

Christina

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thought it would heal her."

The accident occurred Friday, January 14, 1994, after Christina joined a friend for a ride in his pickup truck. Traveling down Daw's Creek Road, the driver lost control and the truck hit a ditch, flipped three times and came to rest upside down after hitting a utility pole.

While the driver escaped with only minor injuries, Christina's spinal cord was severed at the base of her neck. She was rushed to New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where Sattler was the physician on call.

When she arrived at the hospital, she could still wiggle her toes and fingers and move her arms, said the Price's attorney, Bill Faison of Raleigh. With proper treatment, Christina may have had a chance of some recovery, Faison said, adding that it's "common knowledge" among doctors that injuries like Christina's must be treated within 24 hours or paralysis is likely to worsen.

Sattler put Christina in traction for four days, and her parents said they watched in despair as their daughter's condition deteriorated daily. The paralysis spread from her chest to just below her neck. Today, Christina cannot move or feel below her chin and is unable to breathe without a ventilator.

While Sattler agreed to settle the case, he accepted no liability for Christina's condition, said his attorney, Lee Evans of Raleigh.

As Christina's paralysis spread under Sattler's care, the Prices said they began to make inquiries about



Larry and Dena Price say they hope the \$8-million settlement will provide for their daughter's medical bills and ensure she never has to go to a nursing home.

want this to happen to anyone else."

Despite her physical disabilities, Christina said she intends to finish college and pursue her dream of becoming an attorney. In particular, she said she hopes to someday help victims of medical malpractice.

"This wheelchair isn't going to hold me back, it's not that heavy," she declared. "No matter what obstacles get in my way, I can overcome them. Now I just want to encourage other people to always go for their goals and dreams and never give up."

Christina is a student at UNC-Wilmington and plans to enroll in math and personal finance courses during the summer.

Mr. Price called Christina "an inspiration to us and everyone around her."

"She's determined to get out of that chair someday, and the encouragement she gives to everyone is unreal," he said. "I've been able to be thankful for what she still has. She has her mind and she can still talk, so the possibilities for her are enormous. I'm also thankful my business has allowed me to keep her out of a nursing home. Now, what I want more than anything is to take care of her and Dena."

Mrs. Price said the family has grown stronger since Christina's accident.

"We all loved one another before, but now we really know what love is about," she said. "At first I was angry with God, I was mad. But now I realize Christina has a purpose in this world, we just don't know what that's going to be yet."

Airport

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Brunswick Sanitary District.

SBSD commissioner Tommy Bowmer has been a leading critic of the plan he said would displace 160

households.

"The big problem would be most mobile homes could not go anywhere else in the county, because of their age," Bowmer said. "So, these people would just lose their homes."

Brunswick County and SBSB have in place zoning regulations which forbid mobile homes more than ten years old to be located or relocated in their jurisdictions.

"Personally, I think they're doing a disservice to the people in here," Bowmer said.

Bowmer renewed his criticism of the proposed airport runway expansion plan, and renewed his claim the runway should be resituated to run parallel to the Intracoastal Waterway, not further east into the mobile home parks. Bowmer also warned Monday to commissioner

Ginger Harper's contention that the Brunswick County Airport should be developed completely outside Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District. He suggested county commissioners be told to develop a "regional" airport "halfway between Shallotte and Southport."

SBSD acting manager Barbara Stein said the proposed expansion could cost the district \$11,000 a month in lost sewer system revenue. District officials have not calculated loss of tax base, but most feel the \$2.3 million the federal government will appropriate for land acquisition won't begin to buy the land the airport needs.

Commissioners Bowmer and Gene Formyduval saw an irony in the displacement of low-income mobile home owners. Much of the financing for the district's wastewater management system now under construction came from the Farmers Home Administration under a program to bring clean water to economically depressed areas.

"They are giving taxpayers' money to a tax-exempt entity to

foreclose on taxpayers' property," Formyduval asserted.

"The low-income people are going to be hurt the worst by it," Bowmer agreed. "These are the ones who helped get grants for this sewer and now we're telling them to get out. Now we're going to build for big corporate executives."

Bowmer has contended the runway expansion is only to accommodate two or three area corporate interests which wish to land bigger jets in Brunswick County.

"I'd like to see them hold a public hearing on this," commissioner Lucille Laster said. "They're using the people's tax money three times over -- federal, state and local."

Stein was directed to write airport commissioners, apprising them of SBSB commissioners' desire for a public hearing on the expansion proposal.

Commissioners hope airport authorities will comply.

"If they don't hold one, then I think the district needs to," commissioner Laster said.

'Stunt' flying

Commissioners said they have received "numerous" complaints from district residents about pilots who engage in "stunt" flying over the airport and surrounding neighborhoods. Fear of this practice was fueled by an airplane crash on take-off two weeks ago.

Commissioner Bowmer said residents of Yaupon Beach and St. James Plantation share these concerns. Parishioners of a church located in the district say their Sunday afternoon services are interrupted by noisy planes stunting overhead.

While Bowmer contended "the airport should police its pilots," commissioners voted to send a letter of complaint to Jane Tyler of the Federal Aviation Administration's Flight Standards Office in Winston-Salem. She has already advised district commissioners to videotape any pilot stunt flying below 1,500 feet, a violation of air safety practices.

Convention

Continued from page 1
Carolina. Normally, large crowds must use the 6,600-seat Trask Coliseum on the UNC-Wilmington campus. But that facility is designed specifically for basketball games, with bleacher seating on the lower level.

Hicks told county commissioners he was also extending a "hand of friendship" to Brunswick so the two governments can work together in the future on other issues of importance.

"We have a lot of tasks ahead of us," said Hicks, "and I think the best way to handle these tasks is for us to work together."


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Golf at Oak Island Country Club
 - **Monday, May 11 9:00am**
Tennis, Football Throw, Basketball Shooting, Spin Casting at Towncreek Park
 - **Tuesday, May 12 9:00am**
Bowling Events at Brunswick Bowling Center
 - **Wednesday, May 13 10:00am**
Croquet, Softball Throw, Walking at Long Beach Parks & Recreation Center
 - **Thursday, May 14 10:00am**
Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Table Tennis at Towncreek Park
 - **Friday, May 15**
10:00am Billiards at the Shallotte Senior Center
3:30pm Basketball 3 on 3 at Supply Elementary
 - **Saturday, May 16 10:00am**
(Rain Make-up Day if needed)
- *Age group is determined by the age of the youngest player.
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