

Miss Brunswick County Pageant Has New Organization, Manager

BY SUSAN USHER

The Miss Brunswick County pageant has a new sponsoring organization and new management this fall, reflecting changes in the Miss America organization at the national and state levels.

Susan Kaufman of Southport is the new franchise holder, executive director and general manager of the local preliminary to the Miss North Carolina Pageant and the Miss America Pageant. The local preliminary franchise had been held since 1985 by David Clegg, former county manager and county attorney, and president of Scholarship Pageants of Brunswick County, Inc.

The new county pageant organization has filed for incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation under the name Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Association and plans to hold a Dec. 4 pageant at a site still to be determined.

All but one of the new association's board of directors lives in Southport: Yvonne Adams; Pamela Bruton, financial manager; Jo Ann Callahan; Renee Walcott; and Norman Holden. The other board member, Marybeth Bianchi of Wilmington, is an employee of *The State Port Pilot* in Southport.

While starting "from scratch" on this year's pageant, Kaufman said most board members have previous experience with the now-defunct Miss N.C. Fourth of July Festival Pageant. She is a preferred judge, qualified to judge both preliminaries to the Miss North Carolina and Miss America pageants.

"A Miss America for Brunswick County is my long-term goal," said Kaufman. "I don't think small."

Attempts "to bring the Miss America Pageant into the 90s" from the top down are reflected in changing

emphases at the national, state and local level—changes that not everyone is pleased with.

'All Not As It Appears'

According to Kaufman, the local franchise became available because Clegg took employment as assistant county attorney in Cumberland County and, she said, "no longer has a primary residence in Brunswick County."

"The regulations say that you must have either a primary residence or full-time employment," said Kaufman.

However, Clegg told *The Brunswick Beacon* "that is not why I am not doing the pageant. All is not as it appears. I knew I would not be refranchised and I had no desire to be."

He said the change came about as the result of reorganization of the state pageant system, not because of a local opening. He said he still maintains a primary residence in Leland, in addition to a residence in Cumberland County.

While the current Miss Brunswick County will continue her reign until the end of the year, Clegg wrote in a Sept. 3 letter to former supporter of the Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant that "in the face of an uncertain future, I am content to be removed from the 1994 state pageant with a proven track record of excellence and community credibility."

The franchise was instead awarded to a group headed by Sheila Lee, a Raleigh hairdresser, over the written objection of at least 16 of the 40 local pageants statewide, including the Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant, Miss Charlotte Mecklenburg and Miss Greater Raleigh, said Clegg.

He said the new state franchisee has removed the word "scholarship" from its name, completely reorganized the state program, that long-time volunteer workers have been replaced or have resigned, and the Raleigh Jaycees—a group which he said gave the pageant credibility—is no longer a sponsor of the state pageant.

Because of these types of changes, he said, "It is in the best interests of Scholarship Pageants of Brunswick County Inc. that it not sponsor a Miss North Carolina preliminary pageant."

Some of those changes were noticeable in the Miss America Pageant that aired Saturday, Sept. 18, on national television. Contestants were expected to reflect more of their individual distinctiveness rather than aspiring to a preconceived Miss America ideal; were required to do their own hair and makeup styling; and modeled "datewear" instead of formal evening gowns. They were also expected to be advocates for a chosen cause or community service project.

Young women entering the local preliminary will be encouraged to have a community service project, which is required of competitors who advance to the state pageant, said Kaufman. A special \$250 local award will recognize the contestant "with the best and most" service to her community.

'Visible And Vocal' Entrants

"My aim is for the girls to be very visible and very vocal, especially here in Brunswick County," said Kaufman. "We don't anticipate an open pageant. My feeling is they should live in Brunswick County, but that could change."

Miss Brunswick County will receive a \$1,000 schol-

arship, plus her crown, and other amenities such as clothing and travel allowances. First runner-up will receive \$500 and second runner-up, \$250.

"Three or four of us on the board have been primarily involved in education and our focus is on education," she said. "The girls receive the scholarships to further their education and there is so much self-improvement to be gained. They are exposed to so many things they would not be exposed to if they were not a winner."

"The girls should be career-oriented, have the highest standards. Beauty is not the primary thing. They should be intelligent, charming, well-rounded and conversant."

Contestants must be age 17 at the time of their first local preliminary and no older than 24 on Sept. 30 of the year they intend to compete in the national pageant. They must be single, unmarried, never have had a child, been pregnant or be pregnant, never violated the moral turpitude code, never committed a crime or have criminal charges pending, never been characterized as "immoral, indecent or in bad taste."

"We are trying to do a job for Brunswick County and we want to do a fine job," said Kaufman. "We need as many friends as we can get."

Young women interested in entering this year's pageant or learning more about it should contact Kaufman at 457-9639.

