

Middle East Situation Focus Of Panel Discussion At BCC

An upcoming forum at Brunswick Community College will explore issues surrounding the current conflict in the Middle East.

Sponsored by the college and the BCC Foundation, the forum will be held Monday, Oct. 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the ALS building on BCC's main campus on U.S. 17 north of Supply. Admission is free, with the program funded by the BCC Foundation and a BCC Community Service grant. The BCC Resource Center staff is coordinating the event.

Speakers on the discussion panel will include Col. Michael S. Featherston, commander of Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal; Robin Schuster of Long Beach, who was previously employed by Raytheon Corp. in Saudi Arabia; and Norvell De Atkine, a retired career

Army officer presently serving as senior Mid-East analyst with the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center in Fayetteville.

Serving as moderator will be James R. Leutze, Ph. D., chancellor of the University of North Carolina and creator, producer and host of *Globe Watch*, an international affairs program produced by UNC-TV for the Public Broadcasting System.

Panelists will discuss the cultural, religious, political and economic factors of the Middle East.

After each panelist has spoken, audience members will be allowed to ask questions, with time for general discussion.

Col. Featherston is a decorated Vietnam War veteran who early in his Army career transferred from the infantry to the Transportation Corps. As commander of Sunny



FEATHERSTON SCHUSTER

Point, the largest ammunition port in the free world, he oversees transport of munitions and equipment to the Middle East. His previous assignments include a stint as operations officer at Izmir, Turkey, and Sunny Point terminals; command of the transportation battalion in Baltimore, Md., and most recently, deputy project manager of the Transportation Coordinator-Auto-

mated Command and Control Information System. In addition to holding a master's degree, Featherston has completed advanced military training.

At the Kennedy Center, De Atkine has been the Middle East Studies Director in the Special Operations and International Studies Department since 1988. His responsibilities include courses in low-intensity conflict, intercultural relations and security assistance. As an adjunct professor at Methodist College, he teaches courses in Middle East studies and terrorism. As a civilian he worked for three years as an analyst of Middle East affairs for BDM Corporation in Washington, D.C.

De Atkine holds a master's degree in Middle East Studies from the American University of Beirut and

is a graduate of West Point and the U.S. Army War College. He spent eight years in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt as an attaché or security assistance officer. In the United Arab Emirates he was stationed with the British Trucial Oman Scouts.

De Atkine spent 26 years in the U.S. Army, alternating between foreign area speciality and field artillery troop assignments. After a final tour in the military as inspector general at Fort Sill, Okla., he retired in 1985 with the rank of colonel.

Ms. Schuster worked for Raytheon Corporation in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as a parks and recreation director in 1974 and 1975. After earning a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation administration from Michigan State University, she returned to Saudi Arabia in 1978 and established an employee day care cen-

ter at the Raytheon Corp. complex, working with both Saudi and American staff and their families.

She presently owns and directs Robin's Nest Child Development Center in Southport and remains in contact with a sister who lives in Jeddah.

Leutze, the panel moderator, assumed the chancellorship of UNC-Wilmington in July, after serving as president of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Va. A scholar, researcher, administrator and expert on foreign affairs, Leutze began his academic career in 1968 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where he was involved with development of the Curriculum for Peace, War and Defense. The Charleston, S.C., native earned a doctorate in history from Duke University.

Oyster Festival Organizers Gearing Up For Large Crowd

If wishes do come true, Jay Houston will get his day of sunshine.

The chairman of the 1990 N.C. Oyster Festival is thinking positive and calling for "blue skies and highs in the mid 70s" for Oct. 20 and 21, the dates for this year's festival.

The South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for an expected crowd of more than 25,000 people for the 10th annual state-sanctioned festival, which draws visitors mainly from across the Carolinas. "More than last year, but it's kind of difficult to predict," Houston said of the size crowd to expect. "The weather can really make a difference."

The festival will be held again at Sea Trail Plantation at the intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904 at Seaside. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Along with the N.C. Oyster Shucking Championship, the 1990 N.C. Oyster Festival will feature the usual array of food and fun.

Admission is \$1 for adults, with children admitted free. There will be no charge for parking and tickets purchased Saturday will be honored anytime that day and again Sunday afternoon, said Jay Houston, festival chairman.

Houston said festival-goers can expect better access, with more parking areas, parking assistance and entry points. For those needing help festival volunteers can be readily identified by their black T-shirts with the festival logo, and an information booth will be staffed near the main entrance.

Fried scallop plates are a new addition to the seafood menu, which will not be handled by festival volunteers this year. Lloyd's Oyster

Oyster Champ To Travel

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Simmons, second runner-up last year with an adjusted time of 2:59.99; and a man who's never competed before, James Lofton.

