

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Eight New Literacy Council Teachers Certified

The Brunswick County Literacy Council recently certified eight new tutors following a workshop conducted last month by trainer Rich Dixon.

The volunteers are now available to help adults learn to read using the phonics-based Laubach method.

They are as follows: France Sullivan, Marge DeLonais and Charles Hanlon, Shallotte; Beverly Buckowitz, Marjorie Chrissman and Ruth Tudela, Calabash; Ramona Long, Bolivia; and Shirley Smith, Leland.

The council provides free, private one-on-one tutors for adults who want to learn how to read and write or to improve those basic skills. For more information, write or call BCLC, P.O. Box 6, Supply, N.C. 28462, phone 754-7323.

Rogers Initiated

Myliisa Lois Rogers, daughter of Ken and Doreen Rogers of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was recently initiated as a member of Alpha Lambda Delta. The national honor society recognizes college students for outstanding academic achievement.

Miss Rogers is a sophomore at Columbia College and received the honor for grades attained during her freshman year. She is working toward a dual degree in dance education and dance technique and performance.

Training Completed

Terry L. Ludlum and Jeremy D. Hewett have completed Navy airman training at Recruit Training Command in Orlando, Fla.

Ludlum, son of Benny and Sylvia Ludlum of Supply, and Hewett, son of James and Nancy Hewett of Shallotte, were trained in studies including seamanship, close-order drill, naval history, and first aid.

During the training cycle, recruits are taught general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 occupational fields.

Ludlum graduated from West Brunswick High School in 1989 and joined the Navy in June 1991.

Hewett is a 1990 graduate of West Brunswick High School and joined the Navy in May 1991.

Awarded Badge

Pvt. 1st Class David A. Ellison

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has been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for his participation in Operation Desert Storm.

Ellison is the son of Ralph and Louis Ellison of Star Route 1, Southport, and a 1989 graduate of South Brunswick High School.

Ellison is a heavy anti-armor weapons infantryman based at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., with the 18th Infantry.

The badge is awarded to soldiers assigned or attached to an infantry unit that has engaged in active ground combat with an opposing force.

Publication Wins

Her work on the 1990 Annual Report of the Brunswick County Schools has won a communications award for Gloria Yount, of Southport, public information and staff development director for the county school system.

The award is one of 28 that will be presented by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association at its annual conference Oct. 23-25 in Wilmington as part of the Blue Ribbon Awards Program for Effective Communications.

Student Excels

Shawn A. Cavender, a senior at South Brunswick High School in Southport, has been named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Sue Sellers, principal of South Brunswick High, announced that a letter of commendation will be presented to Cavender by the school.

He is one of approximately 35,000 students nationwide who are being honored for their noteworthy performance on the 1990 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which was the route of entry to the 1992 Merit Program.

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Ocean Isle Board Drops Nightclub Petition

BY DOUG RUTTER

Ocean Isle Beach officials have agreed to do nothing about a petition from a group of mainland residents who want the town to ban nightclubs and bars in their neighborhood.

Commissioners took no formal action on the petition at their meeting Tuesday, accepting an earlier recommendation from the planning board and the advice of their town attorney.

Residents of the extraterritorial area presented a petition to the town board two months ago bearing the names of 49 people opposed to nightclubs, lounges and bars between the Ocean Isle Beach causeway and Gause Landing.

At the time, residents of the area were upset about the operation of a nightclub, Jesse's Lounge, which has since lost its state Alcohol Beverage Control permit.

The club also has come under fire

because of a faulty septic tank system. The Brunswick County Health Department has charged the owner of the building with failing to provide a sanitary means of sewage disposal, and the case is pending in district court.

Earlier this year, Ocean Isle Beach Building Inspector Druied Roberson ordered that the club be shut down due to building code violations. Roberson and the building owner later agreed to a schedule of improvements.

At Tuesday's meeting, Ocean Isle Beach Attorney Elva Jess said the board of commissioners doesn't have the authority to prohibit lounges outside the town limits, unless it is done through zoning regulations.

However, town officials have said they don't want to change the zoning of the commercial property on N.C. 179 west of the causeway.

Controls Needed

Name Added To BEMC Ballot For Board Of Directors Seat

There will be at least one contested election for a board of directors seat at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. annual meeting Saturday.

L. Calvin Duncan has been nominated by petition to face incumbent Bobby Jordan in district 10, which covers the Evergreen, Oakdale and Western Prong communities in Columbus County.

Ruth Polston, member services employee at BEMC, said Duncan was placed on the ballot after submitting a petition with the names of at least 15 members of the co-op.

Other petitions were received, but they were not considered valid.