The current 1993 Miss Brunswick County is Larneice Laneer McKoy of Winnabow, a sociology major at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with plans to attend law school. Clegg said McKoy has no plans to affiliate with the new Miss Brunswick County organization for the balance of her term.

Brunswick Smart Start Coalition Has Vision Of Serving Families And Children In Area

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County's Smart Start Initiative application was hand-delivered to the N.C. Department of Human Resources Wednesday afternoon Sept. 15, and Tom Tewey is proud of it.

He's not the only one. Before the document was done, approximately 150 people had helped give it direction, including parents of preschoolers as well as representatives of local government and not-for-profit service agencies, churches, businesses and others. A team of writers spent the final week compiling, editing and polishing the results of that two-month collaboration.

"I felt really good about the involvement," said Tewey, who was elected by fellow participants to serve as team leader if or when the initiative is funded. He owns a local printing business, co-owns an arts and crafts gallery and is an associate of an educational consulting and publishing firm.

Tewey is also optimistic about Brunswick County's chances of selection; he knows the need exists, along with the spirit of cooperation, leadership and energy needed to address that need.

The wait won't be long: a panel of experts is already reviewing the 89 proposals received from across the state. Selection of 12 pilot projects—one from each Congressional district—is due Oct. 1. Two counties in this district, Pender and New Hanover, did not send in proposals, while other counties from Columbus to Onslow did so.

The local initiative is just one aspect of a sweeping plan by Gov. Jim Hunt to improve services to young children. In the local partnership effort, communities get to decide for themselves how they could make the best use of a specific sum of state money, based on local needs and local priorities. The parameters are deliberately left open.

"One of the things I like about this process is that there is no existing concept to be stamped on Brunswick County," said Tewey.

Brunswick County's Smart Start application team wants to be a pilot project because other counties, should the program be expanded in future years as Hunt envisions, would be expected to model their programs after one or more of the

pilots rather than defining Smart Start from scratch.

Pilot communities will get several years to design and then implement their local programs.

Why Brunswick County? "Because of both its tremendous need and tremendous potential," says Tewey.

A county map enclosed in the local application speaks for the local group: While one of the fastest growing counties in the state Brunswick remains rural, with no public transportation, lack of access to the services that are available, serious gaps in the range of services available locally, inadequate information and referral and outreach services, and high unemployment and poverty rates.

Among the solutions they would explore: collaboration by local organizations to offer a mobile health clinic, an information and referral hotline, public awareness efforts, a parenting center, training child advocates from among existing public board members to ensure that children's needs are represented, providing child development services for early identification of emotional disorders and behavioral/mental disorders.

The team's goal for the local Smart Start program is to "stop negative lifecycles before they take hold" by working with preschool youngsters and their parents.

The program wants to motivate children to develop lifelong habits of learning and healthy living while motivating parents to teach their children by example.

The team wrote that its members want Smart Start services:

- focused on strengthening families, limiting the need for long-term government intervention;
- prevention-oriented to teach skills that will help families avoid crisis situations;
- to provide a full continuum of services, flexible to meet unique needs and capabilities of individual families;
- to offer a "warm, human face," with each child and family having a personal relationship with professionally trained and skilled staff;
- to be community centered and responsive to local needs, evolving from a collaborative partnership of government and private organizations;

■ accountable, with outcomes that can be quantified and measured;

■ encourage and facilitate communication and collaboration among various agencies and organizations to avoid duplications and eliminate gaps in planning, funding and providing services.

"We know Smart Start isn't the full answer," said Tewey, "but we believe it affords an exceptional beginning in the right direction."

"Even if we don't get the partnership grant, I think a process has taken place that is irreversible. We know each other now. I have no doubt that there will be new services and new collaborations in Brunswick County."



First Runner-Up

Jordan Elizabeth Lane, daughter of Billy and Donna Lane of Grissetown, was first runner-up in the America's Cover Miss pageant held Sept. 18 in Shalotte, after winning trophies in sportswear, most photogenic, best portfolio, best fashion and best model.

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Toddler Winner

Amber Cheers, 20-month-old daughter of Dale and Michelle Cheers of Supply, won the title of America's Cover Miss in the Toddler Miss division Sept. 18 at West Brunswick High School. She also won first place in sportswear and best smile. Her grandparents are Dee Kissinger and Paul King, both of Holden Beach, and Diane Cheers of Ash.

Southport Churches Plan Fall Bazaar

The women of five Southport community churches will hold their fall bazaar "Street of Shops" on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The event will take place in the Church Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the corner of N.C. 211 and Doshier Cut-Off.

Highlights will include arts and crafts, wooden toys, gifts, baked goods, plants and Christmas items.

Those taking part are from Southport Presbyterian, Trinity United Methodist, St. Philip's Episcopal, St. Peter's Lutheran and Sacred Heart Catholic churches.

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