"I think he can win. He doesn't even use gloves to open them," said Ms. McNeil. "I have to have them. All day long he picks oysters with no gloves."

Does she think she can win at Leonardtown? Maybe, maybe not, but in any case she plans to enjoy the trip and the competition.

Her advice to would-be shucking contestants? To use a good knife and to concentrate.

"My biggest problem is nerves; you need to try to stay calm," she said. "And it's best to open the oysters up from the back (the hinge), not the front."

Ms. McNeil's knife has a white, non-slip handle, with a blade that's been honed thin with a file. She's let other fellow workers attempt to sharpen her knife in the past, but prefers her mother's touch.

So far she hasn't practiced with her new knife. Milliken needs to first cut the handle down to size for her, she said, and then it needs honing. "You've got to keep a point on it," she said.

House will handle sales of scallops and oysters, offering fried dinners with hushpuppies, French fries and coleslaw, as well as raw oysters on the half shell, opened on-site by employees.

Various civic groups will offer other seafood items, including clam chowder, crab balls, boiled shrimp cups and fried fish. Local Boy Scouts will sell hot dogs, while other for-profit vendors will sell items ranging from ice cream to Italian sausages.

Though they will no longer be responsible for food service duty, the festival still expects to use between 150 and 200 volunteers during the course of the event, from set-up Friday to knock-down time Sunday afternoon, indicated Suzanne Sartelle, executive vice president. She said it's not too late to sign up to help.

Featured entertainment for the festival will be Bill Stewart and The Spontanes. The band will play two

hour-long sets, with an emphasis on music from the '50s and '60s. Also entertaining Saturday will be various visiting quens and guitarist Mark Johnson. On Sunday, Johnson returns for several sets, along with the trio City and musicians from the Brunswick Christian Center.

A juried arts and crafts show chaired by Jack Scarborough will offer five purchase awards totaling \$600, with additional artists and craftsmen also displaying their work for sale.

Storytellers will again rise to the occasion of the annual Brunswick County Veterans Service Office Bullshooting Contest. The only requirement to enter the Saturday afternoon event is to be "a veteran or non-veteran" with a tall tale suitable for family listening. Contestants can enter the day of the event, at the information booth.

Competitors can also wait until the last minute to enter the 1990

N.C. Oyster Shucking Championship Saturday afternoon, a highlight of the festival. This year's contest is wide open, as the 1989 champion will be competing that Saturday at the national shucking contest in Maryland. There's no fee to enter; shuckers open raw oysters against the clock, with an emphasis on the appearance of the completed tray of oysters.

Visitors to this year's fair will get to vote Saturday on the logo design for the 1991 Oyster Festival, with the winner to be announced Sunday afternoon. The artist creating the design, which is featured on festival T-shirts, posters, balloons and other promotional items, will receive a \$100 prize.

T-shirts and sweatshirts will be sold at the festival, along with balloons. Soft drinks will be sold this year in one size only, a 16-ounce festival cup, \$1.

In addition to the major attractions, amusements rides are planned. These will include the Hurricane and Pirate Ship for adults, and the Kiddie Strike and moonwalk for children, with adult supervision required.

Opening ceremonies for the festival begin at 10 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and music by the West Brunswick High School Marching Band and Chorus.

Early risers can get a jump on other festival-goers, however, by watching or competing in the Oyster Festival Road Race at Holden Beach. An \$8 entry is charged and racers can sign up in advance or at the race site. Packet pick-up begins at 8:30 a.m., and the first race, a one-mile Fun Run, begins at 10 a.m., followed by 5K and 10K races at 10:15 a.m. Racers are to meet beneath the Holden Beach Bridge at the regional access area.

SIGNS ARE TAKEN DOWN Calabash Drops 3 Lawsuits

BY DOUG RUTTER

Removal of several signs in and around Calabash has led the town to drop three of the four lawsuits that were filed last month to get rid of signs found to be in violation of a local ordinance.

But the fourth lawsuit has not been settled, and a fifth one may be forthcoming, said Calabash Code Enforcement Officer Ed Schaack. The town has dropped lawsuits against Sam Bierworth of Calabash Produce, Fanjoy Sign Co. of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and North Star Carolina Corp.

Schaack said the signs that initiated those lawsuits have been taken down since the suits were filed Sept. 18 in Brunswick County District Court.

The lawsuits accused the owners of erecting either off-premises or roof signs, both of which are illegal in Calabash and its extrajurisdictional area, which includes property with a mile of the town.

Meanwhile, the defendant in the only remaining lawsuit says the town issued a permit for his sign and then demanded that it be taken down eight months after it was erected.

