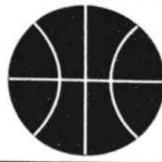


Don't Take It For Granted

The Brunswick County Schools get a \$100,000 grant to teach communication and problem-solving. Page **3-A**

Next...Hoops!

West Brunswick's basketball program will get under way Dec. 17 at Leland. Page **15-B**



Business Powwow

Congressman Charlie Rose comes to town to talk about taxes, the economy and why he voted for NAFTA. Page **10-C**

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WEST BRUNSWICK VS. HIGH POINT ANDREWS

West's Trojans Seek Back-To-Back Thrill In Chapel Hill

BY DOUG RUTTER

Here we go again. West Brunswick's Trojans will end their football season in Chapel Hill for the third straight year Friday night when they play for the North Carolina High School 3A Championship at 7:30 p.m.

The Red Raiders of High Point Andrews (13-1) will try to prevent West Brunswick (11-3) from winning a second consecutive state championship at the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium.

The Trojans won the state 2A title last year, and hope to become the first school in N.C. High School Athletic Association history to follow up a 2A championship season by winning the 3A title.

"I feel like we've got a chance," West Brunswick Head Coach Jim Brett said

Tuesday. "We're just going to have to go out there and play the greatest game we've ever played."

The most recent schools to win back-to-back state football championships were Richmond County in the 4A class and Swain County in the 1A ranks. Both won three straight titles starting in 1988.

West Brunswick advanced to the state championship game with a 21-13 win over Tarboro in last week's eastern final. High Point Andrews defeated Shelby 41-31 to win the western crown.

West also has playoff wins over Reidsville (21-3), Eastern Randolph (43-12) and Northeast Guilford (48-16). High Point Andrews beat Winston-Salem Glenn (20-17), Forest Hills (10-0) and Concord (50-17) in the playoffs.

"I feel like we've got a chance. We're just going to have to go out there and play the greatest game we've ever played."

—Coach Jim Brett

The Trojans and Red Raiders have been two of the most successful football teams in the state over the last three years. West owns a 35-8 record since 1991, while Andrews is 39-4.

Kenan Stadium has become West Brunswick's home away from home. The Trojans are the only team in the state that has played in Chapel Hill each of the last three years.

After losing 21-6 to Thomasville in the 1991 state 2A championship, West Brunswick returned to the 2A title game last year and defeated Maiden 14-6 for the school's first football championship.

High Point Andrews defeated Kannapolis Brown 24-14 to win the 1991 state 3A championship. The Red Raiders lost to Burlington Cummings in last year's 3A semifinals.

"I think both teams want to win real bad," Brett said.

On paper, the game appears to be a close matchup. The Red Raiders average 30.6

points per game and give up 12.1 points, while West Brunswick scores 30.9 points per contest and yields 12.8.

Coach Craig Gill's Red Raiders, making their second appearance at Kenan Stadium in the last three years, racked up 515 yards of offense in last week's western final.

High Point Andrews uses a pro-I offensive formation. Senior quarterback Larry Patterson has passed for 1,347 yards and 18 touchdowns. Patterson has been intercepted five times.

Receiver James Cotton (6-5, 205) has caught 45 passes for 892 yards and 13 touchdowns. Leading rushers are Stephon Smith with 1,015 yards and 13 touchdowns and Ronnie Whitworth with 892 yards and six TDs.

(See TROJANS, Page 13-B)



Wearing Crowns In '94

Two titlists were crowned Saturday night—Miss Brunswick County 1994 Ashley Summerlin of Long Beach (left) and Little Miss Greater Brunswick County Natalie Tyner of Bolivia. The story, with another photo, is on Page 5 -B.

Revaluation Notices Mean Flood Of Calls, Complaints For County Tax Officials

BY ERIC CARLSON

The 1993 property revaluations have gone out, the telephone calls are flooding in and Brunswick County Tax Supervisor Boyd Williamson wants to assure those who don't agree with their appraisals that there is no deadline for scheduling an informal hearing to discuss the valuation.

More than 90,000 value estimates were mailed to Brunswick County property owners last week and already several hundred people have called to discuss their appraisal or to schedule a hearing, Williamson said. He expects to receive up to 3,000 such requests, which is about normal for the revaluations counties are required to conduct at least every eight years.

Williamson asks property owners to disregard the notice on their appraisal form telling them to call "within 10 days" if they have questions. The notice appears on all forms sent out by the tax department.

"I want to try to diminish the sense of urgency somewhat," he said. "Nobody is going to get turned away. Anyone who wants to come in for a hearing will be able to do so."

Some problems can be handled over the phone, he said. Occasionally an appraiser may have listed a new house on the wrong lot. Or a data-entry error may have resulted in an improper appraisal figure.

Others who feel their property has been improperly valued will be asked to schedule an appointment with an appraiser, who will show the owner the evaluation forms, maps and local real estate data used to establish the property's fair market value.

State law requires the county to base its land valuations on 100 percent of market value.

Property owners should bring to the hearing any documentation they have to suggest that the appraisal is in error, Williamson said. This might include a recent appraisal for loan refinancing, a recent sales contract (no more than 18 months old) and photographs or other evidence showing problems with the property that could reduce its worth.

"You might have severe beachfront erosion or a rental unit that's been torn up inside by tenants—anything that has diminished the value that might have slipped by the

(See TAXPAYERS REACT, Page 13-B)

TO BEGIN WORK JANUARY 3

New Hospital Exec Experienced In Managed Care, Recruitment

BY SUSAN USHER

The Brunswick Hospital's newly-named administrator begins work Jan 3, bringing with him nearly 14 years in health care administration, with experience in physician recruitment and managed health care.

