

College Offers 'Adopt A Classroom' Project

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College wants local civic groups, businesses and others to consider "adopting" a classroom at the college's Southport campus on Lord Street.

BCC is repairing the outside of the classroom building, but wants to involve others in refurbishing the interior, room by room. Any individual or organization that completes a room will have a plaque placed on the door with their name, said Chairman Dave Kelly of the BCC Board of Trustees.

Sponsors would spruce up their room from top to bottom, including lowering the ceiling and re-lighting.

"Tell them we're ready," said Al Wooten of Calabash, chairman of the building and grounds committee. "We're accepting donations of carpet, paint, blinds, everything."

The dropped ceilings could accommodate another possibility Kelly is investigating.

He wants the college to look at the possibility of a central heating and air system that could be installed in one section of the building at a time. Enrolled in a course at the annex, Kelly is concerned about the noise level.

"You can't hear in that classroom now," he said. "You have to have a P.A. (public address) system."

The board has cost estimates in hand for window units of varying sophistication that would cost from \$1,500 to \$5,500 per room. Architect Ken Phelps of Boney & Associates advised at the board's August meeting that the existing windows have deteriorated, with resulting condensation and heat loss, and need replacing at the same time. He had recommended against a "full-blown" system because of the age of the building and for a split system at a cost of \$4,000 per room. Window air units could be installed now, and converted to heat pump as well when the existing boiler fails.

BCC has between \$90,000 and \$100,000 budgeted for repairs to the Southport site, said Ben DeBlois, vice president for administration. But, he added, "If you do that, that means you will have to cut back elsewhere. But right now the money is still available."

Concerns Noted

A state audit of FTE (full time student equi-

"Tell them we're ready. We're accepting donations..."



—Al Wooten, Chairman Building and Grounds

agency) production from spring quarter 1990 through summer quarter 1991 no exceptions for the first time. FTEs are important in determining school funding levels.

Auditor Todd Parker did identify three concerns that could result in future exceptions if not addressed now.

He recommended the college take a second look at the high (more than 50 percent) of "audit" students enrolled in auto mechanics, a curriculum class, and recommended offering a continuing education class for students taking the program for personal enrichment.

Parker also noted that additional efforts need to be made to have instructors reflects actual class schedules in their timesheets and attendance records. In several instances a class was rescheduled and the college notified, but the corresponding paperwork not updated to reflect the change.

Third, Parker noted that salaries of employees who wear multiple hats, teaching both curriculum and continuing education classes for instance, need to be paid from the appropriate funding codes for each task.

On a related funding note, President Michael Reeves noted that BCC started the year already "3 percent down" in funding this year because of a change in the state formula.

That is in addition to a 1.8 percent reversion of funds and a decision by the Department of Community Colleges not to pick up the estimated \$300 per person tab for increased health in-

urance costs for state employees, which will cost BCC about \$20,400.

"If we had had a 15 percent increase in student enrollment this quarter, I don't know how we would have handled," said Michael Reeves, BCC president. Enrollment held steady this fall at 741 as of last Wednesday, compared to 748 last fall. "We are three months into the year and they are also asking us to give back money."

Enrollment in real estate and heating and air conditioning courses has dropped, while general education enrollment is up, a reflection of the local and state economies.

In a related matter, the board agreed to give extra leave to full-time employees for one time only, since no raises were granted this year because of state budget problems. Twelve-month employees will get to take off three extra days and nine- or 10-month employees, two extra days.

Other Business

■ Heard from DeBlois that work is expected to begin on the 1,500-seat Williamson Auditorium by the first week of October, following a Sept. 23 pre-construction conference. Curtis Workman, physical plant director for BCC, will tour the site twice each day.

■ Welcomed new member Jimmy Hobbs of Holden Beach, who replaces Cora Green on the board. A dinner in honor of outgoing and incoming trustees preceded the business meeting.

■ Took no action, pending a cost comparison, on a proposal from member James R. Rabon Sr. for the board to either endow a BCC scholarship or "adopt" and refurbish a classroom at the Southport campus. Such a venture, agreed Chairman Dave Kelly, "sends a good message".

■ Heard from Vicki Spencer, executive director of the BCC Foundation, about donation of \$76,000 in cash or in-kind gifts that include an oil furnace worth \$10,000 for the heating and air conditioning curriculum, \$60,000 worth of electrical panels from Exide Electronics, and \$6,000 cash.

