

Superintendent Calls For Change, Commitment To Improvements

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 That group's recommendations will go to the board for approval and/or revision and incorporation into the county's plan.
 Johnston said the county intends to set higher expectations for all, beyond the minimum 40th percentile to 50th percentile that represents mediocrity. Aiming high should pay off, he suggested, even though meeting the higher goals may be difficult in the short run.
 "Some are unwilling to go beyond that level because of a fear of failure. But in Brunswick County we simply have to," said Johnston. "I think the sense of urgency is even stronger here because improvement has been so slow to occur."
 "There are no quick fixes. We

have a population that wants everything taken care of right away, but there are conditions out there that keep that from happening. When children come to school unprepared it has an impact." Because of that, he looks forward to greater cooperation among the schools and other agencies dealing with the same problems.
 Johnston noted that the PBAB measures achievement in only one area—curriculum, cautioning, "The achievement piece isn't going to rise until you have all the other pieces in place too."
 He anticipates it will probably take longer to reach the desired level of performance than the three years covered by the system's first plan.

"One key is how long it takes to get the staff to commit," he said.
 Fairley suggested posting the plan and timetable at all schools and telling those concerned, "This is where we're going and you're coming with us."
 Added member Polly Russ, "Or else you leave."
 Johnston agreed with Fairley that the school system needs to go beyond the three-year period and to develop a master plan that covers all areas, not simply curriculum.
 At upcoming meetings the board will act on several proposals aired at the workshop. These include a revamped mission statement and related logo from Brunswick County Schools, "Believing Children Succeed".



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Offering Thanks For Road Scraping

Gordon Griffin (left) leads residents of Shingletree Acres subdivision in a prayer of thanks Wednesday (Jan. 20) after the Brunswick County Commissioners agreed to use county equipment to scrape the muddy, potholed private road to allow school buses to pass. A total of six roads in county were scheduled to be graded, with work to be completed yesterday (Jan. 27).

Board's Restaurant Certification Plan Draws Fire From Businesses

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 cerms of day care centers who have several staff members taking turns preparing snacks for children. She said her cook already is state certified, but requiring teachers to take the course would be costly and would add to the "spiraling cost" of day care.
 "Under state law, all day care centers must provide two simple snacks per day, which includes the mixing and serving of juices and the spreading of peanut butter on crackers," Schuster said. "Staff members preparing and serving these snacks would have to be certified under this provision."
 "The health department would be better served in their mission by adopting and enforcing even minimal health and safety standards for the many dangerous, unhealthy, deplorable and illegal day care operations that now run rampant in this county."
 Schuster suggested that because food preparation is not the principal business of day care facilities, they should be exempt from the proposed regulations.
 Keith Rogers, owner of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Southport, asked the board to consider condensing the certification course so it can be taken in one day.
 Mildred Christman, owner of Minnie's Cafe in Southport, said she has taken food service manager certification courses and highly recommends them. But she said the course should not be mandatory.
 "Maybe you could let people take the course to get additional credit on their inspection score," she said.
 Terry Sarner asked that the schedule for the certification course be made more flexible so workers can take it during the evening or on weekends. She also said that

restaurants that maintain a good health rating should not be required to have managers recertified every three years.
 No one spoke in favor of the proposed regulations during the public hearing. At one point, members of the audience were asked to stand if they oppose the new rules being made mandatory. Nearly everyone rose to their feet.
 County Health Director Michael Rhodes said Tuesday he welcomed the comments voiced at the hearing and said they would be considered when the environmental health committee meets next month to modify the regulations. He plans to ask several of those who attended the hearing to join the committee.
 "Everyone has to realize that this document is a first draft," Rhodes said. "We will be looking at ways to incorporate their concerns and still come up with a product that will insure that restaurant workers are sufficiently educated in proper food handling techniques."
 Rhodes said the board contacted health departments throughout North Carolina to research methods for educating food handlers. Only six or seven other counties have food service manager certification, he said. Still, the board felt it needed to take the lead in this area.
 "The board of health felt that since Brunswick County gets its biggest income from tourism, and because a lot of eating establishments are frequented by tourists, it wanted to make sure ours were properly educated in safe food handling."
 "One outbreak of food poisoning can close a restaurant permanently," he said.

