

BCC TO ASSESS STUDENT INTEREST

Study Recommends Combination Golf, Turf Management Program

BY SUSAN USHER

While all hurdles haven't been cleared, Brunswick Community College President Michael Reeves is optimistic that a proposed recreational grounds management technology program will begin accepting students next fall.

Last month BCC trustees took their first look at a needs assessment completed by Professor David Mustian, a cooperative extension specialist at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

The study, which was delayed several times because of illness and other conflicts, recommends that BCC seek to establish a program that fills a unique niche in the industry, preparing graduates for careers in either turf management or professional golf management.

"There is a cross over recommendation in that individuals classified as turf specialists tend to feel that the best program would be a professional golf management curriculum, and the golf professionals express the need for a program specializing in turf management," wrote Mustian.

While opportunities in residential and commercial grounds management appear limited, he continued, "There is obvious need in the rapidly expanding golf industry for workers at all levels from ground

supervisor to assistant superintendents for current golf courses and proposed/developing courses. Thus a joint curriculum in professional golf/recreational grounds maintenance is recommended."

If adopted, the one-of-a-kind BCC program would recruit students from a broad multi-state area for admission starting next fall.

First proposed nearly two years ago, development of the program is about a year behind schedule, said Reeves. BCC had hoped to begin offering curriculum courses in fall 1991, but instead has been able to offer a limited number of continuing education courses.

While securing this program is BCC's top priority, the college is also exploring the possibility of offering several other new programs in allied health fields, aquaculture and an upgrading of its licensed practical nursing class to an associate degree two-year program.

A similar feasibility and needs assessment procedure must be followed for each proposal.

Before BCC can submit the grounds recreation management technology proposal to the state Community Colleges board of trustees, several steps must be followed. A survey will be designed this winter by Gerry Shaver, BCC's planning and research officer, to de-

termine student interest in such a program. It will be distributed to high schools, golf courses and other locations across the region "to anyone we feel that might benefit from the program or might be a student."

Meanwhile, Reeves and Vice President Johnnie Simpson have met with Joyce Hilliard Clark to map out a strategy for developing the program and implementing it. Ms. Hilliard Clark is coordinator of agriculture, service, math and science programs for the state department. They are also making industry contacts to increase awareness of the program proposed at BCC.

For BCC to begin accepting students in the new program next fall, the proposal must be submitted to the N.C. Department of Community Colleges in time for the April trustees meeting.

Mustian's report explored demand for such a program, potential sources of student recruitment, competitive programs and strategies intended to help set apart BCC's program.

The study points out that the curriculum proposed will require a large amount of start-up funds, with equipment a major expenditure. It also recommends the hiring of both a PGA professional and a turf pro-

fessional, as well as constructing on campus the golfing equivalent of laboratory an abbreviated golf course.

However, Reeves said the program won't start off with those features, though they may be added later.

Noting that DCC can provide only "seed" money, Reeves said the college would have to rely heavily on equipment manufacturers and area golf courses not only to recruit students but also to support the program through use of equipment and facilities. Program staffing would also be limited, possibly with the hiring of a "turf type" person who could also teach other science courses.

In-kind and cash support will be vital to supporting the program during start up and through its first year. After that, Reeves hopes the program will generate sufficient budget money based on student enrollment to basically support itself.

"We want to get the program in place and get some graduates trained and working," he said.

As a time saving measure, Reeves says the Department of Community Colleges has an existing curriculum that can be used for the program. Electives can be modified to tailor coursework to the program's needs.



Seniors To Tour Tryon

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a senior citizens trip Dec. 19 to the Christmas celebration at the Tryon Palace Restoration Complex in New Bern, where (above) housekeeper "Mrs. Hatch" lays out delicacies for the grand ball that opened the palace in 1770. The group will also tour New Bern Academy, the New Bern Civil War Museum and the Bank of the Arts. Cost is \$15 including transportation and admission fees, with Dec. 2 the deadline to register and to pay. For more information contact Kathleen Poston at the department weekdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Damages Costly In Three-Vehicle Wreck

A truck pulling a tractor and backhoe sustained an estimated \$30,000 in damages last Saturday evening when it was reportedly struck by another vehicle six miles west of Calabash on Ash Little River Road, reportedly by Oakley, a high school senior from Wilmington.

Isidro Gonzalez Lopez, 23, of Ash was traveling north on Ash Little River Road (S.R. 1330) at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 when the 1980 Chevrolet he was driving allegedly crossed the center line and struck a large two-axle 1988 Chevrolet truck driven by Richard Wayne McLamb, 44, of White Oaks.

