

Tee Party's A Hit!

While a local golfer won top honors, the Brits enjoyed the Great N. C. International Tee Party, 10-B; and one liked school American style, 5-B.

Trojan Roll Ends

A surplus of Friday night turnovers and a bit of bad luck end West Brunswick High School's hope for a 2-A title. The story and photos are on Page 8-B.

It's Not Over Yet

The fishing's not over yet. Anglers continue to pull in spots at local piers and black bass from outside waters. The Fishing Report's on Page 9-C.

Hold The Toasts

Supporters of the ill-fated Shallotte wine referendum have nothing to celebrate, as aldermen contemplate the town's next move. Page 2-A.

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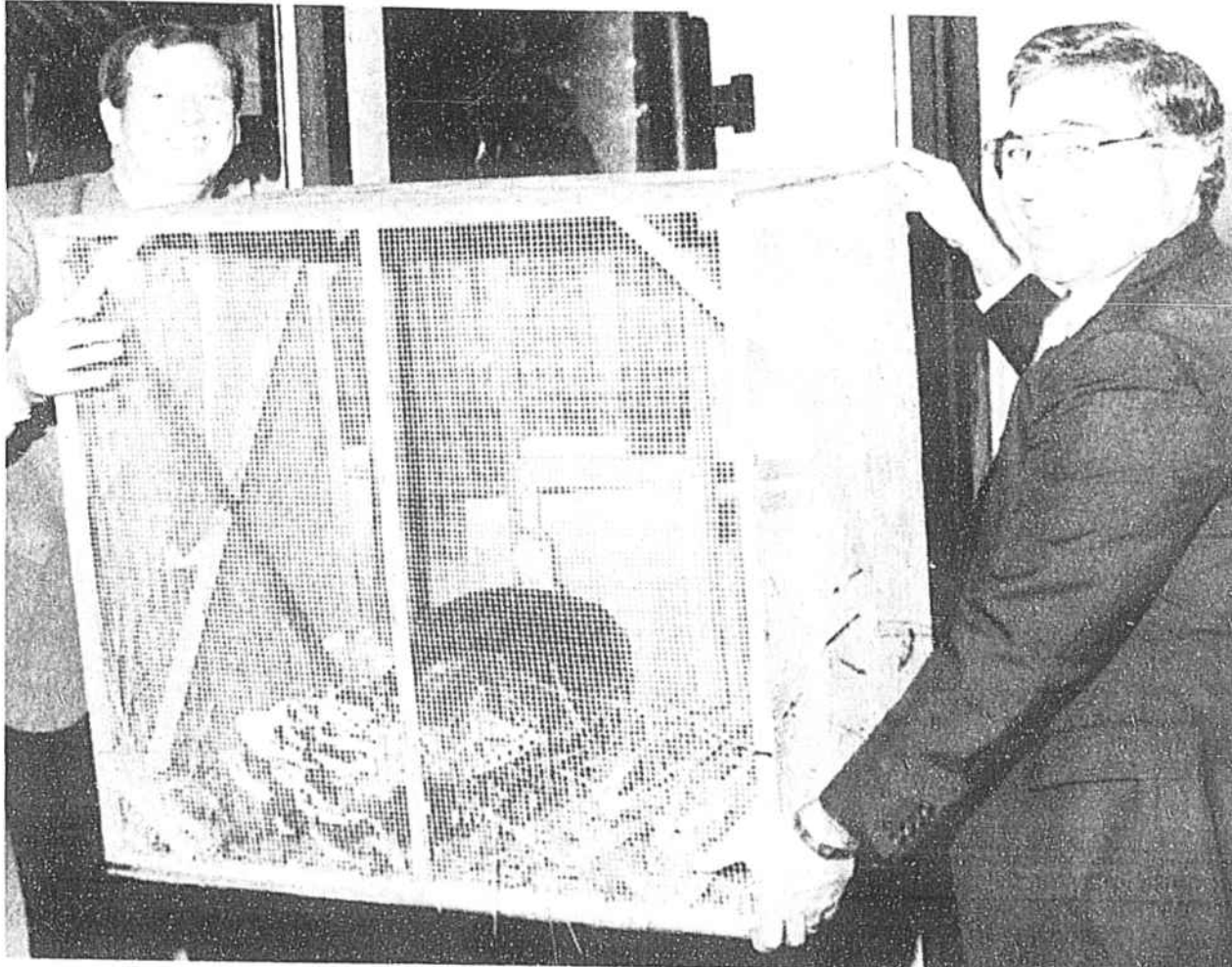


PHOTO BY PHIL MORGAN, BEAC

Turkey Contributes To Cause

This tom turkey, transported by BCC Foundation volunteer Bobby Davis and BCC President Michael Reaves, had much to be thankful for last week. Instead of a more traditional sacrifice, he began making public appearances on behalf of the "Turkey Bowl," a project

by the Brunswick Community College Foundation to raise community funds for scholarships and other programs at the college. His debut was at the Wednesday morning campaign kick-off breakfast.

