



Sports

South Brunswick Cougars pick up first win of year over North Brunswick - 1C

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'Healthy Families'

County accepts Reynolds grant

By Terry Pope
County Editor

Brunswick County's rate of heart disease, diabetes and cancer exceeds both the state and national averages.

But local health officials are arming themselves with the necessary funding to fight back.

With the help of a \$342,860 grant just accepted from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the Brunswick County Health Department will start a "wellness" program aimed at teaching families about proper nutrition, exercise and stress management in hopes that fewer residents will die of the diseases each year.

The "Healthy Families Program" will teach hundreds of low-income and rural families how to protect and improve their health, said Brunswick County health director Wade Burgess. The allocation is the largest ever awarded by the Kate B. Reynolds Trust to a county for a wellness program.

The Coastal Carolinas Community Health Assessment, in which the county participated last year, showed Brunswick to have death rates in cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes higher than the state average. The rate of heart disease among county residents from 1989 to 1993 was 294 cases per 100,000 residents compared to the national average of 144 cases.

During the same period, cancer struck 235 victims per 100,000 compared to the national average of 133 victims. The rate of diabetes is more than double the national average, 23.3 cases in Brunswick compared to the national rate of 11.9 cases. Each of these diseases may be prevented, or at least the effects minimized, by

See Families, page 11



Photo by Ed Harper

Symbols of the two most important Christian holidays are displayed together in sanctuaries throughout the community this week. Congregations welcomed the Christmas spirit in special services Sunday and again on Christmas Eve.

'With the rising cost of health care, we have to put more emphasis on wellness and not just on medical treatment.'

Wade Burgess
Health director



Forecast

Winter is on it's way with colder temperatures in store for this weekend. We can expect highs to only be near 50 and falling to the 30's at night.

INSIDE

- Business 8
- Police report ... 10
- Obituaries 11
- Church 6B
- Calendar 8B
- TV schedule 4C
- Classifieds 1D
- District Court .. 7D

**Over \$3 million owed
County cracks down
on delinquent owners**

By Terry Pope
County Editor

According to court records, Gerald W. Williamson of Carteret County owns two lots in Boiling Spring Lakes for which county taxes have not been paid over a nine-year period dating back to 1986.

A complaint filed in Brunswick County District Court earlier this month by county attorney Huey

Marshall seeks the right to foreclose on the property and to have it sold for back taxes of \$406.35 and \$169.61.

It is the first lawsuit filed under the county's tax foreclosure policy adopted by county commissioners last month.

And the stack of delinquent accounts forwarded to Marshall's office earlier this year by tax collector Nancy

See Owners, page 10

**County not fixed
on mobile homes**

By Terry Pope
County Editor

It may be a perception that older manufactured homes clutter up the county.

But is it a reality? County commissioners decided last week not to pursue proposed age limits on such housing, at least until the issue is studied more carefully.

"It's not a major problem," said interim Brunswick County planning director Judy Russell. "By bringing this

before the planning board and commissioners it was good because we were able to do a lot of research. We were able to determine that most of the homes were being moved around within Brunswick County, and most of the trade-ins were people moving up for a newer model."

The planning board voted October 23 to ask commissioners for a ban on units that are more than 15 years old.

An original proposal asked for restrictions on units more than ten years

See Mobile homes, page 6

Tough stance

**City rezones;
puts demand
on developer**

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

City officials have demanded the would-be developer of a 131-acre parcel adjacent to the city petition for annexation if he wants city sewer service provided his planned development.

"It is the consensus of this board that in order to get sewer, you will take our water, you will take our electrical service and you will petition for annexation to the city," mayor Bill Crowe Thursday told James R. Prevatte, attorney for Oleander Development Company.

Oleander, which has an option to purchase the 131 acres between Leonard and Moore streets opposite Ferry Road from Pfizer Inc. had asked

See Rezones, page 6

'We really don't oppose annexation, but we think it would properly be done at a later time when construction had begun and infrastructure is in place.'

Jim Prevatte
Oleander attorney

County hike cited

**Beach tests
waters, may
provide own**

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

With only councilor Frances Allen voting in opposition, Long Beach Town Council last week voted to commit \$115,000 to digging test wells in its effort to see if the town can provide its customers drinking water more cheaply than Brunswick County can.

Long Beach, Brunswick County's second largest water customer overall and the county's biggest municipal buyer of treated drinking water, recently received a report from consulting engineers Rivers and Associates, of Greenville, indicating that by 2003 or 2004 Long Beach may be able to recover water from the ground and treat it more cheaply than Brunswick County will be able to sell it to the town.

Rivers' projections show Brunswick County's asking price for treated water to escalate through the period ending in 2020. Conversely, Long Beach will be positioned to sell

The engineering consultant has estimated the cost of developing wells and building a water treatment plant to be about \$9 million

water at less and less cost in that time, as the town grows and more customers buy water from it

Rivers has estimated Long Beach will be able to sell drinking water at a cost of \$3 per thousand gallons initially, but that cost will drop to close to \$2.75 per thousand gallons by 2003. In that year, Rivers projects, Brunswick County's price for treated

See Waters, page 7

Happy New Year?

Grant on SBSB list

By Richard Nubel
Municipal Editor

Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District commissioners have but one New Year's wish they hope will come true. They hope the state's Rural Economic Development Corporation will make good on promises to provide the approximately \$2.7 million needed to complete financing of a sewer system to serve the district.

"Hopefully, before too long into January, we hope to make an official statement," district secretary Lucille Laster said this week.

REDC officials visited the area once again recently and district commissioners spent most of a December 11 meeting fine-tuning documents needed to secure the remainder of an estimated \$7.02 million to bring public wastewater management services to the area surround

See Grant, page 6