



IT'S A FIRST for Brunswick County. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge joins Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter (left) in congratulating West Brunswick High School graduates, including exchange student Patricia Mora of Ecuador.

West Seniors Urged To Make Their Lives Count

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Family members and friends in varied dress encircled graduates Thursday, with standing room only for the ceremony in the school courtyard.

Sentiment was the rule for speakers, who included Heather Bolick, senior class treasurer, and Rita A. Holmes, class secretary.

Reflecting on their four years at West, Class Vice President echoed the class theme, saying, "We came here as strangers, but tonight we will leave as eternal friends."

Christy LaTonya Smith, class president, recalled the class's arrival at West "startled and stunned".

"We didn't know it would be-

come our second home," she said, and that as seniors they would be molded into "a reflection of West, a living testimony" to the efforts of its faculty and staff.

"Parting will be difficult," she said. "Help us let go."

Donna Baxter, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Education, urged the attentive graduates to forge a life based on commitment and citizenship, to leave the world a better place through their caring and commitment to their communities and to others.

Superintendent Hankins continued the theme, urging graduates to not be afraid of the future, that the challenges ahead would be no

greater for them than others have faced. "Work hard and be prepared for a great future," he counseled.

Two of West Brunswick's 205 graduates, Stacey Shaw and Terris Jenrette, hobbled on stage with crutches to receive their diplomas.

Some lifted their diplomas into the air in a show of victory, to the cheers and applause of classmates and family members, or posed for photographs as they left the stage.

"It's good and bad," graduate Monekia Hewett said after the ceremony in between squeals and hugs from friends and fellow graduates. "It's hard to believe that we will never walk these halls again and that we will never see some of these people again."



CHORUS MEMBERS Sonya Gore and Stacey Woodard team for a duet of "Imagine" for fellow seniors.

Brief Heat Relief Due

Relief from a spell of unseasonably hot, dry weather is on its way, but Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said it won't last long.

"Summer is here," he said. "We're going to have more what we've had rather than less of it."

Meanwhile, though, area residents can expect temperatures to drop below average, coupled with average rainfall.

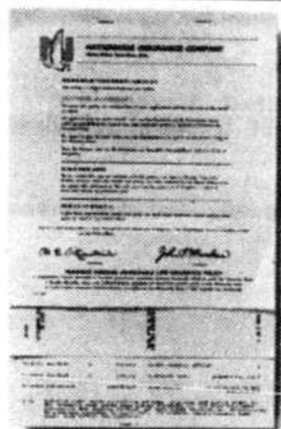
The forecast calls for temperatures ranging from the mid 60s at night into the lower 80s during the

daytime, with about one-half inch of rainfall.

For the period of May 28 through June 3, Canady recorded no rainfall.

The maximum high, 93 degrees, occurred May 29, while the minimum low of 64 degrees occurred June 2.

A daily average high of 91 degrees combined with a nightly average low of 71 degrees, for a daily average temperature of 81 degrees. Canady said that is about 7 degrees above average for this time of year.



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Dogs Recovering As Owner Pleads Guilty To Cruelty

BY TERRY POPE

Twelve Pekingese dogs taken from a Belville motel in April are recovering and on their way to new homes.

The owner of the dogs, Albert Sidney Boney, 48, of Belville, pleaded guilty in Brunswick County District Court last Wednesday to 16 counts of misdemeanor cruelty to animals.

Since the dogs were seized from the Town and Country Motel in April, they have been boarded out to individuals who have time to work with the animals one on one, said Brunswick County Animal Control Supervisor Zelma Babson.

The animals had allegedly been kept in crowded cages and in unsanitary conditions at the motel and were in need of veterinary care, according to the warrants filed. Also, they had not been vaccinated against rabies.

"They're doing real well now," said Ms. Babson on Monday. "They're able to walk now. They run and they play. They even know what dog biscuits are now."

In a plea agreement with Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger, Judge D. Jack Hooks Jr. accepted Boney's guilty plea on 16 counts of misdemeanor cruelty to animals and agreed to dismiss 13 counts of failing to vaccinate dogs and one count of failing to vaccinate a cat.

Boney was given a one-year suspended sentence and placed on one-year supervised probation. He was also ordered not to own any animals for a year, to pay for the care of the animals seized and to pay a \$500 fine.

