



**Riding High**

Jamie Elizabeth Harper (left above) of Chapel Hill and Christen McWhirter of Charlotte enjoy a ride on the merry-go-round while Will Stanaland of Longwood (in photo below) rides alone on the swings during the N.C. Oyster Festival sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.



## 'Good Samaritan' Helps With Boat Rescue

A "good Samaritan" boater helped the U.S. Coast Guard rescue a stranded pleasure boat off Holden Beach Saturday afternoon, according to a weekly report from BMCS J.D. Arndt, Chief of the Oak Island Station.

At about 3 p.m., the station received a call from the Brunswick County Emergency Services (911) Center reporting a person in an 18-foot boat east of the Holden Beach Fishing Pier "waving some red flags," Arndt said.

The station launched its 21-foot inflatable fast-response boat to investigate and also notified Holden Beach Water Rescue. Upon arriving at the scene, the Holden Beach boat found the vessel being assisted by a "good Samaritan boater," which had taken it in tow, Arndt said.

En route to Captain Pete's Marina, the tow line broke loose, so the Coast Guard 21-footer brought the stricken vessel safely to the dock.

At about 12:45 Saturday, Brunswick County 911 called the station to report that a kayak had overturned off Sunset Beach with two people in the water. The station launched its 21-footer and notified Ocean Isle Beach Water Rescue, which arrived first and assisted by pulling the two people out of the water and re-righting the kayak.

The station recalled its 21-footer after all persons were reported safe and accounted for.

Sunday at about 2:45, the Long Beach Police Department called the station to report a catamaran overturned and a person in the water about a mile off Yaupon Beach.

The Coast Guard 21-footer responded to the scene, retrieved the person from the water, righted the catamaran and towed it safely to shore.

## Locally 9 Of 12,386 Seat Belt Tickets In First Week

Brunswick County law enforcement officers issued only nine of the 12,386 citations handed out in the first week of the statewide "Click It or Ticket" campaign to get motorists to use their safety belts, according to figures released last week by the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Statewide checkpoints totaled 980.

The state's figures say officers in Brunswick County working two checkpoints gave eight tickets for seat belt violations and one for a child safety seat violation from Monday, Oct. 4, until Sunday, Oct. 10.

Leading the state's 100 counties was Durham, where 1,154 seat belt violators and 71 child safety seat violators were ticketed at nine check-

points. At the other end of the scale, Martin County officers gave no tickets and operated only one checkpoint.

Many counties operated numerous checkpoints, such as Henderson, with 44; Catawba, with 45; and Wilson, with 35. Tickets issued averaged 124 per county.

Statewide, 11,670 tickets were issued for seat belt violations and 716 for child safety seat violations. Drivers and passengers caught not wearing their seat belts or using child safety seats are being fined \$25.

"Click It or Ticket" is the first phase of the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Initiative. It is a public-private partnership to reduce deaths and injuries on the state's highways. One-third of its budget comes from the federal funds North Carolina re-

ceives each year for highway safety programs. Local law enforcement agencies are using some of these federal funds for after-duty enforcement of the seat belt and child safety seat law. State money is not being used.

# Bolivia Parents, Students Share Evening Of Reading

BY SUSAN USHER

Mark it on your calendars: Friday, Oct. 15, Night of the Readers.

They could have gone to the South Brunswick-Whiteville football game, or to the homecoming festivities at West Brunswick High School. They could have stayed home and watched television.

But with choice books of all sizes and weights tucked between arm and body, more than 120 children and parents turned out for Bolivia Elementary School's first family "Read-In."

After a fellowship meal of hot dogs and fixings provided by the faculty and community donors, family groups enjoyed an evening of reading, storytelling and laughter. A celebration of words and the power of imagination.

"Anything you can say, you can learn to write and you can learn to read," said coordinator Thommi Arnold. "And the reverse is true: what you can read, you can say and you can write."

Arnold, a Chapter 1 reading teacher, came up with the idea for the three-hour drop-in program after she was asked to "come up with something exciting for parent involvement month."

"I decided to feed them all for free and talk to the kids and get them so excited they'll drive them crazy until they come."

The strategy worked. Parents came not really knowing what to expect but liking what they found.

