

HARNESS RACING RETURNS

State Fair Begins Oct. 18

Our state fair is a great fair!
Don't miss it, don't even be late...
 The song from the movie *State Fair* wasn't talking about the North Carolina State Fair, but organizers are claiming the 1991 Fair Heel event should be even better than the one in the movies.

Last year's fair drew more than 705,000 visitors, with still more expected this year barring bad weather.
 This year's fair, the state's 124th, is set Oct. 18-27 in Raleigh and will feature harness racing on the grandstand track (Oct. 18-22) for the first time in 30 years. Other new features include an exhibit called *Dinosaurs Alive!*, a carriage driving show, and on the midway, an *Orbitor* and a *Persian Camel Fun House*.

"Main Street, North Carolina," an 8,000-square-foot exhibit in the Kerr Scott Building, recreates a mid-20th century town in North Carolina. Building on the Goodness Grows in North Carolina exhibit last year, it features a farmer's market, courthouse and various shops.

The theme, "Get A Little Agri-Culture," emphasizes the importance of North Carolina farming, expressed in 22,000 exhibits that include fruits, honey, chickens and crafts.

World class horse and livestock shows and junior livestock events are major attractions annually. Returning this year are free racing pig and duck show, harness racing, a high dive act, lumberjack show, the Joie Chitwood Thrill Show, tractor pulls and a draft horse pull.

Contests in a wide array of areas are scheduled, from auctioneering to horseshoe pitching, plumbing and rabbit breeding.

N.C. Folk Festival competitions in traditional clogging, square dancing and round dancing and vocals are at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. daily and are free to fairgoers.

Other features include free nightly concerts in Dorton Arena, with seats filled on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 6 p.m. for each 7 p.m. show. Entertainers include (in order of appearance) Travis Tritt, Chubby Checker & The Wildcats, the Lewis Family and The Dixie Melody Boys, the Charlie Daniels Band, Mel McDaniel, Lorrie Morgan, Alan Jackson, Joe Diffie, Don Williams and on the last night, Ronnie Milsap.

The fair closes each night with a fireworks display.
 Fair admission is \$4.25 in advance and \$5 at the gate for adults. Children ages 6 through 12 are admitted for \$1; children ages 5 and under and senior citizens 65 and older get in free. Gates are open from 9 a.m. to midnight and the midway opens at 10 a.m.

Admission is charged for grandstand shows (antique tractor pull, thrill show, draft horse pull and harness racing).

To get to the fairgrounds, from I-40 East, exit onto Wade Avenue. Free parking is available. Buses are also available from Crabtree Valley and South Hills malls and along the Fayetteville Mall route from downtown. Cost is \$1 each way.

More information on the fair is available from Barbara Williams, 1-919-821-7400.

State Advises Against Local AIDS Testing

BY TERRY POPE

Mandatory AIDS testing for local restaurant workers is not such a good idea, state officials have told the Brunswick County Health Department.

In June, the Brunswick County Board of Health began studying a plan to require persons who prepare or serve food—whether in restaurants, school cafeterias or nursing homes—to obtain health cards and be tested for tuberculosis, syphilis and the HIV virus, which is associated with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

The health board is now backing away from the plan introduced by member H.J. "Skip" Davis of Ocean Isle.

Employment action against an HIV infected food service worker based upon "protection of the public health is forbidden," said Chris Hoke, assistant state health director.

In a letter to Brunswick County Health Director Michael Rhodes, Hoke said state law prohibits discrimination in employment against

a person with HIV infection.

"Experts in communicable disease control," Hoke said, "including the Centers for Disease Control, have unequivocally stated that AIDS is not a food-borne disease and that there is no risk of transmission of the HIV virus through food service work."

The health board had considered a local ordinance requiring that food service workers obtain a health card and be tested for tuberculosis, syphilis and HIV to show citizens that the department is doing something to "curtail the disease factors."

Rhodes said the department will follow state laws and now ask the board for an educational program for food service workers instead of mandatory testing.

The N.C. General Statutes prohibits a local health board from adopting a rule governing the grading or permitting of a restaurant, said Hoke.

That law also prohibits discrimination in employment against a person with HIV infection. Restaurants were originally exempted from this

prohibition, Hoke said, but that exemption expired in July.

