



\$6.15/hr, the new NC minimum wage. Photo by Molly Carlson

NC minimum wage increase to affect students

by Molly Carlson
Layout Editor

In July of 2006, the North Carolina General Assembly passed an increase in NC minimum hourly wage from \$5.15 to \$6.15. Tipped employees also saw a dollar hike from \$2.13 to \$3.13 an hour. The wage went into effect January 1, 2007. This was the first increase in minimum wage in North Carolina since 1997. North Carolina Governor Mike Easley (D) was reported saying, "After nine years without an increase in the federal minimum wage, North Carolina was done waiting on Washington. We took the matter in our own hands to help provide some economic security to our hard working families." This will most likely positively affect students at Brevard College in the long run.

The wage increase did not affect the amount of money current work-study students at Brevard College were able to make. No work-study positions have been cut.

Students in this fiscal year will continue to work towards the amount allotted to them in the fall of 2006. However, many students may see a deduction in the amount of actual hours they are able to work for the remainder of the semester.

This will most likely only affect the first year workers whose pay jumped a whole dollar from the original starting pay of \$5.15 to the new minimum of \$6.15. A sliding scale was set in place to recognize students who continued to work for the college each year.

see Minimum wage, page 2

Pool space to be converted to weight room

by Joseph Chilton
Staff Writer

Plans are currently being made to turn the college's pool area into a \$200,000 weight training facility, according to Brevard College Athletics Director Tom Collins.

The project is currently in its preliminary stages. All athletic coaches will soon be asked for their input as to what they would like to see in the facility, and plans will be drawn up.

Both the Building and Grounds Committee and the Athletics Committee will review the plans for the facility at the February 23 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

If the plans are approved, the next step towards the development of the facility will be fundraising.

According to Tom Collins, the Booster Club will raise the money, and no money from the school's operating budget will be used for the construction of the weight room.

Many critics of the idea have expressed the opinion that they would rather see the pool open again.

According to Collins, however, making the pool functional again would cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars and is not a feasible option. "The cost of renovating the pool is cost-prohibitive," Collins said.

"We are not tearing up a swimming pool to put in a weight room, we are turning a storage area into a weight room.

The plans being proposed would give the college a weight room comparable to those found on NCAA Division I campuses

and would in theory greatly aid in the recruitment of student athletes.

In order to convert the area into a weight room, the pool will have to be filled with concrete. After that is accomplished, Astro-turf will be laid on top of the concrete and weights will be placed throughout the room.

"Once the plan is approved and the money is raised, the renovations should not take long," Collins said. "It is reasonable that we could look forward to having this in the fall."

What's Inside?

Campus Calendar...	2
Forecast.....	2
Horoscope.....	9
Letters to Editor..	4
Miss K.....	6
Movie Review....	10
News.....	2
Opinion.....	4
Pool Opinions.....	7
Security Report....	2
Sports.....	11