

Oyster Season Ends Statewide; Scallop Harvest To Reopen

BY DOUG RUTTER

Oyster season ended statewide last week while effects of the "red tide" lingered and a section of the coast remained closed to clamming.

The state Division of Marine Fisheries closed oyster season March 19, but announced plans to reopen the harvest of scallops next week.

Oyster beds affected by the state's first ever recorded "red tide," which infested some areas up to four months, were never reopened to harvesting.

William Hogarth, director of Marine Fisheries, had said earlier that the state would consider reopening the season in areas which saw very little harvest this year.

Waters near Core Sound and Morehead City were closed to oystering just two weeks into the season

because of the bloom of *pychodiscus brevis*.

Juanita Gaskill, administrative assistant for operations with the state Division of Marine Fisheries, said, "It's not a closed subject, but there are no plans right now to reopen oyster season."

Meanwhile, the harvest of scallops, which are concentrated in Bogue Sound, and to a lesser degree in Core Sound and lower Pamlico Sound, will begin March 28 in all coastal waters. Unlike oysters, scallops can be harvested year-round.

Scallop harvesting will be permitted on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fishermen will be limited to 20 bushels per day.

According to George Gilbert, assistant supervisor of the shellfish sanitation program of the N.C. Division of

Health Services, the edible part of the scallop, the heart, is not toxic.

He said the state will continue to test clam meats for toxicity and reopen areas still closed as soon as the shellfish are clear of all toxins. The 45-mile stretch of coastline between Harker's Island and New River is the only area still closed to clamming.

Gilbert added, however, that the state will probably not test oysters this week. "With the season out now, there's no sense in worrying about the oysters on public bottom."

Shellfish sanitation officials may sample oysters in areas leased to private companies for harvest, he said. There were no changes in South Carolina this week,

as waters north of Murrells Inlet remain closed to all shellfishing.

Thom Berry, spokesman for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, said the state will wait until at least next week before conducting toxicity tests on shellfish meats in areas still closed to harvesting.

Oyster and clam beds in Murrells Inlet were reopened to commercial harvesting two weeks ago.

However, Berry could not say whether state officials expected closed areas to reopen in the near future. The areas still closed are harvested by recreational fishermen only.

"Right now we're just waiting and giving those shellfish time to cleanse themselves," he said. "We'll just have to wait and see what the numbers tell us."

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Calabash To Consider Widespread Annexation

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Town Council Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution of consideration to annex properties far beyond the current town limits.

The area of consideration stretches along the Calabash River from the existing town limits west to the South Carolina state line and east to N.C. 904. The area also extends north from the river to U.S. 17.

Among other smaller subdivisions, the area of consideration includes Carolina Shores, which is currently considering incorporation, as well as Village Green, Hunter's Trace and The Village at Calabash.

Town Attorney Mike Ramos said the resolution will have to be on file for one year before town council can adopt a resolution of intent and proceed with public hearings. During that year, town board members will have to determine how it will extend town services to the areas being considered.

Although a large area is included in the resolution of consideration, various laws restrict the amount of property a town can involuntarily annex and the entire region could not be brought into the town limits at one time.

In other business relating to annexation, council members heard from representative Walter Stanaland that owners of the W.M. Stanaland Estate are interested in the tract becoming part of the town.

Ramos said the town could annex the property either by having all property owners sign a petition agreeing to be annexed or by adopting a resolution of intent to annex and conducting a feasibility study to determine whether the town could provide services currently provided to all other town taxpayers.

Stanaland said it may be difficult

to get all six property owners to agree to voluntary annexation and that the town would probably have to go with a resolution of intent. "I suspect that everybody's not going to want to just jump right in," he added.

The tract is located on Colkin's Neck west of N.C. 179 and borders the western property line of subdivisions located along that road. It extends from the Calabash River to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Stanaland added that Odell Williamson, who is developing Ocean Harbor Golf Course at the western tip of the acreage between the river and waterway, may also be interested in voluntary annexation.

Referring to the additional revenue which would result from annexation of the golf course development, Council member Landis High remarked, "That would be a real economic boost."

Stanaland said he would return to the April 12 meeting with more information.

Closed Session

In other business Tuesday, council authorized Town Clerk Janet Thomas to purchase a file cabinet for the building inspections department and adopted a town policy to start the salaries of future town clerks and secretaries at minimum wage. These actions followed a 10-minute executive session. The town's starting pay had been above minimum wage before.

