

How Sweet It Is!

Winning's just as sweet the second time around, says Wendy Williams of Leland, who was crowned Miss Brunswick County Saturday night for the second time in three years. The story and photographs are on Page 2-B.



Unexpected Booty

The State of North Carolina may have a pleasant surprise for you, as it tries to match unclaimed property such as forgotten bank balances and uncashed checks with their rightful owners. Is your name on the list? See Page 9-A.



'Shopper' On The Job

Billy Ingram, Brunswick County's first purchasing officer, assumed his new duties last week. His first job? Taking stock of supplies, as the county moves toward centralized purchasing. The story's on Page 7-A.

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Varnamtown Race Results Different?

BY DOUG RUTTER

Correction of an election day mixup has apparently resulted in a change on the incoming Varnamtown Board of Aldermen.

Luellen Norris—who prior to this week thought she had come seven votes short of election Nov. 7 to the town board—said she found out Monday that she had won a seat on the board. Her election apparently eliminates Joseph Herring as an alderman-elect.

Brunswick County election officials could not confirm Monday night whether the mixup resulted in a change in the outcome of the election. The complex matter came to light at Monday night's town meeting in Varnamtown.

Contacted at her home Monday night, Brunswick County Elections Supervisor Lynda Britt said she was on vacation and refused to comment on the election. She told *The Brunswick Beacon* to contact members of the Brunswick County Board of Elections for information.

Elections board member Orie Gore said he hadn't heard anything about a problem with the Varnamtown election. He noted that the Varnamtown election results were certified in the Nov. 9 canvass along with the results of most of the county's other municipal races. "I haven't heard anything about it, and nobody's called me," he said.

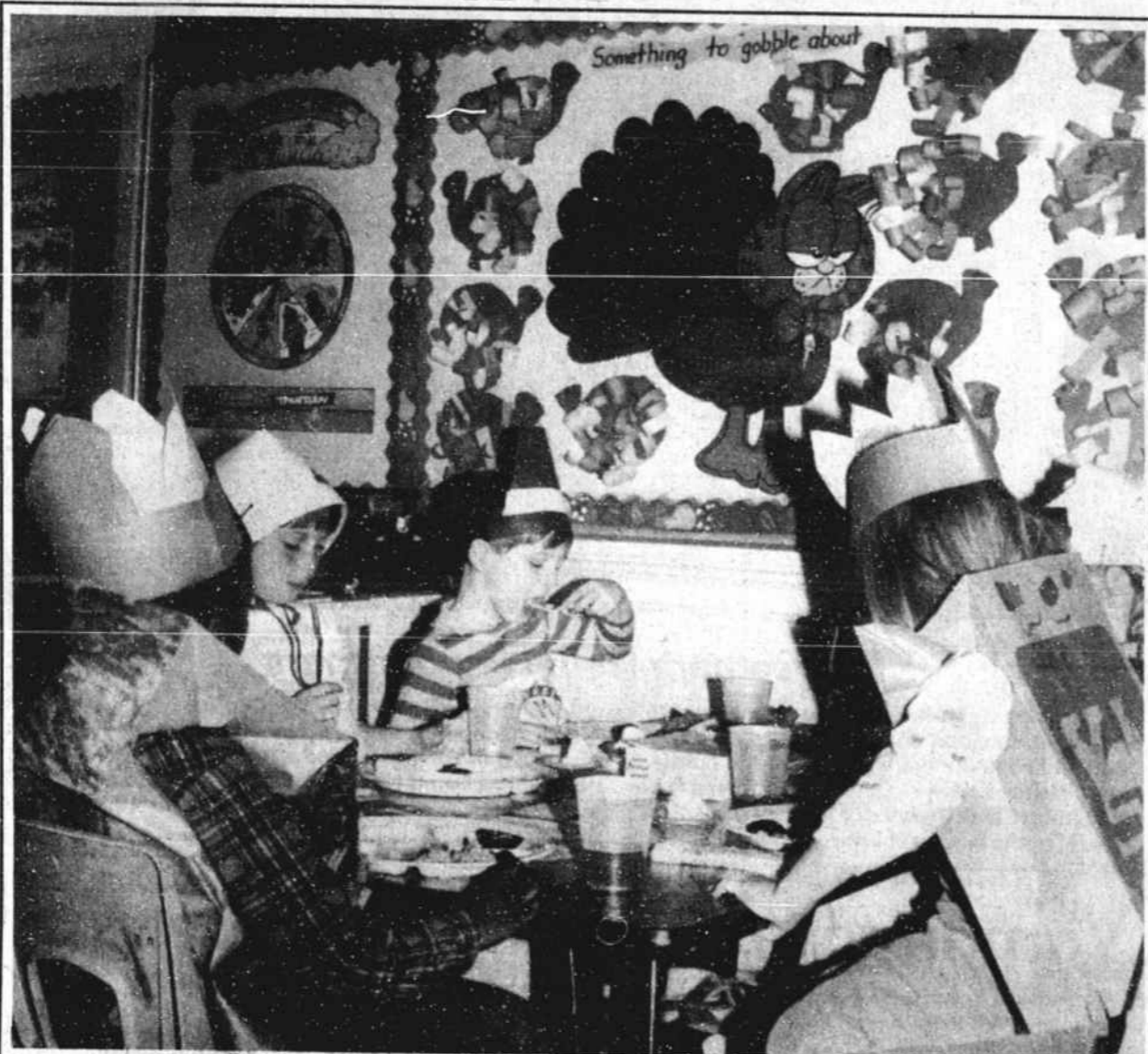
Board Chairperson Glenda Walker of Leland and the election board's only other member, Patricia Ramsey of Oak Island, could not be reached for comment Monday night.