John Williams of Dos Amigos Restaurant said the town's former building inspector issued a permit last year for an off-premises sign promoting the Ocean Isle Beach business.

The lawsuit filed three weeks ago by Calabash Town Attorney Mike Ramos, however, says the sign was put up without a valid permit.

In the lawsuit, the town is seeking preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring the owner of the sign to remove it. The town also wants the defendant to pay court costs.

Carol Long, who runs Dos Amigos, said former Calabash Building Inspector Frank Adams issued a building permit for the sign Sept. 5, 1989. She said the town sent a letter in May saying the sign had to be taken down. The town offered to refund the \$20 permit fee, but not other costs related to the sign.

Mrs. Long said arrangements for the sign weren't made until the permit was issued. At that time, the restaurant management signed a five-year lease for the property on which the sign is located.

Schaack said the lawsuit against the restaurant is the only one that hasn't been dropped. But he said the town may have to file another lawsuit to get rid of two more off-premises signs that promote an area golf course.

Calabash officials began strict enforcement of the town's eight-year-old sign ordinance earlier this year, shortly after a new board of commissioners took office.

The new board is made up of residents from both districts in Calabash, which was expanded last year to take in the Carolina Shores golf course community.

Bypass Intersection To Get Traffic Signal

In a change from its original plans, the N.C. Department of Transportation will install a signal light at the intersection of the U.S. 17 bypass of Shallotte and N.C. 130 West.

Doug Bowers, Division 3 engineer, said that "public input" prompted the agency to review its plans for the project, which originally called for only a stop sign for traffic entering the bypass from N.C. 130, which serves West Brunswick High School. "The bypass was the main traffic route and we had wanted the traffic to flow freely," he said.

But upon review, Bowers said, "We realized there was going to be a tremendous amount of traffic from the school and that increased traffic was anticipated from 130. We decided back before the contract was let for paving to signalize the inter-

DOT rejected the request for an overpass, saying it would require extensive redesign.

section."

Like most signals being installed by the state, with a sensory loop placed in the pavement that will detect when vehicles are waiting to cross or enter the bypass. "If no one is waiting to enter then the light won't turn red on the bypass," he said.

The bypass will have right- and left-turn lanes, he said, and N.C. 130 will be widened to accommodate turn lanes as well.

Also, the state will erect advance signage along the bypass several

hundred feet on either side of the light warning motorists of the signal ahead. "We place those anywhere people would not normally expect a signal, such as on a bypass," said Bowers.

When plans for the bypass were first announced, the proposed stop sign prompted an outcry. Citing safety concerns and the number of inexperienced school-age drivers using N.C. 130, Shallotte officials and local school officials asked the state to instead build an overpass, or if that was not feasible, to install a signal.

DOT rejected the request for an overpass, saying it would require extensive redesign of the project and acquisition of additional right of way that would push the bypass off the state's list of scheduled projects.

The decision to install a signal at the intersection only came late last year, before Dec. 1 when Propst Construction Co. of Concord was awarded the \$3.9 million contract to pave the 4.8-mile bypass.

In mid to late November, Propst Construction Co. is expected to begin temporarily rerouting traffic from U.S. 17 at the north side of Shallotte near Chapel Hill Cemetery along Redbug Road (S.R. 1136) and Holden Beach Road (N.C. 130 East) to allow completion of that end of the project, according to Dave Boylston, DOT resident engineer.

Before the rerouting begins, the state plans to resurface Redbug Road and to install a traffic signal at its intersection with N.C. 130 East, Holden Beach Road. The work has been timed to avoid interference with the summer season and with special events such as the N.C. Oyster Festival, N.C. Festival by the Sea and Dixon Chapel Oyster Roast.

"The contract calls for 90 days to complete the work, but he's hoping not to take that long," said Boylston. Actual length of the interruption will depend on weather and other factors.

Warm Temps Expected To Linger

Above average temperatures and rainfall are in the forecast for the next several days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said he anticipates temperatures to continue ranging from the mid-60s at night into the mid-80s during the daytime, with approximately three-fourths inch of rainfall.

As of Monday afternoon Canady was continuing to keep a close watch on Tropical Storm Klaus, which had become better organized and was moving in a generally

northwestern direction at 15 mph.

For the period Oct. 2-8, Canady recorded a maximum high of 88 degrees, which occurred on the 7th. The minimum low of 57 degrees occurred on Oct. 6th.

A daily average high temperature of 85 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 64 degrees for a daily average temperature of 75 degrees. Canady that is about six degrees above average.

He recorded one-third inch of rainfall at his home near Shallotte Point.

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