

**EXPECTED TO BE COUNTY'S FIRST**

# Rural Health Center Expected To Open April 19 In Bolivia

BY SUSAN USHER

Two Shallotte medical practitioners have announced plans to open a health service in Bolivia they expect to be certified as Brunswick County's first rural health center.

Jon Langston, a physician's assistant, and his brother, Dr. Lee Langston, are partners in Bolivia Medical Clinic Inc., scheduled to open April 19 at the corner of U.S. 17 and Knox Street.

Like most medical offices, the center will offer a full range of primary health care services, including well baby and blood pressure screenings to family planning services and treatment of infectious and sexually transmitted diseases. "It will run just like a private doctor's office," said Dr. Langston.

The center will be staffed by Emma Alley, a full-time family nurse practitioner who is relocating from Tennessee, and Jon Langston P.A.C., who will serve half-time as center director. They will work under the supervision of Chicora Medical Group, with Dr. Langston as the center's medical director. La-Bommie Saunders, whose husband George is a physician with Chicora, will staff the office.

While the clinic cannot be certified until after it opens for business, the Langstons anticipate it being designated as a rural health center.

Rural health centers operate like any other medical office. They are intended to serve areas that do not have enough physicians and to ensure that more people have access to medical care. To that end, they utilize "physician extenders" such as family nurse practitioners and physician's assistants and are located in medically underserved areas.

Based on the last review, all of Brunswick County is considered medically underserved. And, according to the 1990 U.S. Census, 15.41 percent of its population was living in poverty at that time.

The Langstons said they hope the center will fill multiple needs—providing medical care to residents of Bolivia and surrounding areas from Town Creek to Boiling Spring Lakes, serving Medicaid and Medicare patients whose health care needs are not being met locally, and helping local caregivers, the medical community.

Medicaid is a federal-state program that helps fund health care for the needy, aged, blind and disabled, and for low-income families with children. Medicare is the federal health care insurance program for people age 65 and older and for the

*"We really need it bad. We have 6,412 clients on Medicaid. It doesn't do any good because they don't have anywhere to go."*

—Lillie Barnes, Intake Management Supervisor At Brunswick Health Dept.

disabled, with eligibility for it based mainly on eligibility for Social Security.

Price said that under the reimbursement formula available to them, most doctors lose money when they accept Medicaid or Medicare patients. After those patients make up a certain percentage of their practice, it becomes financially difficult to accept more.

Because designated rural health centers are allowed reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid patients under a different, more favorable formula than is available to physicians, Dr. Langston said the center should break even by recovering all costs directly associated with care provided to those groups of patients.

"There is a limit on the fee paid, but it allows you to serve those patients as part of your practice and not lose money," said Dr. Langston. "We think we can make some money and take good care of people too."

The Bolivia Medical Center is privately owned and privately financed without any local, state or federal funding, Dr. Langston said. While it expects at least a third of its patients to pay for services received or to have thirty party insurance coverage, Langston anticipates another one-third each will have Medicare or Medicaid coverage.

"We think it's going to work; we're committed to it," said Dr. Langston.

"Somebody needs to see those patients," said John Price, a rural health consultant with the N.C. Office of Rural Health. "They'll be inundated with patients. That's what usually happens."

In Brunswick County 12 doctors are Medicaid providers, according to the Brunswick County Department of Social Services, but few if any are accepting new Medicaid patients.

"I don't know anyone outside of Dr. (Robert) Hassler who is accept-

ing new patients," said Lillie Barnes, intake management supervisor with the department. "And he's the only gynecologist/obstetrician in the county."

"We really need it bad. We have 6,412 clients on Medicaid. It doesn't do any good because they don't have anywhere to go."

She agrees with Price that the center will not lack for patients. "If people learn there is a center, they will flock to it," Barnes said.

She also hopes the center operates as successfully as anticipated.

"If they get it started and people see how it works, it may prompt more to open," she said. "It looks like it would help bring doctors into the county."

The Brunswick County Health Department encounters the same frustration when Medicaid clients ask where they can go for services,

said Jan Reichenbach, health educator. "We refer them to the outpatient clinics at New Hanover Regional Medical Center."

Langston said he hopes the center's central location will help relieve another problem local health consumers and providers must contend with—a lack of transportation.

Bolivia Mayor Ina Mae Mintz said she's excited at the prospect of the clinic, both in terms of its service to the community and what it could signal for the small town's economic future.

"That's a step for here," she said. "It's a good omen. And it's needed here. There are no doctors nearby."

Dr. Langston has had a medical practice in Shallotte 10 years this July. He received his medical degree in 1972 from the Medical University of Charleston and completed a rotating internship in Savannah, Ga., before entering private practice. He has also had four years of experience in a health maintenance organization in Georgia.

His brother, Jon, graduated from the University of South Carolina's physician's assistant program in 1975. His experience is varied, including stints in a state mental facility, an Indiana prison, a regional hospital's emergency room, three years with a health maintenance organization and three years as director of a health center at Lake Waccamaw prior to joining the Chicora Group.