Mrs. Norris said she received a certificate from the Brunswick County Board of Elections last week stating that she had been elected to the board of aldermen.

Thinking it was a mistake, she went to the elections office in Bolivia Monday to check it out. She said an employee in the elections office informed her that she had in fact been elected. The original election results had been changed due to an error in ballot counting.

Discussion at Monday's meeting in Varnamtown indicated that the error occurred when judges for the municipal election counted votes on some of the ballots twice.

More than a dozen town voters wrote in Alderman Marion Davis for mayor of Varnamtown. Due to a misunderstanding in the instructions provided by county elections officials, judges for the town election counted votes on all of the ballots containing write-ins twice. The votes marked on the ballots were apparently counted on the voting machine once and then again by (See VARNAMTOWN, Page 2-A)



Something To Gobble About?

The 27 youngsters in Melanie Avolis' kindergarten class at Union Primary School got a taste of Thanksgiving early Friday. Using modern shortcuts and packaged foods, the students mixed and cooked their own menu of sliced ham, pumpkin pie with whipped topping, cut corn, candied sweet potatoes, dressing and cranberry sauce, with cornbread from the school cafeteria. Most students dug in enthusiastically, like (counterclockwise above) Jeff Wolford, Brandi Joplin, Lamont Hill, Blaire Ansley and Rhonette Phillips. The youngsters also made their own Indian and Pilgrim costumes and place mats.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Beer And Wine To Flow Sooner Than Expected

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County business owners learned Monday that they may be selling beer and wine sooner than they previously thought, while state Alcoholic Beverage Control officials were simply surprised at the turnout for the information session in Bolivia.

"We expected a great number, but I don't think we expected this many people to come out today," said ABC Commission Chairman Paul Powell of the more than 100 individuals on hand. He added that this is the first time in recent history that a county has passed all four ABC issues in one referendum, as Brunswick County did on Nov. 7.

The referendum cleared the way for on- and off-premises beer and wine sales, the operation of ABC stores and mixed beverage sales in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters and convention centers throughout Brunswick County.

At the outset of Monday's meeting, Powell announced that temporary on- and off-premises beer and wine permits will be issued Dec. 1 to local retail businesses whose applications are turned in to Alcohol Law Enforcement officers on Monday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Public Assembly Building.

Powell explained that the temporary permits will be issued after the applications are reviewed by the Wilmington ALE office and the state ABC office in Raleigh. Regular permits will be issued to eligible businesses after ALE conducts thorough background investigations, which take three to four weeks to complete.