"Thus, employment action, including exclusion from work, can now be taken against a food service worker with HIV infection only if there is a significant risk to the health of the employee or others, or if the employee is unable to perform job duties," he said.

Leading researchers agree that AIDS is transmitted in only two ways, by exposure to infected blood or to infected semen. Experts say AIDS cannot be transmitted through casual contact. There remains no cure for the deadly disease, but there are a number of treatments that can delay the onset of AIDS and prolong life.

"It's possible that we could have an educational program that's not tied to the grading of establishments," said Rhodes. "I believe it would probably have the same results as testing. It would try to raise food workers' awareness in disease control."

Health departments once required that food workers obtain cards and

be tested for tuberculosis, but that practice ended in 1972 with the decline of the disease. Tuberculosis is a highly contagious disease that affects the lungs.

Syphilis is a sexually-transmitted disease that can be treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated it can affect the brain, heart, pregnancies or even be fatal.

The Brunswick County Health Department offers confidential HIV testing and counseling. With confidential counseling, the client's name is given when filling out paperwork, but that information is kept confidential by staff members.

As of Aug. 30, the state limited the number of health departments that can offer anonymous HIV testing to 17, to give each region a site for those who want to avoid confidential testing. For anonymous testing clients are not required to give their names.

The New Hanover County Health Department in Wilmington still offers anonymous testing for the Southeastern North Carolina region.

Shalotte Still Waiting For New Census Figures

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shalotte will probably lose some of the money it was expecting this year from the state because the U.S. Census Bureau doesn't expect to have revised figures available for at least another month.

The delay is likely to affect the amount of Powell Bill money the town receives this fiscal year as well as the year's first distribution of sales tax, said state demographer Bill Tillman.

Both forms of state revenue are distributed to towns based in part on population. The census bureau says Shalotte's population is 965, while town officials contend it's approximately 1,400.

Following protests from the town, the census bureau admitted earlier this year that it made a mistake when figuring out Shalotte's population. It promised that a revised figure would be released this summer.

However, Tillman said Tuesday that the census bureau doesn't expect to have the revised figure for Shalotte and several other communities completed until October or early November.

Tillman said that's too late for state budget officials who are already preparing Powell Bill and sales tax checks to go out next month.

"We're not going to get any corrections in time to do anything," he said. As a result of the census bureau's delay, the checks sent to Shalotte will be based on a population of 965.

"There's nothing else we can do," Tillman said. "We have to accept the census as valid until we get something different."

Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett said the state used a population of 1,394 for Shalotte last fiscal year, and that's what town officials used when figuring out this year's budget.

The budget includes \$125,000 in anticipated sales tax revenue and \$41,000 in Powell Bill money. Those two funds account for more than 20 percent of the general fund revenues.

If the census bureau increases its official population for Shalotte, Tillman said he's not sure if the town would receive the money it had lost as a result of the erroneous low count.

Shalotte officials have been asking the census bureau to change the town's official population since last

September when a preliminary count of 828 was released. A revised population of 965 was announced in January.

Shalotte isn't the only community in North Carolina that's been fighting the census bureau for a revised head count.

Tillman said Shalotte is one of 72 municipalities in the state that are expecting changes in their official populations as a result of census bureau errors involving town boundaries.

Cast Of Steel Magnolias Listed

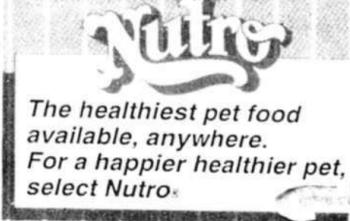
Six women will share the stage in the Brunswick Little Theater's fall production, *Steel Magnolias*.

Director Martii Barletta has cast the roles as follows: Barbara Russell as Clairee; Stuart Callari as Quiser; Gloria Yount as Truvy; Juli Newton as Shelby; Jean Hrdlicka as M'lyn; and Gina Carlson as

Annelle.

The group is still recruiting production volunteers to help with sets, props, costumes, lighting, ticket sales, publicity and concessions for the show, which will be presented around the Thanksgiving holidays. To volunteer, call Bob Hrdlicka, 1-919-278-4212.

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