year investigation conducted jointly by the Medicaid Investigations Unit of the N.C. Department of Justice and the Office of Investigations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Greensboro, said J. Michael Carpenter, director of the state investigations unit.

While Carpenter's unit has prosecuted Medicaid and insurance provider fraud "quite often" in the past, he noted this is the first case in the eastern district that combines Medicare, Medicaid and mail fraud

in a single indictment to be prosecuted under the auspices of federal authorities. It is also the first case in the district in which he has been cross-designated as a special assistant U.S. attorney so that he can prosecute the indictment in federal court.

Paine was charged with 39 counts of Medicare fraud, 19 counts of Medicaid fraud; and 31 counts of mail fraud.

The indictment charges that the defendant submitted applications for reimbursement to both the Medicaid and Medicare programs for services which were not rendered. Also, it charges related mail fraud in that she caused payments to be made to her for these services.

In addition, it charges she committed mail fraud in connection with receipt of payment for services not rendered to a beneficiary of the Prudential Insurance Company of America of High Point.

Paine was also charged with mail fraud as a result of submittal of claim forms to the N.C. Crippled Children's program by failing to disclose that such services were also claimed for reimbursement, and were reimbursed, by the Medicaid program. A similar mail fraud scheme was charged in connection

(See COURT, Page 2-A)

Festival Offers Holden Beach Visitors Something Extra

BY SUSAN USHER

Return visitors to the N.C. Festival By The Sea Oct. 30 and 31 at Holden Beach will find all their favorite activities, plus some new events such as a Frisbee hoop toss offering \$200 in cash prizes.

Sponsored by the Holden Beach Merchants Association, the annual festival is intended "to better the community and increase publicity for the area, not to make a buck," said Brad Bruestle, 1987 chairman. Profits from the festival are donated to Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

Organizers say this year's festival will be larger than in the past—and more popular.

"We expect a bigger crowd this year, but we have no idea of the numbers," said Bruestle.

Joe Lane is preparing to dish up about 2,500 plates of pork barbecue between noon and 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, while Arts and Crafts Show Chairman Becky Robertson said she expects as many as 100 exhibitors, up from approximately 70 in past years, as well as crafts demonstrators during the morning hours. The arts and crafts show will be set up at the public access parking area near the intersection of Brunswick Avenue and Jordan Boulevard, with parking available nearby.

The parade that marks the official opening of the festival will also be bigger and better, according to Bruestle, with approximately 50 entries compared to an average of 35 in the past. It will also follow a different route from last year, when it was confined to the island of Holden Beach.

Starting at 11 a.m., it will wind from its formation area in Sea Trace subdivision near Sabbath Home Baptist Church to the causeway and then

to the foot of the Holden Beach Bridge, not crossing over to the island. Participants are to meet at Sea Trace at 10 a.m. Mayor John Tandy will serve as parade marshal.

A special guest in the parade will be Holden Beach resident Bob Prescott, the original Chef Boyardee of the television commercials, wearing his chef's outfit.

The festival actually begins Friday, Oct. 30, at 6:30 p.m. with a Halloween carnival and children's costume contest at the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department on Sabbath Home Church Road.

Coordinator Brenda Kirby said costumes will be judged at 7:30 p.m. in four age divisions and three categories: scariest, most original

(must be homemade) and funniest of those age 5 and under, ages 6-9, 10-12 and 13-15.

The carnival itself will feature five children's games that cost 25 cents each to play, as well as a haunted house with five rooms of appeal to both adults and children. As an added attraction, the \$1 haunted house admission tickets will include a stub for fishbowl drawings of door prizes.

Then, starting at 8 a.m. Saturday, a variety of events are planned, as follows:

- 8 a.m.—Festival Runs, 1-mile fun run at 8 a.m., followed by 5K and 10K runs at 8:30 a.m., all beginning at the Tri-Beach VFD substation on Ocean Boulevard West. Entry fee charged.
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m.—Arts and Crafts

(See FESTIVAL, Page 2-A)

Boone's Neck Oyster Shuckers Place Third, Fifth At Nationals

BY DOUG RUTTER

Boone's Neck is quickly becoming home to some of the best oyster shuckers in the country.

Take Cathy Carlisle and Tara Futch for example. All they did last weekend was travel to Leonardtown, Md., and place third and fifth in the women's division of the National Oyster Shucking Contest.

Mrs. Carlisle, defending national champion, posted the best unadjusted time of the contest at 2:19, but was penalized 65 seconds for oysters which weren't fully separated from the shell and shucked oysters marred by blood and dirt.

She said she couldn't understand all the penalties against her, but could only look forward to a year of practice and next year's competition.

Mrs. Carlisle ended up third in the women's competition. Winner Debby Pratt of Virginia posted an adjusted time of 3:10 after shucking her oysters in 2:25.

Mrs. Carlisle said competition at this year's nationals was about the same as last year, when she narrowly defeated this year's overall champion, Duke Landry of Louisiana.

Landry won the 1987 crown with an adjusted time of 3:00, nearly 20 seconds slower than Mrs. Carlisle's winning time last year of 2:40:77.

Mrs. Carlisle said, "I was nervous as always, but I'm ready to go back next year."

As defending national champion, Mrs. Carlisle was made an honorary

citizen of Maryland.

She was recently successful in defending her state title at the annual

N.C. Oyster Festival with an adjusted time of 2:40:27 which included (See OYSTER SHUCKERS, Page 2-A)



BOONE'S NECK OYSTER SHUCKERS Cathy Carlisle (left) and Tara Futch Sunday finished third and fifth respectively in the women's division of the National Oyster Shucking Championships held in Leonardtown, Md. Mrs. Carlisle received her 1986 Championship Plaque this year, and Mrs. Futch was given a certificate of appreciation for her participation.

Laugisch Named County Teacher Of The Year

Helen Paige Laugisch of the Boone's Neck community in Supply was selected Friday as Brunswick County's Teacher of the Year for 1988-89. She is an English and civics teacher at South Brunswick High School.

She will represent the school system in regional competition on Jan. 7. A state winner will be selected in February, said Jean Parker, public information officer.

The purpose of the annual award is to honor an educator who demonstrates the highest levels of professional performance and dedication.

According to Parker, "It is the administration's belief that the teaching professional is the key individual in any instructional improvement process and that recognizing those teachers who excel stimulates the improvement process for all educators."

That philosophy was emphasized by Interim Superintendent John Kaufhold when he wrote to local school winners that "to successfully teach a child" is another way to achieve immortality.

Mrs. Laugisch was selected from among candidates representing ten county schools.