"We're doing this to help the business folks of this county get started," Powell said. He also emphasized that a temporary permit can be revoked immediately if an investigation turns up any false information on the respective firm's application.

Only businesses that turn in applications to ALE Monday morning will be eligible for the temporary permits, Powell said. Businesses that apply at any other time must wait through the investigation process before they are issued permits.

Powell also explained that restaurants and private clubs in three municipalities—Shalotte, Belville and Boiling Spring Lakes—will be able

to obtain temporary liquor-by-the-drink permits immediately, since those towns already have ABC stores.

Establishments elsewhere in the county cannot receive mixed beverage permits until county commissioners set up a Brunswick County ABC Board and open a county ABC store, he said. As of the Monday morning information session, county commissioners had not met since the referendum passed Nov. 7.

In response to several questions, Powell noted that there is no regulation on the distance between ABC stores and that the county could conceivably locate its store relatively close to one of the four existing ABC stores in the South Brunswick Islands area. However, Powell said he didn't think the ABC Commission would allow the county to build a store in a town that has its own ABC system.

"It's a complicated situation here, because you've got so many systems," he said. In addition to the new county system being formed, eight municipalities have ABC systems of their own. Those town systems can continue to operate.

Officials pointed out Monday that no more municipal ABC systems can be formed in Brunswick County, now that a countywide referendum on the issue has passed.

Also, ABC Commission Legal Specialist Ann Fulton told the gathering that the only way for any specific areas to become dry again would be for alcohol sales to be voted out of the entire county in some future referendum. Another county vote cannot be called for three years.

Basic requirements for all ABC permits are as follows: All applicants must be at least 21 years old; a North Carolina resident (unless the applicant is a corporation); not convicted of a felony within three years; not convicted of an ABC offense or misdemeanor drug offense within two years; and not have had an ABC permit revoked within three years.

Additional requirements for certain types of alcohol sales include:

- On-premises beer—The establishment must have two restrooms.
- On-premises unfortified wine—The location must be an eating establishment where food is regularly and customarily sold. No food percentage is required for the permit.

(See BEER & WINE, Page 2-A)

Judge Rules In Town's Favor; 12th Street Can Be Improved

BY RAHN ADAMS

An attempt by a group of non-resident property owners to block construction of a neighborhood beach accessway at Sunset Beach fell short last week, as a Superior Court judge ruled that the property belongs to the public.

Last Wednesday in Brunswick County Superior Civil Court, Judge Dexter Brooks decided the "12th Street" lawsuit in the Town of Sunset Beach's favor by issuing a pre-trial judgment in the case. A hearing was held Nov. 14 in Bolivia.

Sunset Beach, which filed the suit in February 1988, was represented by Town Attorney Michael Isenberg. Charlotte lawyer Timothy Sellers was counsel for the defendants, six couples who own property along the now undeveloped 12th

Street.

Defendants are Mr. and Mrs. Everett L. Wohlbruck, and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Youngblood III, all of Mecklenburg County; Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Layton of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Conly III of Lewisburg, W. Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hogg of Wake County; and Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Calhoun of Horry County, S.C.

The lawsuit, however, may go to the N.C. Court of Appeals. Defendants have 10 days from the date of the Superior Court judge's ruling to appeal the decision, according to Isenberg.

Twelfth Street is a 30-foot-wide right-of-way connecting Canal Drive and Main Street on the eastern section of Sunset Beach. Although

the "street"—now basically a grassy gully—has never been developed as a thoroughfare, it originally was platted as a public roadway in 1958 and again as late as 1976.

In October 1987, Sunset Beach was awarded a \$43,502 grant from the N.C. Office of Coastal Management to develop neighborhood beach accessways at 12th Street and one other site. The 12th Street accessway was to include seven parking spaces north of Main Street.

Town Council did not accept the grant after the board learned that property owners had purportedly withdrawn 12th Street's public dedication in October 1987, two months after the development firm, Sunset Beach & Twin Lakes Inc., decided them the right-of-way.

