

## It's A Hit!

The N.C. Oyster Festival—only three months away—made the "Top 20" list of October events. Read Susanne Sartelle's column, Page 10-C.

## Dining Out

Use "Dining Guide," an advertising feature which begins this week, to discover your favorite South Brunswick Islands restaurant, Page 12-A.

## Search Is On

Shalotte Volunteer Rescue Squad wants to move—but not too far away—before its lease expires. The story's on Page 12-B.

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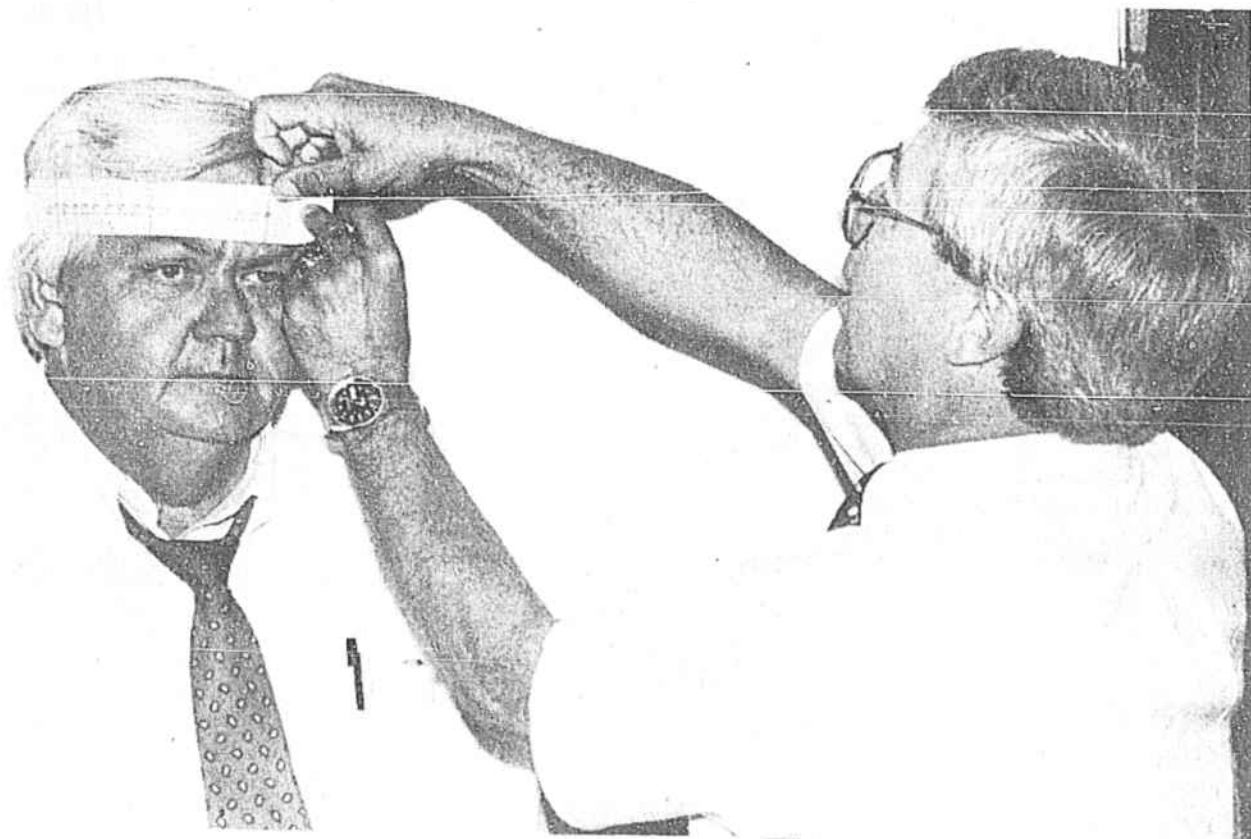
# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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DAVID KELLY, chairman of the Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees, held still last Wednesday evening while Herf Jones representative Jack Hensley took the measurements needed to fit Kel-

ly for a cap and gown. BCC will hold graduation exercises for its largest class ever on Sept. 1 in Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of the N.C. Baptist Assembly, Oak Island.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## BCC Taking Steps To Avoid Layoffs In Wake Of State Budgetary Changes

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College officials are scrambling to adjust to a loss of state funding that resulted from a drop in enrollment last year and changes in the community college system budget formula.