Discussion Planned

Also Tuesday, Ken Weeden, who is the consulting engineer for the town's first land use plan, said he would return next to Tuesday's meeting to present the results of a citizen survey.

He added that he will also discuss existing land use and development trends at that time.



Let March Winds Blow!

Kite flyers were out in full force Saturday afternoon at Holden Beach, with March winds making for near perfect kite-flying conditions. Jordan Devenish of Fayetteville (left) gets some tips on kite-flying from his mother, Kathy Devenish, on the strand near the Holden Beach Fishing Pier.

Robbery Suspect Recaptured After Escaping County Jail

BY RAHN ADAMS

If county officials didn't believe Sheriff John C. Davis needed more jailers before, they may now, following Brunswick County's second jail escape in the past seven months.

Inmate Dewayne E. Godwin, 25, of Lake Waccamaw, was the subject of an intense two-day manhunt that ended Monday morning with his recapture in Columbus County.

Godwin, who was initially arrested March 14, had escaped once before—on March 10 immediately after being stopped and arrested on N.C. 211 by a N.C. Highway Patrol trooper following an armed robbery at Wilson's Supermarket in Shallotte. He was apprehended four days later by area lawmen in Lake Waccamaw.

At the time of his latest escape, the suspect was being held in the Brunswick County Jail under a \$100,000 cash bond on charges including armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

According to Davis, the jailbreak occurred Saturday between noon and 3 p.m. The sheriff said Godwin "jimmied" the lock on his cell door and crawled from the cellblock, escaping when visitors entered the jail. Some children who were playing outside the sheriff's department Saturday afternoon saw Godwin leave the building.

Until new locks are installed in the jail, Davis would not explain how Godwin opened the cell door because he didn't want to "give some other people ideas," he said.

Davis said no disciplinary measures would be taken against Jailier Louis Clark, who was on duty alone at the time of the escape, "because he was trying to do a two-man job."

The sheriff noted that it was standard procedure to have only one jailer on duty at certain times since the sheriff's department does not have sufficient personnel to staff the facility with two jailers full-time.

The jail, which holds 44 prisoners and is full most of the time, was designed to be staffed by two jailers, he explained.

"I will be requesting more jailers in my budget," Davis said. He added that no other procedural changes could be made until additional jailers are on staff.

Last September, three inmates escaped the Brunswick County Jail but were all back behind bars in three days. Their method of escape was not determined, although Davis speculated that a door was left unlocked or that the inmates had access to a key. The jailer on duty at the time of the escape resigned the same day the three were recaptured.

Godwin was apprehended Monday around 11 a.m. inside a Lake Waccamaw residence by officers from the Brunswick and Columbus sheriff's departments, Lake Waccamaw Police, the Highway Patrol and the Department of Corrections, according to Columbus County Sheriff's Detective Tom Mehalic.

After using roadblocks on N.C. 211, bloodhounds and a Highway Patrol helicopter to search for the escapee, lawmen heard that Godwin had been spotted in the Lake Waccamaw area, Mehalic said.

"He was running around in the woods, then he ran into the house and hid," said Mehalic, who was one of the officers involved in the arrest. He added that the home was occupied by two elderly relatives of the suspect. The detective said about 17 officers surrounded the residence, then entered the home and found Godwin hiding under a bed. He was taken into custody without incident. No one was hurt in the capture.

Davis said Godwin was transported to Central Prison in Raleigh Monday "for safekeeping... because they have more personnel to watch him than I have."

The sheriff's department Monday also was investigating the possibility that Godwin stole a car to return to Columbus County.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Capt. Phil Perry said a car owned by Bolivia area resident Charles F. Lennon of Old Lennon Road was reported stolen Sunday around 5:45 p.m. and was recovered by authorities about three hours later near Lake Waccamaw.

In addition to the robbery-related charges in Brunswick, Godwin is a suspect in several recent armed robberies in the Whiteville area, although he had not been charged in Columbus County as of Monday, Mehalic said.

Piver Sentenced To Die For Wilmington Murder

BY RAHN ADAMS

An Ash man who will be tried for murder later this year in Brunswick County was sentenced to die last week for a related shooting death in Wilmington.

According to the New Hanover County Clerk of Court's office, Rayford Clayton Piver, 42, of Ash, was convicted of first-degree murder last Thursday in New Hanover County Superior Court.