Mrs. Polston said she wasn't sure why the petitions were rejected, but that nominations can still be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

In addition to Jordan, other directors up for re-election are Hubert K. Britain, district 7, the Winnabow-Bolivia area; Bryan R. Smith, district 9, the Sunset Beach, Calabash, Longwood and Thomasboro areas; and Beasley Strickland, district 11, Cerro Gordo and Tabor City.

The meeting is Saturday at Smith's Warehouse on the U.S. 701 bypass in Whiteville. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the business meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioners talked about putting controls on fuel tanks and propane gas tanks, but took no action.

Ocean Isle developer Odell Williamson suggested last month that the town prohibit fuel tanks in residential areas. He said they hurt local businesses and are unattractive.

Town Attorney Jess said the state regulates fuel tanks due to environmental concerns, but the town could control them through its zoning code.

As an example, she said Winston-Salem's zoning ordinances prohibit tanks larger than 25 gallons in residential areas.

If Ocean Isle adopted similar rules, Ms. Jess said the town would have to either "grandfather" existing tanks or give owners adequate time to have them removed.

Building Inspector Druied Roberson said he knows of at least four fuel tanks on the island. Williamson said last month he knows of at least 13 tanks in residential areas that are used to fuel boats.

Mayor Betty Williamson asked the building inspector to determine exactly how many fuel tanks are on the island and report to the board next month.

In a related matter, Roberson said propane gas tanks are becoming more and more popular at Ocean Isle as people look at alternative means of heating their homes.

He said nine houses were built last spring with propane gas heat. Town officials are concerned that the tanks could be dangerous in the event of a major storm if they're not securely anchored to the ground.

Ms. Jess said the town would need approval from the N.C. Department of Agriculture before it adopts or enforces any rules on propane gas tanks.

Plans Coming Along

Odell Williamson, who serves as utilities commissioner for the town, told board members Tuesday that engineering plans for expansion of the sewer system are moving right along.

"Basically the plans are all complete," he said. "But still it's going to have to go through the permitting process."

Boney and Associates of Raleigh is the firm designing the expansion. The town plans to provide sewer service to the east end of the island, where residents still use conventional septic tanks.

If all goes well, Williamson said the town could start accepting bids on the project in March or April.

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Answers To Your Questions about Common Vision Conditions

Q. What is nearsightedness?

A. Nearsightedness (or myopia as it is technically called) is a common vision condition in which a person sees close objects clearly but cannot see distant objects with the same clarity.

Q. What is farsightedness?

A. Farsightedness (technically called hyperopia) is a vision condition in which distant objects are usually seen clearly but close objects are not brought into proper focus.

Q. What is astigmatism?

A. Astigmatism is a common vision condition that occurs when the front surface (cornea) of the eye is slightly irregular in shape. This slight irregularity can result in vision being blurred at all distances.

Q. What is presbyopia?

A. Presbyopia is a vision condition that occurs when the crystalline lens of the eye gradually loses its ability to bring close objects into clear focus. It usually becomes noticeable when people reach their early-to-mid-forties and is a natural part of the aging process.

Q. How are these vision conditions treated?

A. Nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia are all treated by using eyeglasses, contact lenses, and in some cases, vision therapy to correct the vision problem.

Q. What is amblyopia?

A. Amblyopia is the unexplained loss or lack of full development of vision in one eye which is not fully correctable with lenses and is not the result of any identifiable eye health problem. The cause of amblyopia is usually due to conditions such as crossed-eyes or a large difference in refractive error between the two eyes.

Q. How is amblyopia treated?

A. In young children, patching the good eye may help the amblyopic eye to improve. In older children and adults, other vision therapy techniques may be used.

Q. What are crossed-eyes?

A. Strabismus, more commonly known as crossed-eyes, is a vision condition in which the eyes are not properly aligned with each other. One or both eyes may turn in (esotropia), out (exotropia), up (hyper-tropia), or down (hypotropia).

Q. How are crossed-eyes treated?

A. Treatment of crossed-eyes often includes the use of eyeglasses, prisms, and vision therapy. In extreme cases, surgery may be required.

Q. What is glaucoma?

A. Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure of the eyeball rises to a point that the optic nerve becomes damaged. This damage can result in severe vision loss and even blindness.

Q. How is glaucoma treated?

A. Glaucoma can be effectively treated by the use of special eye drops or medicines that reduce the pressure within the eye. In some cases, surgery may be required.

Q. What are cataracts?

A. If the normally clear lens within the eye becomes cloudy, it is called a cataract. As the lens becomes cloudy, vision becomes cloudy and/or blurred.

Q. How are cataracts treated?

A. A cataract generally forms over a long period of time and it may be many years before vision is impaired to the extent that the cataract should be removed. Cataracts are removed during a relatively minor surgical procedure. Glasses, contact lenses, or surgically inserted intraocular lens implants can be used to help restore vision.



In the interest of better vision from the office of:

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