However, layoffs are "a remote possibility" only, according to President W. Michael Reaves, who briefed BCC trustees at their meeting last Wednesday night.

"I'm not ready to push the panic button yet, but we're having to make a mad scramble," he continued. "We're trying our best to hang on to positions, to do everything in our power to avoid laying people off."

Since the college opened its doors nine years ago and began its regular curriculum, it has relied heavily on high enrollment in community service programs—hobby and practical skills classes such as arts and crafts—to generate FTEs (full time equivalent students). FTEs help determine how much money the college receives each year from the Department of Community Colleges.

However, this year, among other changes, the state has determined that community service classes will no longer earn "budget FTEs."

"This has probably affected us the hardest of any campus," Reaves told trustees last Wednesday night. BCC is the community college system's youngest campus.

In addition the department has limited the amount of flexibility available to community colleges in how the money they do receive for all continuing education programming is spent.

Reaves said the college is taking a "positive approach" as administrators try to determine what funds can be transferred from one

"We're going to be mean and lean this year."

—W. Michael Reaves  
BCC President

account to another, where cuts can be made and whether additional funds are available.

Reaves said it is possible administrators will be called on to teach a class, saving funds budgeted for part-time faculty. Also, some personnel may be assigned other additional responsibilities, such as administering sex equity and childcare grants received by the college for the coming school year.

"We're going to be mean and lean this year," he said later. "In the past the college has had the luxury of more money than it needed."

"We're trying to adjust the budget and get contracts out and stabilized for the end of July," Reaves said, adding that date would still be earlier than contracts have been received in the past.

The FTEs generated one school year are the basis for the college's funding the following year. In 1987-88 the college was funded on the basis of 1,517 FTEs, at \$2,766,014. However, this year its funding was based on only 700 FTEs, at \$2,271,694.

Reaves noted that several factors affected the college's ability to earn FTEs last year, including a drawn-out, "intense" audit of the continuing education department that "left a bad taste in people's mouths," and a change of administration.

"We're slowly, but surely getting the people back," he added.

"Where we're really hurting," he noted, is in a loss of flexibility in how some of the state funds can be used. This year the school will receive \$510,069 in continuing education funds, down from \$640,135 last year, a difference of \$130,066. Last year the college actually "reverted" or returned to the state approximately \$200,000 in continuing education

funds it did not use, Reaves noted, so it probably could have operated on reduced funding.

However, this year, \$231,499 of the continuing education money must be spent only for community service classes—classes which under a new statewide policy no longer generate FTEs and therefore money for next year's budget.

"We probably won't be able to spend all of it this year, but we can't spend it anywhere else," Reaves said.

Student retention and attendance will also figure more prominently this year. For example, in classes for which the college previously earned full credit based on class attendance at the 20 percent mark, full credit will now be earned based on attendance at the halfway mark.

This will especially affect the college's literacy programs, Reaves said, in which students are apt to drop out early on.

### Recruitment Stressed

At the same time BCC is tightening its belt, it is also aggressively seeking more students for all programs and work to retain more of the students who are admitted.

"The audit did have some effect, but it's in the past," Trustee James Rabon reminded fellow officials. "We need to get out and push like hell—but we can't be complacent."

Under a marketing plan presented last week by Anne Marie Schettini, public information officer, the college will be telling its story any way it can, targeting its media efforts at "re-entering" women ages 30 to 35, and employed persons ages 20 to 45 looking to change careers or find self-fulfillment.