Meetze, Freeman Deaths Join Five Other Unsolved Murders

BY RAHN ADAMS

Although Sheriff John C. Davis says he feels arrests will be made in the "foreseeable future," investigative leads in Brunswick County's two latest murder cases apparently are hard to come by.

The cases involve three family members who were slain last month at their Winnabow area home and a local man who was shot to death in September at his business near Grissetown.

No arrests have been made in either case—just as five other local murders in the past 10 years remain unsolved. Substantial rewards are offered in four of the seven murder cases.

Sheriff's Capt. Phil Perry said Friday that flyers on the Meetze murders were being posted at stores

"We're not leaning toward anything other than we think it was someone they (the Meetzes) knew."

—Sheriff John C. Davis

and industries in northern Brunswick County.

The Meetze flyer, which was printed by the SBI for the sheriff's department, includes two photographs of the victims' house and the following information:

"On or near midnight of Wednesday, Oct. 12, to Thursday, Oct. 13, unknown person(s) entered the residence of Marion E. Meetze located on Highway 87, 3.9 miles north of its intersection with Highway 17, and brutally murdered

Mr. Meetze, his wife and child.

"Authorities are seeking any information of person(s) or vehicle(s) that may have been seen in the area at this time. Contact the SBI or the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, 1-800-672-6379."

Perry said similar flyers on the county's other unsolved murder cases also may be printed and posted. "In every one of these cases, I'm sure there is someone who could help us with it if they would just step

(See DEATHS, Page 2-A)

OYSTERMEN OUT OF BUSINESS

Lockwood Folly Shut Down Again

BY DOUG RUTTER

State officials and local shellfishermen alike remain baffled following last Thursday's closure of Lockwood Folly River, which came just one day after the river was opened to oystering.

Shellfishermen gathered oysters in the river during early morning low tides last Wednesday and Thursday before the state was forced to close it down again because of high levels of bacteria.

"Everybody is disappointed, naturally," said Annie Smigiel, a shellfisherman from Varnamtown. "They can't understand what's happening to the river."

The lower portion of Lockwood Folly, downstream from Geneos Point on the west bank and Gore's Landing on the east, was reopened to shellfishing last Wednesday at sunrise after being closed for three months, but was shut down the following morning at 9 a.m. It was the first time the area had been open to oyster harvest this season.

Bob Benton, director of the state shellfish sanitation branch, said the river was opened following analysis

of two consecutive water samples which tested below the critical level for fecal coliform bacteria—14 organisms per 100 milliliters of water.

Samples taken last Wednesday, however, showed that the bacteria count had jumped back up to the level it has been at since the summer, between 70 and 100 organisms per milliliter.

Although oysters were harvested last Wednesday and Thursday, after bacteria levels had increased past the contamination point, Benton said there was no danger of eating those shellfish since it takes a while for the bacteria to affect the meat.

While the river was open, area shellfishermen did well, according to Mrs. Smigiel. "There was a lot of people getting oysters out of there," she said, adding that she picked five bushels the first day and seven the next.

Meanwhile, Benton said he had no idea why the bacteria level changed so quickly, particularly since the area had not received any substantial rainfall which often carries pollutants to the river.

"We just don't know what is causing it," he said. "We have no earthly idea."

Mrs. Smigiel, president of the local environmental group Save Our Shellfish (SOS), said, "Evidently, somebody is putting something in that water."

She noted that private tests authorized by SOS have revealed "hot spots," or areas of high bacterial concentration, around Lockwood Golf Links.

According to Benton, however, bacteria levels in the river have fluctuated greatly with each sampling, and there is no one area where the coliform counts have been consistently higher than others. One specific source of the pollution, he said, cannot be pinpointed.

Although the river was opened for only two mornings, Benton said the quick turnaround will not affect future decisions to open the river, which historically provides about 40 percent of the annual oyster harvest in Brunswick County.

The decision will still be based on water and oyster meat samples, which he said were to be taken again on Monday with results expected

Commissioners Allocate Funds For Senior Center Expansion

BY RAHN ADAMS

The Shallotte Senior Citizens Center will soon get a facelift that will double its space, thanks to a state grant and a \$12,000 contribution from the county.

Brunswick County Commissioners Monday accepted a \$20,000 state grant for rehabilitation of the senior citizens center located on U.S. 17 in Shallotte. The monies, which represented one of five grants approved Monday for the county's older adults program, required no matching funds. However, the board unanimously voted to make the additional allocation to expand the building and improve the existing structure at the same time.

All five commissioners attended Monday night's 1 1/4-hour meeting in Bolivia. The session was Commissioners Chris Chappell and Jim Poole's last meeting, as a result of their failed bids for re-election earlier this month.

According to County Manager John T. Smith, the \$32,000 will be used to build a 2,000 square foot addition and an "A-frame" roof over the entire building. Without constructing the new roof, the extra space could be added for about \$20,000, he said. In either case, construction would be handled by the county.