C. Mark Gregson says he's excited about the potential he sees in both the hospital and its surrounding community.

"I had an opportunity to visit the hospital and talk to people in the community. I feel excited about the opportunities in the hospital and in the community there in the future," Gregson said in a telephone interview last week from HCA Bayonet Point/Hudson Medical Center in Hudson, Fla., on the Gulf Coast north of Tampa, where he has been associate administrator since 1988.

Previously he served as vice president at hospitals in Phoenix, Ariz., and Bradenton, Fla., that were pub-

lic and not-for-profit facilities. Coupled with his tenure with investor-owned, for-profit HCA, that gives Gregson experience in all three types of hospital settings.

He succeeds Earl Tamar of Holden Beach, who resigned abruptly on Sept. 21. Chief Financial Officer Helen Street is serving as interim chief executive officer until the new administrator arrives.

His first goals here will be getting to know the hospital and its staff and the community, and then setting some priorities.

Gregson said he enjoys challenges, and likes meeting one goal and moving on to others. He considers his skills with people a strength and manages using a team approach.

"The way I operate is by working closely with a team of people and with the community to decide what the needs and expectations of the community are for the hospital and then working as a team to meet and hopefully exceed those expectations."

According to Robert M. Martin, HealthTrust regional vice president, Gregson "will be an important asset to The Brunswick Hospital in the years ahead, particularly as the country undergoes dramatic changes in its health care system," citing his experience in recruitment of physicians with a full range of skills and with negotiating managed health care contracts.

"His experience in these two areas will be important," said Martin, "as The Brunswick Hospital prepares for health care reform."

Gregson is also reflected in his approach to physician recruitment: working with the medical community and community at large to deter-

mine what types of physicians are needed and then trying to recruit those whose lifestyles and interests are compatible with the local community.

"The idea is to recruit and retain," he said.

Gregson also gained experience in negotiating health care contracts in both Arizona and Florida, where competition has driven the trend toward managed health care, a system that reduces patient costs while limiting patients' choice of doctors and medical facilities. In both areas, he said, managed care is evolving in models and at the pace dictated by the community.

"I understand that is also what is going to be happening in the Brunswick area," he said.

At Bayonet Point, Gregson has led the 256-bed hospital through accreditation, implemented open heart surgery and cardiac catheterization programs, coordinated construction projects and played a large role in the hospital's continuous quality improvement program.

Gregson earned his bachelor's degree in economics and business administration from Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich., and a master's degree in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Gregson and his wife, Mary, have two children. He plans to become actively involved in civic and community projects.

HealthTrust, which leases The Brunswick Hospital from the Brunswick County Hospital Authority, owns and operates health care facilities in 21 southern and western states, including its 82 affiliate hospitals and health care networks.



K. MITCHELL RANDOLPH STANCL A. SMITH N. SMITH WILLIAMS

SIX MORE ARRESTED, ONE FLED

D.A. Says 10 Acted As 'Gang' In Killing Of Bolivia Resident

BY ERIC CARLSON

It was a "gang mentality" that motivated 10 young people to pile into two cars and drive to a home in Bolivia last week to watch—or to take part in—the killing of Charles Wayne "Butch" Davis, according to District Attorney Rex Gore.

A 16-year-old female, four other teenagers and a 21-year-old were arrested and charged with murder in the case last Wednesday (Dec. 1). They join three other young men who were picked up on murder charges Nov. 30, less than 48 hours after Davis was fatally shot in the driveway of his mobile home on Albright Road.

Four of the jailed teens are students at South Brunswick High School. A tenth suspect, who is enrolled at Brunswick Community College, appears to have fled the country to the Bahamas.

Investigators have recovered the .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol believed to be the murder weapon. The pistol has been sent to a State Bureau of Investigation laboratory for ballistic analysis.

An autopsy on Davis has determined that he died from a single gunshot wound to the back. However, another large wound to the

"It just goes to show that you need to watch out who you get into a car with."

—Sheriff's Detective Charlie Miller

head was noted by the medical examiner.

It is believed that Frank Lenail Ford, 22, of Oakey Trail, Bolivia, fired the shot that killed Davis, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Charlie Miller. Because the investigation is continuing, Miller said he could not give details about the second wound to Davis's head. Nor would he discuss what role each of the defendants may have had in the murder.

"We have evidence that they were all there," Miller said. "As far as their participation, I can't go into that right now. That information has been passed on to the district attorney."

Gore said Monday he is reviewing evidence and interviews gath-

ered by Brunswick detectives and the State Bureau of Investigation. Prosecutors have not decided whether the charges against any of the suspects should be reduced.

"It appears that we had a gang mentality situation," Gore said. "We're trying to sort out the legal consequences of the gang's disregard for another person's well being. We are evaluating the charges against each person and trying to fit them into the total picture of what happened that night."

The six new suspects, who made a first appearance in Brunswick County District Court last Thursday, are Kevin Kenyatta Mitchell, 18, of Old Ocean Highway, Bolivia; Victor Conway Randolph, 21, of Tobes Road, Bolivia; Anthony Alex Smith, 19, of Neck Road, Bolivia; Nicholas Lavoir Smith, 16, of U.S. 17, Bolivia; Jessica Lucille Stancil, 16, of Clark Street, Ocean Isle Beach; and Archie Lee Williams Jr., 16, of Rutland Road, Bolivia.

The three Bolivia men previously charged in the case are Ford, Terrence Laquinn Jones, 18, of Randolph Mobile Home Park on Randolphville Road and Jeremy Javon Smith, 16, of Tobes Road.

(See 10TH SUSPECT, Page 2-A)

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