In addition to traditional media outlets, college employees will be encouraged to "each one, recruit one" and to participate in a speakers bureau. Starting fall quarter, faculty and staff members will also be encouraged to volunteer to serve as a mentor for an incoming student, (See LAYOFFS, Page 2-A)

## Marine Fisheries Revises Position On Lockwood Marina

BY DOUG RUTTER

A state agency which had previously submitted comments against a local marina project last week dropped its formal opposition and left the door open for approval of a major development permit.

Rich Carpenter, Wilmington regional manager with the state Division of Marine Fisheries, said the division had to drop its original opposition to the project because the marina will not cause the automatic closure of shellfish beds as was previously thought.

The state Division of Environmental Management, he said, had to do the same thing, although that agency had not yet submitted its formal comments to Raleigh when the opinions were changed.

"We're still very, very concerned about the project," added Carpenter. "That area is very sensitive and it's very important to the shellfishermen down there."

The proposed marina would be located about 500 feet upstream of Galloway Flats, one of the most productive shellfish areas in the county. Channel Side Corporation, developers of the marina and adjoining Lockwood Folly golf course community, applied for a CAMA permit this spring to build the facility.

John Parker, major permits coordinator for the state Division of Coastal Management, said Monday that it will be at least next week before a decision is made. He said he was still waiting to receive comments from Environmental Management and the revised set of comments from Marine Fisheries.

According to Parker, the key agencies in the permit process are Coastal

Management, Marine Fisheries, Environmental Management and Shellfish Sanitation. Coastal Management accepts comments from 10 state and four federal agencies during the permit review process for marinas before making a decision.

Shellfish Sanitation, a section of the N.C. Division of Health Services, voiced concerns about the project in their official comments but did oppose it because the marina would not result in the automatic closure of shellfish beds.

Because there is no official objection to the project, Parker indicated this week that the chances the permit will be granted are now greater than they were before. He said several agencies have submitted "expres-

sions of concern," but no formal opposition.

"Many times a general expression of concern cannot be interpreted as an objection which may lead to a denial," he said.

Although the entrance channel to the marina will be closed to shellfishing, Carpenter said the river itself will not be closed unless it is polluted. He said he did not know the chances of the waters becoming polluted, but confessed that he is "very uneasy" about the project.

Local shellfishermen have also voiced objection to the marina, claiming that it will destroy one of the few shellfish areas which hasn't been closed to pollution. The N.C. Coastal Federation has also gone on record as opposing the project.

## Gov. Martin To Break Ground For Bypass

Gov. James G. Martin was to help break ground Wednesday for the second construction phase on the U.S. 17 bypass.

The July 27 ceremony was scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. on Mulberry Street in Shalotte. Expected to join the governor at the site were Tommy Harrelson, state deputy secretary of transportation, Shalotte Mayor Jerry Jones and town aldermen and other federal, state and local officials.

The bypass, a 4.8-mile stretch of highway to be located north of Shalotte, is part of a four-lane project of U.S. 17 from the South Carolina state line to the existing four-lane section north of Bolivia.

Earlier this month, the N.C. Board of Transportation awarded a \$1.4 million contract for grading the second section of the bypass, which spans 2.5 miles.

A \$1.5 million contract for grading the first section of the bypass was awarded last October.

The final phase of the project—paving both of the graded sections—is scheduled to be let to contract next October.

## Delayed Judgments Complicate Local Beach Access Lawsuits

BY RAHN ADAMS

Eight months after hearing testimony in separate lawsuits involving public beach access at Holden Beach and Sunset Beach, Judge Bruce Briggs has not signed formal rulings in either case.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office had not received written judgments in the civil cases, which were heard by the Madison County judge last November in Brunswick County Superior Court.

As a result, an appeal in the Holden Beach case encountered complications earlier this month, while parties in the Sunset Beach case are simply waiting to see which side will have to enter an appeal.