"The health department would be better served in their mission by adopting and enforcing...standards for the many dangerous, unhealthy, deplorable and illegal day care operations that now run rampant in this county."

—Robin Schuster

Seven Goals Aiming High

Superintendent of Schools Ralph Johnston outlined these seven broad goals for 1993-94 to the Brunswick County Board of Education Saturday, seeking support as the system drafts its plans for the next three years:

- Creating a clear mission and set of expectations accepted by all school system staff members, who must be "committed to changing the ways we have done business for many years."
- Structuring and organizing the central office to support and serve school improvement efforts, sharing the most up-to-date information and methodology in their areas of specialty.
- Setting high standards and expectations for all students, grade by grade and subject by subject, with an aligned, challenging curriculum that reflects those standards.
- Establishing high expectations for both teachers and children.
- Preparing and equipping principals with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to create school environments that "unleash the creative energies of teachers to inspire students to be self-motivated about learning..."
- Helping teachers become and stay up-to-date on both content and knowledge of ways to engage students in learning each minute of the day. "I don't doubt that there are good teachers in our schools or that they want to do better," said Johnston, "but we can all do better."
- Developing an accountability system that incorporates school system and individual school goals and tracks progress made in achieving the goals.

Computer Store Center Of Investigation

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 The informant told a detective that Caudill was "bugging him to get some merchandise, such as soap, cologne, perfume, 35mm film, clothes, computers and computer equipment," court records show. He also told detectives that Hartsell had asked him to get him an AK-47 assault rifle.
 Under Hughes' direction, the informant accepted \$480 from Caudill for samples of cologne which were to be "part of the merchandise to be delivered at a later date." Hartsell also gave the informant \$280 for the assault rifle.
 The informant then told Caudill that the items were stolen, court

records show. Caudill allegedly replied, "Not to worry about it, my guy; Doug is used to dealing in hot (stuff)."
 Working with undercover officers from Charlotte and the sheriff's department drug squad, Hughes had the informant arrange a larger purchase with Caudill and Thompkins Jr. for a truckload of stolen goods, supposedly from New York.
 Caudill allegedly told the informant "not to bring a Wal-Mart truck, because it might scare some people," the court document states. He suggested that the informant use a rental truck to transport the merchandise from New York to Charlotte.

Hughes estimated that detectives had spent "more than 1,000 hours on the case." The investigation is continuing, he said.
 The four men arrested made a first appearance in Brunswick County District Court last week. All four were formally indicted by a grand jury on charges of conspiracy to receive stolen goods. A probable cause hearing was set for Feb. 3.
 Both Thompkins and his father were released on \$10,000 bond each. Hartsell and Caudill were freed on \$5,000 bond each.
 Hughes said anyone wishing to recover equipment left at Pyramid for repairs should call him at (919) 253-4321.

Near-Normal Temps, More Rain In Local Area Forecast

South Brunswick Islands residents can expect near-normal temperatures over the next few days, accompanied by slightly above average rainfall.
 Shallotte Point weather watcher Jackson Canady said he anticipates temperatures to average in the mid-30s at night climbing to the mid-50s on average during the day, with about three-quarters inch of rain.
 January hasn't shown the wide range of warm days and cold days typical of the month, he said. The average temperatures instead are based on average weather. "We haven't had many days that were ex-

ceptionally warm or exceptionally cold."
 For the period Jan. 19-25, Canady recorded a high of 73 degrees on Jan. 24 and a low of 32 degrees on Jan. 20.
 A daily average high of 60 degrees combined with a nightly average low of 41 degrees for a daily average temperature of 50 degrees, which is about 4 degrees above average.
 He recorded ninety-eight hundredths of an inch of rain.
 While the month may not have seen typical extremes in temperatures, he said, "We've made up for it in rain."

