

# Schools To Offer Supervised Program For Early Arrivers

BY SUSAN USHER

Starting in January Brunswick County's elementary and middle schools will be better equipped to care for youngsters who are dropped off at school long before classes begin or who stay on campus after school is dismissed.

A \$30,000 state incentive grant will be used to help provide up to three hours of child care per day before and after regular school hours, Superintendent John Kaufhold told board of education members Monday night.

The grant is one of two announced Monday; a mini-grant will fund a program at Lincoln Primary School in Leland aimed at reducing early failure in school.

John Harrison, assistant superintendent for curriculum, said the childcare program would offer "more than babysitting," including opportunities for remedial and enrichment learning and recreation.

One requirement of the grant is that the school charge for the service. Preliminary plans call for charging local parents \$5 per week for their first child and \$8 for two or more children. Federal free-lunch program guidelines will be used to determine which students qualify for "scholarships," he added, noting that children whose families cannot afford to pay will be accepted in the program.

The grant is a one-time only incen-

tive to start the program. If it is continued next year it will be at the expense of the local schools and program participants. Harrison said good participation this year could help make the program self-supporting next year with only a slight increase in charges.

A care plan is to be established for each school. Some may provide before-school care only, others after school or both. A school may choose not to participate if it cannot document the need.

Most of the grant, \$25,200, will be used to pay salaries for supervisors at \$10 per hour. Teachers will get first chance to volunteer for the extra

duty and pay.

While most board members and educators present didn't question the benefit of the program, at least one board member, James Clemmons, questioned whether teachers want or need the extra work.

However, at several schools teachers are already supervising early arrivals, without pay. At Union Primary School, for example, Tom Simmons said teachers rotate the responsibility, each taking it for one week. At Southport Elementary, said Ann Hines, one or two teachers have already accepted the responsibility and would be glad to get paid for it.

"It's a big problem," she added. "We're all concerned about them being there unsupervised."

Simmons added, "We have a lot of teachers who arrive at 7:30 because they want to work. It's really frustrating for them to have these early morning duties. If you want to help the teachers, take away those extra duties."

**Early Intervention**

Board of Education members also heard about another grant aimed at helping younger children. Associate Superintendent P.R. Hankins said a federal Chapter 1 mini-grant of \$4,400 will be used to establish a model intervention program at Lincoln Primary School.

"We think some of our students are at risk at a very early age," he said. "We want to zero in on this as early as possible."

The project will involve training staff and faculty in early identification of students who are likely to do poorly in school or drop out. Indicators, Hankins said, include evidence of educational deprivation, such as the high percentage of students eligible for Chapter 1 programs in math and language, and identified deficiencies in language development among first graders.

Parent involvement and education will be a key element of the program, which aims to reduce the number of students who fail and the number who qualify for Chapter 1 programs.

If the Lincoln model appears to be a good approach, he added, the system will try to implement it in other schools.

## Health Board Endorses Lockwood Pines Nursing Home Application

BY RAHN ADAMS

The Brunswick County Board of Health Monday endorsed a Hickory health care firm's proposal to build a \$1.4 million nursing home facility near Supply.

The action was taken at the board's regular monthly meeting Monday night in Bolivia, according to Health Department administrative assistant Kay Moore.

Board members on hand for the 1½-hour meeting included Marilyn Boehm, Pearly Vereen, George Clemmons, Jerry Lewis, Frankie Rabon, Ricky Parker, Carolyn Hankins and Fred Lesh. Chairman Bill Rabon, Arthur Knox and John Madison were absent.

Moore said the board's unanimous endorsement of a state application by Highland Health Care of Hickory Inc. for 60 nursing home beds in Brunswick County followed a presentation by company Vice President Charles Trefzger.

Highland Health Care has proposed to build a 25,000-square-foot, 80-bed residential care facility on four acres owned by Lesh adjacent to The Brunswick Hospital. The application is one of two from Brunswick County.

A company identified as Brunswick Cove Inc. also has applied to the Division of Facility Services for the 60 nursing home beds, with two proposals to build either in New Hanover County or Supply, also near to the hospital. One of the principals with Brunswick Cove is David Sherrill of Leland.

Lesh, who chaired Monday's meeting in Chairman Rabon's

absence, did not participate in the board's discussion or vote on the matter since he has a personal interest, Moore said. Also, she indicated that the Brunswick Cove application has not been presented to the health board for endorsement.

The N.C. Department of Human Resources has determined that the Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender county area is eligible for 60 additional nursing home beds. With the decision based on need, only one of the three counties will be awarded the beds.

Facility Services' Certificate of Need Section will hold a public hearing on the applications on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m., in Room 105 of the Cameron Building on the UNC-Wilmington campus.

Ms. Moore said a resolution of sup-

port for Highland Health Care's proposal will be presented by the health board at the public hearing.

In another matter at Monday's meeting, the board approved a recommendation from its environmental health committee to allow sanitarians to handle food and lodging inspections that have been done mainly by sanitarian supervisors over the past few months, said Moore.

Earlier this year, sanitarians began concentrating on site evaluations to reduce the environmental health section's backlog of requests for the service. Moore said Health Director Michael Rhodes told the board that the number of pending site evaluations has decreased from about 800 in July to about 200 at present.

## Three Hurt in Weekend Wreck

Three local motorists escaped serious injury in a fiery, single-vehicle crash Sunday in northern Brunswick County.

According to Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley, the accident occurred Sunday at 12:30 a.m., 9½ miles north of Boiling Spring Lakes on Daw's Creek Road.

A 1968 GMC pickup truck driven by Jimmy Dean West ran off the road and overturned, then caught fire, Oakley said. She added that West told Trooper J.V. Dove that a blown tire caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

West and two passengers—Tonya Walton, 21, of Winnabow, and Ericka

Matthews, 18, of Bolivia—complained of minor injuries and were taken by private vehicle to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington for treatment, Oakley said.

She reported that Dove charged West with driving while his license was revoked. Also, Dove estimated damage to the truck at \$1,200.

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