He must pay \$4,042.09 for the animals' veterinarian bills and serve 72 hours of community service within 120 days. The money will be used to pay for spaying and neutering the animals, their shots, grooming bills and boarding fees since they were seized in April, said Ms. Babson.

"They're getting along with people now, which surprises us," she said. "They actually love people."

One of the Pekingese dogs died

after being taken to the animal shelter in Supply. Ms. Babson said the dogs were in need of room to exercise and of individual attention, prompting the shelter to board the animals out.

Boney had signed ownership of the animals over to the shelter prior to his trial. The sentencing will make it illegal for him to have in his possession any animal for a year.

"I feel real good about it," said Ms. Babson of the sentence.

As soon as the dogs are spayed or neutered this week, they will be placed into homes, she said.

Boney's two-story motel apartment was the focus of a raid in April in which 288 exotic birds, one mixed-breed dog, five mice, four cats and 13 Pekingese dogs were seized in what is believed to be the largest animal confiscation in Brunswick County history.

One of the cats also died following the seizure, said Ms. Babson.

When news of the raid on the pet

mill spread, county residents and area businesses responded by donating food to care for the animals. The animal shelter received phone calls and letters from people across the state who were concerned about the condition of the animals.

The cats and birds will also be placed into homes.

However, during a break-in at the shelter last week, an estimated 125 birds were stolen. Their whereabouts is unknown.

Boney also pleaded guilty to simple possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, charges filed after officers searching his two-story apartment discovered a small amount of marijuana in a bedroom on the day of the raid.

On those charges, Judge Hooks gave Boney a 29-day jail sentence, suspended for two years and fined him \$100. He was ordered not to possess any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia for two years and to submit to warrantless searches.

Fund Started For Burned-Out Family

Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department and Lettles Grove Baptist Church are spearheading an effort to help a local family who lost their home and belongings in a Sunday afternoon fire.

Mike Potts, chief of the Shallotte Point VFD, said firefighters from his department and Shallotte fought the blaze at the Estelle Inman home on N.C. 179 near Bay Road. Utility vans from Sunset Beach and Supply VFD serviced their air packs and Shallotte VRS was at the scene.

The yellow frame house was gutted and all its contents lost. Cause of the blaze, which started shortly after noon, is still under investigation, he said.

Mrs. Inman, who shared the home with her two sons, had no insurance, said Potts.

The family is staying with relatives for the present, but the fire chief said a fund has been established at a local bank to help get the Inmans back into a home of their own.

Contributions should be made payable to, and sent to, the Estelle Inman Fund, attention Lynette Long, United Carolina Bank, P. O. Box 308, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

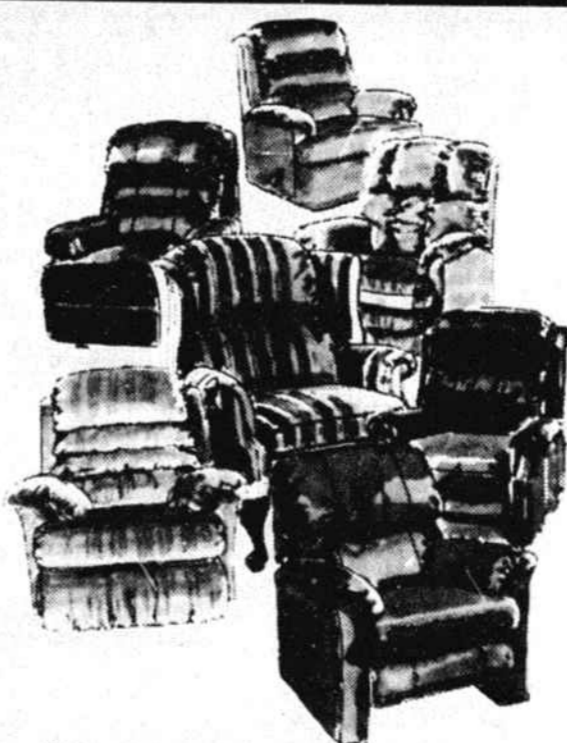
For more information on ways in which the family can be helped, interested persons are asked to contact the Rev. Maurice Milligan, 754-6913, VFD Treasurer Vernon Ward, 754-4482, or anyone with Shallotte Point VFD, said Potts.

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