After about 5½ hours of deliberations Friday and Monday in the sentencing phase of the trial, jurors returned their verdict for the death

penalty Monday at 3:45 p.m.

Judge Bradford Tillery set Piver's execution date for May 20. However, as with any death sentence, Piver's case will be automatically appealed to the N.C. Supreme Court.

Piver was represented by Wilmington attorneys Richard Miller and Susan Sutton. Assistant District Attorney John Carriker prosecuted the case.

Piver's conviction last week stemmed from the Oct. 6, 1987, shooting death of 32-year-old Wilmington resident Nick Patelos outside a Wilmington bar.

In Brunswick County, the defendant is charged with the first-degree murder of Michael Baker, 31, of Wilmington, whose body was found near U.S. 17 at Grissetown within hours of the Patelos shooting.

District Attorney Mike Easley has said he will also seek the death penalty when Piver is tried in Brunswick County. According to Easley, the trial will be held no earlier than the June session of Superior Court.

Piver is being represented in Brunswick County by Shallotte attorneys Rex Gore and Michael Ramos.

Ramos said Monday that Piver's conviction in New Hanover "isn't going to make (his defense) any easier" in Brunswick.

The attorney noted that testimony concerning the Baker murder was used against Piver in the Wilmington case, as prosecutors attempted to show that the two killings were related.

Brunswick County lawmen including Det. Sgt. David Crocker, who arrested Piver following the murders last October, testified in the New Hanover trial.

(See PIVER, Page 2-A)

Regional Labor Organization Endorses Primary Candidates

A local labor organization has publicly endorsed several candidates for local and state office.

The Greater Cape Fear Central Labor Body, whose membership includes all local AFL-CIO unions in the 7th Congressional District, has endorsed candidates on both the Democratic and Republican tickets for the May 3 primary.

Democrats receiving endorsements on March 15 include R. Glen Peterson, a candidate for the District 14 House seat now held by David Redwine. Peterson was also recently endorsed by the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers.

"We had a little bit of difference on the 14th House seat vote," said Kathy

Rich, president of the Central Labor Body, "but we worked it out."

Also receiving the labor endorsement, according to a news release, were Board of Education candidates C.C. Russ, District 1, Jonathan Hankins, District 3, and Marvin McKeithan, District 4; and County Commissioner candidates Major White, District 1; and Tom Simmons, District 4. The group also gave its endorsement to Clerk of Court candidate Diana Morgan and Register of Deeds candidate Robert Robinson.

In the Republican primary, the group endorsed Teddi Neal for District 4 Board of Education; John Ramsey, Clerk of Court; and for

County Commissioner, Robert Smith, District 1.

Candidates who did not answer questionnaires or did not meet for pre-endorsement interviews were not considered.

This is the second election year in which the organization has endorsed primary candidates in Brunswick County, the first being two years ago. However, Rich said the group had been endorsing New Hanover County candidates "for years."

The endorsement process, said Rich, is designed to allow labor endorsement of political candidates resulting from the involvement of members of all the unions in the screening and evaluation of can-

didates. The process consisted of individual interviews with the candidates, a review of their voting records and completed questionnaires distributed to the candidates which concerned issues affecting North Carolina workers.

Endorsements of candidates for local offices were determined by local union members only; while committee recommendations for House and Senate endorsements were brought to the entire Central Labor Body for vote, she said.

Endorsement results will be reported to the state AFL-CIO which, along with area organizations, will be working with the endorsed candidates during the primary.

Home Show Opens Friday At National Guard Armory

Approximately 50 exhibitors will share ideas for home and garden improvements this weekend during the 1988 Brunswick Living Home Show.

Held at the N.C. National Guard Armory in Shallotte, the show is sponsored for the third year by the South Brunswick Islands Home Builders Association, a professional organization for builders and those whose work is associated with the home building industry.

Admission is \$1 for those age 18 and older; children will be admitted free.

Show hours are 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Exhibits will range from the latest in mobile homes to cabinetry, floor coverings, lighting and home financing. Hotdogs and other refreshments will be available from the Shallotte Junior Woman's Club and the Brunswick County Extension Service will be demonstrating scale models of four different types of septic tank systems.

A number of the exhibitors will offer give-aways and drawings for prizes.

A number of this year's exhibitors are new to the show.