



LANETTE BATCHELOR prepares a display of her bear family at the arts and crafts booths set up for the Ole Time Festival. STAFF PHOTOS BY TERRY POPE



CHRISTY SMALL of the North Brunswick High School band plays the clarinet as band members entertained the festival crowd Saturday.

Festival Brings Leland Area Residents Together

Bringing communities together for a day of celebration is the goal of the Leland Ole Time Festival, held Saturday at the Leland Community Park.

Despite some morning showers, the festival reached its goal again this year when the skies cleared by providing entertainment for children, arts and crafts, food and fun.

Sponsored by the Leland Community Action Group, the festival is held each year in the fall to bring the communities of northern Brunswick County together. When Leland incorporated last year, it became the third largest town in Brunswick County with 1,793 people, according to the Census Bureau. However, Leland is also

bordered by the towns of Navassa and Belville. Sandy Creek is also a town in the northern district.

Hot items at this year's festival included the Teenage Turtles, which made a premiere showing in their green and red costumes at the local schools Friday, said Jean Speight, coordinator of the event. Logos for New Kids on the

Block, a music group currently high on the charts, was a favorite for face painters. Smaller children enjoyed a train ride.

Other appearances were made by the North Brunswick High School band, JROTC unit and cheerleaders. Other entertainment was provided by the Azalea Coast Cloggers, Magician Dave Risley,

Miss Brunswick County Wendy Williams, the Brunswick County Cloggers, the bluegrass band Wild Country and country music by East Coast Boys.

Tips Offered For Mailing Packages To Saudi Arabia

The United States has lifted the temporary 12-ounce restriction on first-class personal mail destined for American troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf.

The military postal support system in the Middle East and sufficient airlift capabilities are now in place to handle the increased volume of mail, according to a news release from Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal.

All classes of mail up to the maximum weights allowed will be accepted and dispatched. The normal customs restrictions apply to all mail.

Items including firearms, alcoholic beverages, pork and pork by-products, pornography or sexual items, unauthorized political materials and any matter containing religious materials contrary to Islamic faith or depicting nude or semi-nude persons are prohibited.

The current average transit time for first-class mail to Saudi Arabia is about seven days. Generic mail should continue to be addressed either to APO New York 09848-0006 or FPO New York 09866-0006.

The U.S. Postal Service offers the following tips for mailing packages to military personnel participating in Operation Desert Shield:

—Use a sturdy carton large enough to accommodate the contents and use some form of cushioning to protect the articles inside. Seal the package securely using pressure-sensitive tape. Avoid using brown wrapping paper, cord or string on the outside.

—Print the service member's name and address on the lower right portion of the package on one side only. Be sure to include the name, rank and service number, military organization or unit, and the APO/FPO address, which should be available from the service member's base in the United States.

—Put your return address in the upper left corner of the package. Also, include your return address on a piece of paper on the inside of the package.

—Remember the hot temperatures of the Saudi Arabian climate when considering what to send to the troops there. Daytime temperatures in the desert exceed 100 degrees regularly. Items to send which are popular with the troops include audio cassette tapes, newspaper clippings, gum and hard candy.

—Make sure to attach parcel post customs declaration forms to packages. Forms are available at local post offices.

Golf Course Developer Requests Relief From Calabash Sign Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Commissioners took no action Tuesday on a request from developer Odell Williamson that he be allowed to put up two signs in violation of the town's sign ordinance in order to promote his new golf course.

Williamson had four signs around Calabash promoting his Ocean Harbour Golf Links, but took them down as requested by the town because they violated the sign ordinance.

The golf course developer asked Tuesday that he be allowed to put back one of the signs for one year and another one of the signs for two years so people become familiar with the location of his new development.

After hearing Williamson's request, Calabash Commissioners met for half an hour in executive session to discuss legal matters with Town Attorney Mike Ramos.

When the board came back into open session, Mayor Doug Simmons suggested Williamson contact the town attorney regarding the proper procedures to follow to bring a variance request before the Calabash Board of Adjustment, which is the board that acts on variances.

Earlier in the meeting, Williamson said the Calabash Planning and Zoning Board had rejected his request for relief and he wanted to bring it to the commissioners, who make up the board of adjustment and have the final word on variances.

Williamson said he didn't think the town was fair in how it was enforcing the sign ordinance because he had to take his signs down while other illegal signs were still in tact.

He said he wasn't trying to get anyone else's signs taken down, but wanted the enforcement to be fair. "I do not feel like I've been fed out of the same spoon as other people," Williamson said.

Calabash Code Enforcement Officer Ed Schaack said there are four signs in violation of the ordinance still standing, plus other types of sign ordinance violations he hasn't gotten to yet.

