



STAFF PHOTOS BY TERRY POPE

### Belville Celebrates

The northern Brunswick County town of Belville celebrated a 15th birthday Saturday with its annual Founder's Day event. Above, magician J. Bryant Pergensen of Boiling Spring Lakes has something up his sleeve for Nicholas Spencer, center, and Marcus Spencer of Leland. At right, Tim Sullivan of Leland tosses a 50 mph fastball in the children's games. Under sunny skies, cloggers and performers entertained what Belville Mayor Ken Messer believed may have been a record crowd this year.

### Coastline, WDZD To Hold Radiothon

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad and WDZD radio station are planning an open house and "radiothon" Saturday, April 18, to raise money for the squad.

Coastline will open its doors to the public from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. WDZD will broadcast live from the squad building on Holden Beach Road.

Live entertainment is planned along with a dunking booth. Hot dogs and drinks will be free, said spokesman Kevin Muihoiland.

Special guests will include Miss Brunswick County Crystal Williams and Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan.

Coastline is trying to raise money to help purchase a new ambulance and equipment which are needed to make the transition from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support.

Donations can be made at the building. To phone in donations, call WDZD at 579-9300 or Kathleen Jacobs at 842-6978.

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## Holden Wastewater Panel To Document Septic Tank Abuses

BY DOUG RUTTER

Documenting abuses of septic tanks and teaching people about how to maintain their systems are among the objectives of a Holden Beach committee.

To document the abuses, the town's wastewater management committee plans to compile data for every lot and house on the island.

The town will create a computer file for each property with information about the septic tank permit, the tank's size, installation date and when it was last pumped; and the advertised capacity of rental homes.

Once the data is compiled, the committee plans to let homeowners

know their approved septic tank and dwelling unit capacities and tell them about pertinent state rules on wastewater treatment and disposal systems.

Holden Beach also plans to inform the county and state of any confirmed abuses and ask them to enforce the regulations, according to the committee's objectives.

Commissioner Sid Swarts, who is chairing the committee, thinks educating the homeowners will go a long way toward solving the environmental and density problems associated with overloading septic tanks.

"These people don't want to over-

load their houses," Swarts said at a meeting last Thursday. "I think the environment is extremely important to them, and I think density is important to the owners."

Town Manager Gary Parker is getting an education packet together to send out to the homeowners. It must first be approved by the town commissioners, who created the committee in February.

Parker also is putting together a proposed ordinance that would prohibit homeowners or real estate agents from advertising, renting or selling a home with more bedrooms than the septic tank permit allows.

For years, Holden Beach residents

have complained about homes that are advertised with more bedrooms than are allowed in the septic tank permit. Rental homes with three-bedroom permits are frequently advertised as having five bedrooms.

Town officials haven't found a way to control the widely-used practice, which is considered a danger to the environment and public health.

Other committee objectives include recommending a maintenance program for septic tanks and suggesting a groundwater and canal testing program to determine the need for a sewer system.

Holden Beach officials have frequently accused the Brunswick

County Health Department of not doing its job, and last week was no exception.

"If the county was doing everything the book says we could all go home and watch a ball game," Swarts said.

The committee chairman planned to meet with County Health Director Michael Rhodes this week to explain the purpose of the committee.

Besides Commissioners Swarts and Gay Atkins, other committee members are Marlene Thomas, Harold Steorts and Duncan St. Clair. The group's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, at 1 p.m. at the town hall.

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