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MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA | MYRTLEBEACHONLINE.COM | THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2004

Oyster festival painting unveiled

BY JO ANN MATHEWS
For The Sun News

Annual event inspires work of art

Artist Deborah Cavanaugh said she envisioned the atmosphere of fairs and festivals in general and the N.C. Oyster Festival in particular when she painted the commemorative picture for the 2004 event.

"I was trying to convey four messages," she said July 21 at

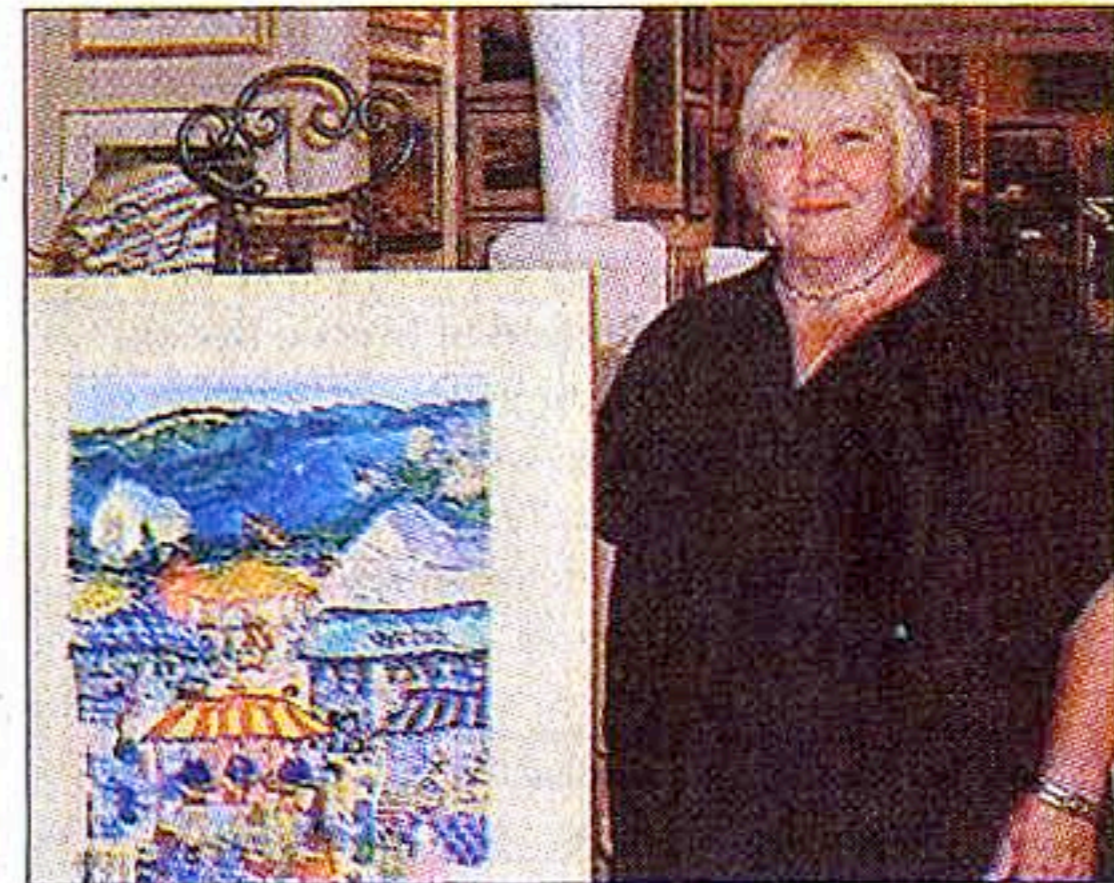
Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash for the unveiling of the artwork.

Members of the Brunswick County, N.C. Chamber of Commerce in Shallotte, which organizes the event; festival sponsors; and other guests were among the two dozen

people gathered to hear Cavanaugh explain those messages.

Timelessness, specific qualities of the Oyster Festival, a sense of place and memories of the event are embodied in the vivid blues, reds and yellows

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Deborah Cavanaugh recently unveiled her painting commemorating the 2004 N.C. Oyster Festival at Sunset River Marketplace in Calabash, N.C.

BY JO ANN MATHEWS *For The Sun News*

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that encompass the painting. Cavanaugh cited an artist's adage: Art begins where photography ends.

"And with this painting, I had to take people to another place. I had to create the event," she said.

Cavanaugh began painting in 1992 when her children gave her a set of paints, a brush and watercolor paper as a Mother's Day present.

"I made a few paintings to

make them happy," she said.

When she moved to Wilmington, N.C., about 18 months later, Cavanaugh took some of those first paintings to a shop to be framed. She met the owner, who also owns an art gallery.

"She put me under contract that day. Within a week three paintings sold. That's how I began," she said. "You never know what your life will bring you."

The original 2004 N.C. Oyster Festival painting is on sale for \$1,500, and a limited edition of 500 signed 16-by-20-inch prints is available now for

\$25 each. The Chamber of Commerce can provide further information at (910) 754-6644.

The 24th annual N.C. Oyster Festival is Oct. 16 and 17 in Ocean Isle Beach.

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