Two of the four illegal signs he

Foundation Plans Lowcountry Tour

The historic South Carolina towns of Cheraw, Camden, Statesburg, McClellanville and Georgetown will be among the places visited during an upcoming bus tour sponsored by the New Hanover County Museum Foundation.

Travelers will visit historic homes and sites of Revolutionary War battles and take a riverboat tour of indigo and rice plantations during the "Excursion Through the Palmetto State" Nov. 8-11.

The cost of the four-day motor coach excursion, including lodging, meals and fees, is \$345 for double occupancy and \$385 for single occupancy for museum foundation members.

Non-members are invited to join the trip for an additional \$25, which includes a one-year membership to the foundation.

For more information, call the foundation at 341-4350.

has identified should be coming down this week or next week, he said, and lawsuits have been filed regarding the two others.

Since the town started strict enforcement of the sign ordinance earlier this year, Schaack said one variance has been granted. A former town building inspector issued a permit in error for a sign promoting Sea Trail Golf Links, he said, and that sign won't have to come down for two years.

Williamson said the four Ocean Harbour signs cost him \$25,000 and he has spent \$100,000 advertising the golf course in magazines. He said when people get to Calabash, he wants them to know how to get to his golf course.

Williamson isn't the only Calabash area businessman who has questioned the recent enforcement of the sign ordinance, which has been on the books since 1982.

A letter signed by 29 people was presented to the planning board at a special luncheon meeting Monday with town merchants. The letter said the sign ordinance is unclear and arbitrarily enforced.

Other Business
In other business this week, commissioners:

•Voted to seek bids from people or companies interested in purchasing a section of right of way along

an abandoned street in Carolina Shores. Schaack said the abandoned road was deeded to the town when it took over ownership of streets from the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association.

•Adopted a resolution authorizing the town clerk to investigate a petition for annexation submitted by Marsh Harbour Yacht Club. A petition seeking annexation of the marina development was given to the town in January.

•Failed to support a planning board recommendation that the town adopt a resolution calling for N.C. 179 to be further identified as The Beach Road. Commissioner Stu Thorn made a motion to adopt the resolution, but it died when nobody seconded the motion.

•Appointed Commissioners Jon Sanborn, Ray Card and Keith Hardee to a committee responsible for coordinating roads, ditches, street lights and street signs.

•Voted to re-advertise for bids for the mowing of drainage ditches in Carolina Shores. The town didn't receive any offers during the first bidding period, which ended Tuesday.

•Set a workshop for Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. in town hall for the purpose of reviewing new proposed zoning ordinances.

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Mothers Of Rape Victims Angry At Light Sentence

BY TERRY POPE

The mothers of two children who were sexually abused are upset that the Southport man charged with the crimes received a suspended sentence last week in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Christian Donald Partello, 15, was tried as an adult on six counts of first degree sex offense and six counts of crimes against nature following his indictment last November by a Brunswick County Grand Jury. He pleaded guilty to six counts of crimes against nature last week and received a six-year suspended sentence and was placed on five years of supervised probation by Superior Court Judge Giles Clark. The sentencing hearing was moved to Columbus County Superior Court.

Judge Clark also ordered that Partello stay enrolled in a private school in Southport and participate in the Sex Offender Treatment Program. According to documents filed at the Clerk of Courts office, the incidents occurred between March and May of 1989 and involved an eight-year-old girl and a six-year-old boy who were unrelated to the defendant.

"I'm very upset at how the case was handled," said the girl's mother Tuesday.

She asked not to be identified to protect the identity of her daughter.

"If he is to be tried as an adult, then why isn't he to be sentenced as an adult?" she said. "These children are going to need years of therapy. Their lives are a shambles."

Both mothers wrote letters to the Superior Court judge asking that the defendant be given the maximum sentence. Each case of crimes against nature carries a maximum term of 10 years in prison and a presumptive term of three years. Cases can be consolidated for the purpose of sentencing youthful offenders.

Partello was 13 when one incident occurred and that case was handled in Brunswick County Juvenile Court. By law, juvenile court proceedings are not open to public record. The other incident occurred when the defendant was 14. District Attorney Michael Easley chose to prosecute Partello on those charges as an adult.

"We've spent a year and a half of going to trial and living with this," the girl's mother said. "What my daughter doesn't realize is that he hasn't been punished."

She was under the impression that the defendant would be sentenced to the state's Western correctional facility which houses offenders under the age of 21 or that he would be sent to a juvenile home.

"When the people who are supposed to protect the victims allow this to happen, you become angry," she said. "I have strong concerns about this because the memories are still here. You see these people in the grocery stores. You don't ever get over the paranoia."

She believes the laws need to be changed to protect the victims. From the original charges, the defendant faced a possible 120 years in prison.

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