**Appeal Challenged**  
The Holden Beach case involves public access to the western end of the island. In 1986, a group called Concerned Citizens of Brunswick County Taxpayers Association filed suit against Holden Beach Enterprises, the developer of Holden Beach West subdivision.

The N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development's Office of Coastal Management intervened as a plaintiff in the

case, in the agency's role as administrator of the state's coastal access program.

During the trial last November in Bolivia, the plaintiffs contended that Ocean View Boulevard West through the subdivision was a public right-of-way to Shalotte Inlet, even though the developer constructed a gate and guardhouse at the subdivision's entrance.

Briggs stated at the close of the proceedings that he planned to rule in favor of Holden Beach Enterprises, and he instructed the company's attorney to write a proposed judgment for him to sign.

The developer is represented by Murchison, Taylor, Kendrick, Gibson and Davenport of Shalotte. The plaintiffs are represented by Durham attorney James Maxwell and Assistant Attorney General Allen Jernigan.

Although the written judgment had not yet been signed, a "proposed record on appeal" was filed by the plaintiffs' attorneys before a June 10 appeal deadline, according to court records. The attorneys used the trial transcript to formulate their exceptions to the "ruling" that Briggs announced in open court.

Court documents show that the defendant's attorney filed objections July 13 to the proposed record on appeal. Attorney Nancy Guyton emphasized in her objections that a signed final judgment had not been filed at the time of the appeal.

"Submission of the trial judge's statements as to what he will find and order is not sufficient... In this case, there is no signed judgment and there is no entry of judgment in the Clerk's minutes, therefore, this appeal is premature," the attorney wrote.

She also noted that appellate court regulations require that an appeal be taken within 10 days after the entry of judgment.

### Ruling Awaited

The Sunset Beach case questions the ownership of an oceanfront lot called "Lot 1-A," which is located near the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. The suit was filed in 1985 by the Sunset Beach Taxpayers' Association against the company which claims ownership of the lot, Sunset Beach and Twin Lakes Inc.

In last November's trial, the plaintiffs contended that the public has the (See ACCESS, Page 2-A)

## Calabash Cancels Another Meeting

For the second consecutive week, Calabash Town Council had to cancel its Tuesday night meeting because it did not have enough members present for a quorum.

Board members absent this week were Ronnie Pittman, Keith Hardee, Landis High and John High.

The meeting was rescheduled for next Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in town hall.

The failed meeting was the sixth in the past five months. A related story is on Page 3-A.

## Woods, Ward Sentenced On Trafficking Counts

Two area men who earlier pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking charges received active prison sentences Monday in Brunswick County Superior Court.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Judge C. Preston Cornelius sentenced Willard "Richard" Woods, 38, of Calabash, to a 10-year prison term and \$10,000

fine. Also, Ronald Dale Ward, 33, of Nakina, was sentenced to a five-year prison term.

The pair were among 37 defendants indicted on cocaine trafficking charges in Brunswick County last June and July as a result of a cocaine trafficking probe by the state's first investigative grand jury. Woods also was charged in other local undercover drug operations.

Woods pleaded guilty Feb. 11 to possession of more than one gram of cocaine, conspiracy to traffic in more than 200 grams of cocaine and two counts of possession with intent to sell cocaine.

According to an SBI agent's testimony in February, Woods was involved in transporting cocaine from Florida to Brunswick County on

May 15, 1986. He was charged after lawmen seized more than 21 grams of cocaine during a search of his car on Jan. 15, 1987. Also, he was arrested Oct. 12, 1987, following an undercover operation in which he sold two grams of cocaine.

Ward pleaded guilty on Aug. 31, 1987, to four counts of conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of co-

caine and trafficking by possession of more than 400 grams of cocaine.

Court records show that Ward's offenses occurred between May 1986 and August 1986.

Woods and Ward were not sentenced immediately after they entered their guilty pleas, in order to allow them to provide assistance to investigators.