Fourth grader Dustin Weary trooped into the school cafeteria grinning, with his mom, Cindy, and 4-year-old brother, Jeremy, in tow.

"He's told me about it all week," said Cindy Weary. "He's talked and talked about it."

Why so excited?

"I just wanted to come here because it's fun and everything is free," said Dustin, who chose Panda Cake as his favorite book of the evening. His mom chose two other books, *Glow in the Dark Stars*,

*Moon and Cloud and Me Too Iguana*.

"I think it was a good way to encourage reading," said the Rev. "Rocky" Gregory of Bolivia. "But I was disappointed in the turnout."

Gregory's eager group started their reading over supper in the cafeteria, with Randolph Frazier II, Jason Gregory, Chris Gore and Matthew Gore all crowding around the large book held aloft by Frances Gregory. It was *I Spy, A Book of Picture Riddles*, "her favorite" as well as one of theirs, the others indicated.

There were plenty of hot dogs and chips to spare. Organizers had prepared for all 260-plus students and family members who had signed up. Not all of them came.

Those who did were treated to guidance counselor Linda Shaddix's reading of one of her favorite stories, "Alice," Arnold's lively rendition of a modern version of "The Three Little Pigs," as well as speech and language teacher Vicki Williams' telling of "The True Story of The Three Little Pigs (from the wolf's point of view)."

Two of Williams' sons, John, 11, and David, a high school sophomore, also shared stories. John read *A River Ran Wild* aloud while David closed the program with Dr. Seuss' delightful *The Sleep Book*.

In between storytellings, youngsters read to parents, parents read to youngsters and several families joined together to share their favorite stories aloud and compare notes. And Arnold offered a few suggestions of her own for getting the most out of reading as a family.

In the media center, clusters of readers were scattered about at various tables, enjoying their quiet time together.

Lindsay Richards, a second grader who lives in Winnabow, was eagerly reading aloud to her dad, pulling her favorite big books like *The Color of Poetry* off the library shelves one after another, replacing

each precisely when done.

Her carry-along choices for the night, two of Mercer Mayer's "critter" books, *Just Go To Bed and All By Myself*.

"They're some of her favorites and I love them too," admitted her father, Jim Richards.

"That's one thing I'm extremely happy that I've instilled in all my kids—a love of reading," said Richards. "They are all voracious readers."

## Everett Named Housing Head

Thurman Everett has been named to head the Brunswick County Public Housing Department, according to information released late Tuesday from the office of Brunswick County Attorney Michael Ramos.



EVERETT

Everett was promoted from the position of housing development and rehabilitation specialist to public housing director with a salary of \$28,403. He has been with the county since July 1988.

Everett began his new duties as public housing director on Tuesday, according to the release.

## Fourth Quarter Distribution of Commodities Set Nov. 12-13

The Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center will make its fourth quarter distribution of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities Nov. 12-13 at the Democratic headquarters building in Supply.

The distribution site will open at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 12, and will close at 4 p.m. The site will reopen at 9 a.m. Nov. 13 and remain open until the supply of food is exhausted.

Commodities allocated to VIC include butter, cornmeal, peas, peanut butter, applesauce, canned pork, raisins, rice, apple juice and peaches.

"The commodities program is intended only as a quarterly supplement to other available services within the county," said Angela Fisher, VIC executive assistant.

"The Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center is unable to order specific amounts of food because the N.C. Department of Agriculture divides the available food supply from the USDA between all counties.

"There are no guarantees that there will be enough of the above-mentioned foods to supply everyone eligible for the program. The food is distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, and once all the foods are given out, there will be no more available until the next quarter," she added.

To qualify, all food stamp households must bring their white com-

modity authorization cards and their green identification cards. The white cards should be delivered by mail by Nov. 5. A household is considered a food stamp household if it received food stamps during October.

For households who did not receive food stamps, the person applying must appear at the distribution site in person or send a statement by a designated person authorizing VIC to release their commodities to that person.

The note must include the applicant's name and social security number, household income, number of people in the household, address and person's name authorized to pick up commodities. It should also state that no one else from the household is applying.

Everyone receiving commodities must bring a box or container for their food, Fisher added.

For more information, call Fisher at 754-4766.

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