NEW WEEKEND HOURS  
Saturday 4:30 pm-9:30 pm  
Sunday 11:00 am-3:00 pm



**ZENG'S GARDEN**  
East Gate Square • Hwy. 130 • Shallotte

754-5280

OPEN  
7  
DAYS

WILLIAM D. EZZELL

Attorney and Counselor at Law

BANKRUPTCY LAW NOW INCLUDED IN GENERAL PRACTICE

Old Courthouse Square  
Southport, North Carolina 28461  
Call (919)457-9586 or  
(919)253-5600 for an appointment

MANAGEMENT SAYS THESE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD OR TAKEN TO AUCTION

2 To Choose From

NEW 93 BERETTA G.T. V-6

#4406  
#4573

Auto, Air, AM/FM Stereo



WAS \$15,551  
\*Includes \$1,000 Factory Rebate

\$12,988\*



NEW 93 S-10 BLAZER

2 Dr., Air, Overdrive Trans., Tilt, AM/FM Stereo, TAHOE PACKAGE

\$14,988\*

\*Includes \$1,000 Rebate

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES	
92 GEO STORM Hatchback, Auto, Air, Cassette, 2 to choose from	\$8,888
93 CHEVROLET CAPRICE LTZ Loaded, 6,000 Miles	\$19,988
92 GEO METRO 2 Dr., Competition, Blue, Auto, Air, Like New	\$7,988
92 CHEVY LUMINA 4 Dr., Euro, Loaded, V-6, Red & Ready	\$13,588
92 CHEVY LUMINA 4 Dr., Blue, Auto, PW, P-locks	\$10,988
Don't Miss This One! 92 CHEV. CORVETTE White w/Leather Interior, Loaded, 3,000 Miles	\$35,988
92 PONTIAC GRAND AM S.E. S.E., Teal Green, Auto, Air, 11,000 Miles	\$12,488
92 CHEV. CAVALIER RS XX Clean, 3 to choose from	\$8,988

WE NOW HAVE A FULL SERVICE MUFFLER SHOP FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS



Plus Tax & Tags w/APC



Mr. Goodwrench

1-800-843-7190 • (803)249-9067 • (803)399-4400  
Located On Hwy. 9 (Across From Bay Tree) N. Myrtle Beach, SC  
Hours: Sales-Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-7 PM, Sat. 9 AM-6 PM • Service and Parts-Mon.-Fri. 7:30 AM-5:30 PM

Adrianna Edge Sidelinger, CPA  
Michael W. Sidelinger, CPA

- Tax Planning and Preparation
- Financial Statement Preparation
- Bookkeeping and Payroll Services
- Computerized Accounting Systems
- Small Business Consulting
- Loan Proposals

Brunswick Square Village, 5211 South Main St., Unit 507  
P.O. Box 1508, Shallotte, NC 28459

Phone and Fax (919)754-5488

A Unique Taste Of Seaside

Make Your Own Gourmet Easter Basket




Specializing in:  
Gift Baskets for All Occasions

Gourmet Foods • Coffees  
Chocolates • Crackers  
Cheeses • Bagels • Cookies

NEW!


Key Lime Cheesecake  
New York Cheesecake

Open Monday-Saturday 10-5:30  
#5 King's Plaza, Hwy. 179 • Seaside  
579-9612 or 579-6369



CWS Insurance Agency, Inc.

(formerly the Williamson Group)



Charles W. Smith, C.P.C.U.


President  
Serving the Industry for 28 Years

PERSONAL AND COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

- Home • Life • Auto • Hospitalization
- Medicare Supplement • Casualty • Property
- Workers Compensation • Group Hospitalization

579-7977

6265 Beach Drive SW • Island Village Shoppes  
Ocean Isle Beach  
9-4:30 Monday-Friday



CWS Insurance Agency, Inc.

## Brunswick County Democrats Slate April 17 Convention

Rep. E. David Redwine will be the keynote speaker at the Brunswick County Democratic Party Convention Saturday, to be held April 17, at 1 p.m. at the party's headquarters building near Supply.

Heading the agenda will be election of county officers to serve through the 1994 election cycle. Convention delegates will also elect three members to serve on the party's State Executive Committee. The new chairman serves on this committee automatically, said W.A. "Bill" Stanley, outgoing chairman.

The convention will also elect 38 local Democrats to serve as delegates to the Seventh Congressional District Convention.

In addition to Redwine, Stanley said other elected officials and candidates are expected to attend.

"We are expecting a good turnout of Democrats from across the county to be in attendance and look for-

ward to a great year ahead for the Brunswick County Democratic Party," he said.

Stanley said resolutions to be presented at the convention must be submitted to the rules and resolutions committee by April 12 at 1 p.m. Vernon Ward, an announced candidate for party chairman, is chairman of the committee. Other members are Mary Stanley, Catherine Clark, Rufus Gore, Pearly Vereen and Billy Carter.

Appointed to the credentials committee are Donna Baxter, a school board member; and Janis Simmons, Democratic Ladies president; Philip Stout, Democratic Men's president; and Tracy Franks of Oak Island, a member of the state Young Democrats.

The Democratic Headquarters building is located on U.S. 17 Business north of Supply.

SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$

WAREHOUSE

FURNITURE

Distributors

Check Us Out! Low Low Prices!

Check Out Our Everyday Low Prices!

IN STOCK!!

Over 50 Dinette Sets On Display & Ready for Delivery

Complete Set As Low As \$139<sup>00</sup>

SAVE 20% TO 50% OFF

List Everyday

• DELIVERY AVAILABLE

• IN-STORE FINANCING

• SPECIAL ORDERS

• INSTANT CREDIT

9-5:30 Mon-Sat

Direct Outlet For Highpoint Bedding

Warehouse Furniture Distributors  
Hwy. 90 Nixon's Crossroads  
(803) 249-8874

Warehouse Furniture Distributors

SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$ SAVE \$