Prior to the board's vote, Chairman Grace Beasley noted that repairs to the building's flat roof would eventually surpass the cost of spending the additional \$12,000 to undertake the larger project now.

Smith told commissioners the grant money must be spent and the materials it pays for must be in place by July 1989. The grant was obtained by the Brunswick County Department of Social Services through N.C. Senate Bill 1559. The county's older adults programs are now administered in a separate department.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon, who also serves on the county Social Services Board, said expanding the Shallotte facility to approximately 4,300 square feet will allow it to be recognized as an official "senior center." As a result, extra grant funding will be available for its operation. Senior centers must be at least 4,000 square feet in size to be eligible for certain funds, he said.

Other Senate Bill 1559 grants accepted Monday included \$10,000 for a senior center outreach program in the Shallotte and Waccamaw areas; \$3,375 for medical transportation;

and \$2,200 for home improvement and repair. No matching funds are required. Also, a \$855 supplemental services grant requiring \$95 in matching funds was accepted.

Gore Changes Hats

In the only split vote at Monday's meeting, commissioners appointed Southport attorney Grover Gore to serve on the Brunswick County Airport Commission.

Gore, who currently serves as the commission's attorney, will complete the unexpired term of Burton Myers, who resigned Nov. 8 citing "personal reasons" for leaving the controversial panel. Since last December the airport board has been embroiled in a dispute over its lease with the airport's fixed-base operator, Airport Enterprises. Myers' three-year term began in January.

Commissioners Poole, Chappell and Benny Ludlum supported Gore's nomination, which was entered by Poole. Commissioners Beasley and Rabon voted to appoint Piedmont Airlines pilot Jim Minett of Southport.

Prior to the vote, Poole told board members that Gore would resign his post as airport commission attorney if he were to be appointed to the panel. Poole joked that the only

change would be that Gore wouldn't be sending the airport commission a bill any more for his legal services.

Gore did not attend Monday's meeting.

Audit Completed

Although the official report was still in the typewriter, accountant Wayne Berry reported to commissioners that the county's 1987-88 audit has been completed and that the county did "much better than you thought you were doing." Calling it a "positive report," Berry added that the audit should help the county's overall financial rating.

According to a sketch of the audit report, the county raised about \$30 million in revenue last year, but topped that in expenditures by about \$1.1 million, which came from the county's unappropriated fund balance. However, Berry pointed out commissioners initially anticipated spending \$4.8 million from the fund balance, according to their 1987-88 budget.

The county's tax collection rate last year was 95.14 percent, compared to about 95.2 percent in previous years. Also, revenue from the county water system increased to about \$61,000 last year, coming out of the red thanks to the addition of the (See COMMISSIONERS, Page 2-A)

Action Expected Shortly On Brunswick Post Office

Action is expected shortly on the purchase of land for the proposed South Brunswick Islands Station of the Shallotte Post Office, according to an owner of the proposed site for the facility.

Although postal officials will not confirm anything specific about the project, local developer Bill Benton said last week that all paperwork for a land purchase at Seaside has been completed and that he expects the sale to go through shortly. "We're looking forward to possibly closing on it this month," he said.

Benton is partial owner of a tract of land between Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach which the postal service has an option to purchase, according to earlier statements by Benton. The 120,000-square-foot piece of land is located on N.C. 904 between Bill Benton Realty and Ocean Isle Fashions Inc.

John Gordon, real estate specialist with the U.S. Postal Service in Greensboro and coordinator of the local project, said last week he was not in a position to provide any information on the status of the postal station.

"We're still pursuing it," he said, adding that there may be some good news to report in 60 or 90 days. "It's one of the few projects we're still pursuing following the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987."

The federal act passed last December required the postal service to save \$815 million in capital expenses over the next two fiscal years and caused the indefinite postponement of many planned post offices in this region, according to Gordon.

Art Shealy, communications manager with the Columbia, S.C., postal division, also said last week he had no new information on the project. He added, however, that he may have some details to pass on in about a month.

The South Brunswick Islands station was proposed to handle growth in that area of Brunswick County. The office, which is not expected to affect mailing addresses or the ZIP code, will centralize the delivery area for Ocean Isle Beach, Sunset Beach and Calabash.

Chamber Promotes Shopping At Home

As the holiday rings in, the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce is encouraging all shoppers to stay at home for their holiday shopping needs.

And to promote shopping at home, the chamber is sponsoring "Hometown Holidays."

On Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving, participating chamber-member businesses will host open house for their customers, serving light refreshments and providing the opportunity for customers to win cash prizes. The chamber is placing a box in each participating business for registration and will award a minimum of \$100 cash each week for four consecutive weeks.

Drawings will be held Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, and prize money is being sponsored by area banks. Persons must register each week to be eligible for that particular week's drawing.

According to Chamber Executive Director Susanne Sartelle, the purpose of "Hometown Holidays" is to help boost retail business during the holiday season. "We simply want to encourage shoppers to stay here at home for their holiday gift buying instead of traveling to other cities. We want dollars to circulate within Brunswick County."

Registration for cash prizes will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 20.