The truck was pulling a trailer with a tractor and backhoe on it, Ms. Oakley said.

According to the report filed by Trooper W. Thompson, Lopez's vehicle continued traveling north, striking a 1989 GMC truck driven by Calvin Lynn Ard, 27, of Lumberton.

Lopez, the only party injured, was taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply for treatment of serious injuries.

In addition to the estimated \$30,000 in damage to the tractor and its cargo, Ms. Oakley said that Thompson estimated damage to the Chevrolet at \$1,500 and to the GMC truck \$2,000.

Lopez was charged by Thompson with leaving a vehicle unattended, driving left of center and driving without an operator's license.

Failure To Yield

Two cars collided Nov. 6 almost two miles north of Shallotte on U.S. 17 when a driver failed to yield the right of way, said Ms. Oakley referring to a report filed by Trooper J.V. Dove.

Bobbie Leigh Dougherty, 20, of Holden Beach was driving a 1987 Suzuki while pulling out onto U.S. 17 to go south at 1:40 a.m. last Wednesday when a 1977 Chevrolet truck driven by Hester Locklear, 68, of St. Pauls collided with the Suzuki.

Dove reported that the truck, which was southbound on U.S. 17, struck the Suzuki on the left front end.

Dougherty was taken to The

Brunswick Hospital in Supply and treated for serious injuries.

Locklear and his passengers, Delois Bryant, 55, and Van Bryant Jr., both of Fayetteville, all sustained minor injuries.

Dougherty was charged by Trooper Dove with a wild and/or reckless drive.

Trooper Dove estimated damage to the Suzuki at \$2,000 and the damage to the Chevrolet at \$1,500, Ms. Oakley reported.

Eluding Arrest

A Leland man was charged with attempting to elude arrest after a one-car accident on Malino Loop, 9.2 miles south of Leland, early Friday morning.

At about 2:25 a.m., with a patrol

vehicle in pursuit, Vernie Eric Champion, 18, of Leland was driving a 1968 Ford truck at an estimated speed of 85 mph when he drove off the right side of S.R. 1417 and lost control of the vehicle according to the report filed by Trooper B.C. Jones, the investigating officer.

Ms. Oakley said Champion's vehicle came back onto the road then ran off onto the right shoulder again, striking a ditch.

Champion was not injured. Trooper B.C. Jones, the investigating officer, estimated the cost of damages to the truck at \$1,500.

Ms. Oakley said that Champion was charged by Trooper Jones with DWI, reckless driving and failure to stop for blue lights and sirens.

School Board Meets Saturday

The Brunswick County Board of Education has changed the agenda of its Nov. 16 meeting.

In addition to a work session, the board will first act on several items of business, including requests for several out of state trips, attorney-client and personnel matters and the auditor's contract for 1991-92.

The business meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the school system administration building at Southport.

workshop items, which may be discussed, but not acted on, will include two presentations on school improvement and one on all exceptional children's programs, including the academically gifted program; and discussion of the system's five-year plan, availability of grants for outcome based education programs and of school system policies regarding selling in the schools, weapons in the schools and student trips.

Calabash Volunteer EMS Answers 32 Calls In October

Calabash Volunteer EMS responded to 32 calls in October. Chief Mark Christy reported at the Nov. 4 board of directors meeting.

Exum Group Wants To Repair Center

Exum residents are raising money to help to secure an Exum Community Building that's in need of repairs.

The building near New Life Baptist Church on Makatoka Road (S.R. 1342) in western Brunswick County, will be the site of weekly yard sales starting Saturday, Nov. 16.

For persons who want to set up a booth or table to sell items at the building, rent will be \$5 each Saturday. All rent money will be used to help renovate the building, a news release indicated.

Orientation Set

An orientation session will be held Thursday, Nov. 21, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for volunteers helping at Autumn Care Convalescent Center in Shallotte.

Spokeswoman Wanda Ammons said that residents sometimes need help with special events, outings or parties that the center holds. Volunteers can help with preparations for special or even daily happenings.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, call Ms. Ammons at 754-8858.

Volunteers worked 120 hours and traveled 1,435 miles in the month, responding to 18 calls in Calabash, seven in Sunset Beach and seven elsewhere in the district.

Christy also reported that six people completed the recent Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class.

President Kathy Moffit said the fund drive for businesses and golf courses is under way. Nine businesses had responded as of Nov. 4.

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