■ Heard that students from two county high schools are taking classes at BCC for college credit in one or more subjects, auto mechanics and electronics, with more such cooperative efforts planned in the future.

Bullshooters Gearing Up For Annual Storytelling

Bullshooters are gearing up (with shovels and hip boots) for the annual storytelling contest, part of the family entertainment provided at the N.C. Oyster Festival at Seaside, Oct. 19.

Emcee Cecelia "CeCe" Gore says she believes there is a winner out there who lives in Brunswick County, if only they would step forward and claim the crown.

"We have some super bullshooters that have never been discovered in Brunswick County," said Ms. Gore, who has also served as mayor of L.A. (Lower Ash).

Billed as "North Carolina's Greatest Bullshooting Contest," the competition is sponsored by the Brunswick County Veterans Service Office and T.J.'s Electric; it will begin at 3 p.m.

Storytellers from both near and far are expected to enter this year's event, which has been part of the state Oyster Festival for six years.

Participants may register up to 30 minutes before the contest, when a meeting will be held to discuss the rules. Winners will receive trophies.

Ms. Gore said there are a few rules participants should keep in mind. Props are allowed on stage and stories must be from three to 10 minutes in length. They must also be in good taste, for it is billed as a family event.

"Our oyster ears are delicate,"

said Ms. Gore. "We have to be careful of a lot of little oysters running around."

The contest is open to all ages and to both men and women. Festival goers are asked to come dressed for the occasion, said Ms. Gore.

"Hip boots would be appropriate," she said. "And a shovel to dig their way out."

Stories are judged on content, general interest, originality and use of exaggeration to create a story that is almost believable. Judges will also consider each bullshooter's use of body language, vocal expression and appropriate language.

"They can be on anything that someone has experienced, believes in, feels or has encountered," said Ms. Gore. "We'll allow them 10 minutes to tell us all about it."

For more information, contact the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, 754-6644.

VIC Slates Dinner

The Volunteer and Information Center of Brunswick County will hold its volunteer recognition dinner Saturday, Oct. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at Brunswick Community College.

The annual program recognizes volunteers from across the county for their service to the community, especially nominees for and recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Awards.

Humorist To Speak At ATMC Meeting

Election of three directors and a keynote speech by a nationally-known humorist are planned at the annual meeting of Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation Friday, Oct. 4, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the West Brunswick High School gymnasium in Shallotte.

Registration will begin at 4 p.m., said Percy Woodard, member services director and purchasing agent, with attendance of 1 1/12 percent of the membership necessary for a quorum. With membership approaching 22,000 this year, Woodard said, about 330 are needed to conduct business.

Three ATMC directors have been nominated for re-election: P.R. Hankins Jr., superintendent of schools, who represents the Bolivia area and serves as secretary/treasurer; Charles H. Mills of Winnabow, vice president; and Marion D. Davis of Varnamtown, who represents the Supply area.

No nomination petitions have been received, Woodard said. At the annual meeting members can still nominate candidates from the floor.

Guest speaker Wayne Ates of Arabi, Ga., is billed as a "minister of mirth". A professional speaker, Ates taught at the high school and

college level for 14 years in Georgia. He holds degrees from Georgia Southern, Louisiana State University and the New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Entertainment will be provided also by the Brunswick County Cloggers and light refreshments including finger sandwiches, punch and cake will be served.

As in past years the program includes the awarding of door prizes of \$1,000 in cash as well as about 25 items of merchandise. Top cash prize this year is \$500, with other prizes of \$300 and \$200.

For the first time, ATMC employees with staff several booths displaying and demonstrating vari-

ous aspects of the co-operative's business, which includes telephone and cable television services.

A lot of construction is under way this year, the fourth year of a five-year plan, said Woodard, with three contractors at work in the county.

Contractors are converting all ATMC centers to Stromberg-Carlson digital switching equipment; extending the co-op's manhole system down N.C. 179 to its intersection with Village Point Road and out U.S. 17/Sellers Road to near Resort Plaza; upgrading existing cable and extending cable TV service and telephone all over the county, including the Stone Chimney Road/Holden Beach area and the area

south of the U.S. 17 bypass toward Grissettown and Seaside.

Crews have also been installing telephone and television cables along a "utility strip" in advance of construction of the new four-lane along U.S. 17 south.

"We'll have everything cut over soon," said Woodard. "We'll be out of their way."

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