Brunswick Beaches Prepare For Year's First Winter Storm

BY DOUG RUTTER
 Brunswick County beach dwellers were hoping for the best Tuesday as they braced for the year's first storm—a northeaster with the potential to cause coastal flooding and erosion during Tuesday night's high tide.
 The National Weather Service issued storm and coastal flood warnings for all of southeastern North Carolina Tuesday, when tides were one to two feet above normal and seas were running 10 to 14 feet offshore.
 Building seas were expected to cause coastal flooding and beach erosion, especially around the time of high tide Tuesday at 10 p.m. Rain, possibly mixed with sleet, also was in the forecast.
 South Brunswick beaches reported no significant erosion during Tuesday morning's high tide, but officials were expecting the brunt of the storm late Tuesday night.

"The water came up about as far as our trash barrels, but it has not reached our first line of dunes yet," Sunset Beach Town Administrator Linda Fluegel said Tuesday afternoon.
 "The weatherman's predicting it will be worse tonight," she said. The only thing town employees did to prepare for the storm was remove garbage cans from the strand.
 With Sunset's wide beach and structure setbacks, Fluegel said there wasn't much danger of property damage. "It's still got a long way to go to get to any houses or septic tanks."
 Despite the lack of erosion at Sunset, Fluegel indicated the weather on the beach was plenty nasty. "If the town hall was on the other side of the waterway I would go home," she said from her mainland office.
 The storm was the product of a

low pressure system off the Florida coast and a high pressure system over the Ohio Valley, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio.
 Northeast winds were 16 mph gusting to 36 mph Tuesday afternoon at Holden Beach. At Frying Pan Shoals Light Tower, winds were blowing 46 mph to 52 mph, according to NOAA weather radio.
 Holden Beach Town Manager Gary Parker said the beach did not suffer any significant erosion Tuesday morning.
 He pointed out that the county's south-facing beaches usually escape the damage sustained by east-facing beaches during northeasters. "It doesn't hurt us as much as those north-south beaches," he said.
 Just the same, Parker said it would have been nice if Holden Beach had already received the

42,000 cubic yards of sand that are earmarked for the east end of the island this winter.
 The beach nourishment is part of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project in Lockwood Folly Inlet. Sand will be pumped from the inlet crossing to the strand, but not for another six to eight weeks.
 Bald Head Island Town Manager Wallace Martin said he wasn't expecting any serious erosion from the storm. The inhabited section of the island is sheltered from northeasters.
 "So far we've been lucky," Martin said Tuesday afternoon. "I'm happy to say I haven't had any reports of any difficulties."
 Martin said erosion at Bald Head is usually caused more by south-west winds than northeast. "This storm won't bother us particularly. Our problems usually come from the other direction."

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Tanker's Threat Of Spill Has Officials On Edge
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 from Fort Dix," said Weeks. "We plan to send one out by helicopter for a visual assessment in the morning, to see what we've got."
 Additional personnel on their way from Fort Dix with equipment were expected here shortly after midnight.

Plans called for using a point along the Southport waterfront as a staging area for the response.
 "If it does run aground and there is a spill, we'll be going out with our booms to meet it," said Schwam.
 Logan, on stand-by Tuesday night with County Manager David Clegg, said had notified county commissioners and municipal officials in the Southport-Oak Island area of the situation.
 "Everyone's asking what can be done. Basically we can't do a thing," said Logan. "If it does run aground we will be at the mercy of the Coast Guard and will provide them whatever assistance we can."
 Coast Guard officials and Logan said there was no way to predict the possible impact of a spill should that occur, which would be dependent on factors such as the force of the collision, the vessel's integrity, wind, tide and sea conditions and the degree of sensitivity of the areas affected.

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