(See JUDGE RULES, Page 2-A)

OWNERS TO MEET SATURDAY

Congressman Requests Closer Look At Sunset Beach Bridge Proposal

BY DOUG RUTTER

Congressman Charles G. Rose has joined a group of concerned residents in asking that state transportation officials reconsider proposed construction of a high-rise bridge to Sunset Beach.

In a Nov. 2 letter to N.C. Transportation Secretary James Harrington, Rose requests that the state reconsider the economic feasibility of the bridge, which would replace the existing pontoon bridge. The new bridge is currently in the design stage, and the state plans to accept bids for construction of the high-rise in September 1990.

"I realize you are probably under pressure from boaters along the waterway to build a bridge they would not have to wait for," writes Rose. "However, I ask you to take at least one more look at this particular project to reevaluate its feasibility and prudence."

In his two-page letter, Rose indicates that his interest in the project was spurred in part by local opposition to the high-rise bridge.

The Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association (SBTA), a non-profit group made up of Sunset Beach property owners, has spearheaded the opposition. The organization recently started a "Save Our Bridge" campaign



ROSE

aimed at keeping the pontoon bridge and doing away with plans for the 65-foot-high span, which would be similar to fixed-span bridges to Ocean Isle and Holden beaches.

"Several residents have contacted me expressing their concerns over not only the bridge, but the long-term effects it would have on the community," Rose states in his letter. "Largely, the concerns center around the fear of a possible push toward commercialization."

Repeating the concerns of local residents, Rose said they feel the \$6.9 million estimated price tag for bridge construction is too high considering it will only serve an island with 200 permanent residents. He said the debt service on \$6.9 million would be higher than the \$100,000 the state now spends each year to maintain the pontoon bridge.

Also, he said opponents of the planned high-rise bridge fear it will result in damage to the environment. "They contend that with the existing structure leading to the causeway, automobile emissions are dissipated into the marsh and the sound along the way stretching in total over approximately a mile and a half," writes Rose. "The proposed bridge would collect these emissions on its concrete structure and allow them to be washed down hill to collect at a central point."

Quoting Durham attorney Jim Maxwell, who represents the SBTA in its "Lot 1-A" lawsuit, Rose further

states that the high-rise bridge would affect the public boat ramp on the approach to the island.

Also, Rose quotes Maxwell as saying that the bottom of the bridge on the island side would be at a "dangerously low sea level" which could affect evacuation in the event of a hurricane.

The latest update on the high-rise bridge and the election of directors will highlight this Saturday's meeting of the SBTA. Members will gather at the fire station for fellowship at 10 a.m., and the meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m., said President Harold Wells.

Property owner groups at Ocean Isle Beach and Holden Beach will also meet Saturday morning for their Thanksgiving holiday sessions.

Wells said this week that the SBTA has taken no legal action regarding the high-rise bridge as it was authorized to do at the group's annual meeting Labor Day weekend.

He also said there has been no official polling of members concerning their feelings on the bridge. Most who attended the annual meeting, however, indicated that they oppose a new bridge.

Wells is one of four persons on the SBTA's board of directors whose term expires Saturday. Others are Warren "Bud" Knapp, Alan Russ and Minnie Hunt.

All four have been nominated for re-election to the board. Nominations will also be accepted from the

floor at Saturday's meeting. All terms are for two years.

Ocean Isle POA

The Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association will hold its annual meeting Saturday at 10 a.m. in town hall.

President Stuart Ingram said the membership will elect five persons to two-year terms on the board of directors. Various committees will also report at the meeting. "We're not expecting any bomb shells," said Ingram.

Holden Beach POA

It should also be business as usual when the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) meets Saturday at town hall. The board of directors will meet at 9 a.m. and the general meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Directors and members will have an opportunity to meet the three new town commissioners who will take office next month. They are Gloria Barrett, Judy Bryan and Kenner Amos, who is president of the HBPOA.

The only item of discussion on the preliminary agenda is overcrowding of rental homes, a problem town commissioners and county health officials have discussed for several months.

The general meeting should also feature a report from the town manager on town projects and reports on finance and membership from the HBPOA's executive secretary.