



Sports



•East Carteret withstands Pack upset bid. •Wolfpack overpowers Jones Senior. •Lakewood eliminates ECHS with final-quarter takeover. See page 1-B.

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75 Cents

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- Foreclosure sale pending on skating rink property
- No gators, but more bears.

3-A

- Chamber candidate forum is Tuesday.

5-A

- Whiteville Primary student wins state writing award.

6-A

- Chadbourne may rezone residential lots to business.

DIDYOB?

Did you observe ...

Columbus County commissioners Trent Burroughs, Charles McDowell and Edwin Russ attending the funeral of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in Washington, D.C.? ... Bill Johnson's "shaky" claim that he made the chocolate and lemon pies that we're guessing wife Janice made after the lenten service last night at Evergreen UMC? Chadbourne and Evergreen Methodist join together for lent with outstanding refreshments and sermons. ...

County Deaths

Whiteville

Jimmy Ward Spivey
Berlene Long McCormick
Nija Ronique Lacey
Lake Waccamaw
Francis "Frank" A. Gault
Cerro Gordo
Marsha Corrine Ellis
Hallsboro
Dorothy Jean Powell
Tabor City
Willie G. Graham

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Adley Ragan releases his arrow.

Nakina students aim to win archery tournament

By NICOLE CARTRETTE
News Editor

Nakina Middle's archery team took aim in a state competition Thursday without leaving the school's gym.

The school is among a few in Columbus County and more than 15 in the state participating in North Carolina's virtual archery tournament for the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which is sponsored by the N.C. Wildlife Agency.

Middle school students compete at the 10- and 15-meter range, shoot three scoring rounds of five arrows from each distance, and are scored based on shooting accuracy.

The closer an arrow lands to the bulls-eye, the higher the score. Teams of up to 24 participate with the top 12 scores used for the team competition. At least four girls and four boys must be included in the team.

Wildlife representative Kevin Crabtree tracks scores at indi-

vidual competitions held locally. Scores are tallied for comparisons with other schools competing.

Brian Chestnutt, a coach and physical education teacher at Nakina, said archery is becoming more popular in the schools.

"It's a growing thing," he said. "It's our fifth year. The first year, I think we were one of only three in the state that competed."

Chestnutt said other schools are adding archery to their offerings, such as Williams Township, Hallsboro Middle, Central Middle and Columbus Charter School.

"I don't know that they all are competing in the tournament but they have archery equipment," he said.

Students try out for the Nakina Archery team, which is made up of seventh and eighth-graders.

Archery has been integrated into the physical education curriculum at the school, and students have an opportunity to perfect their skills a few days a week in



Chloe Long takes aim in an archery meet at Nakina Middle Wednesday

See Archery, page 8-A

Old-fashioned four-day tent revival opens March 6

■Chadbourne is location of tent capable of seating 991. Special music scheduled each of the four nights.

By BOB HIGH
Staff Writer

Shades of the 1920s and 1930s. An old-fashioned big tent Christian revival is scheduled in Chadbourne for four consecutive nights beginning Sunday, March 6.

The event, sponsored by the Columbus Baptist Association, is a follow-up to the Go Tell Columbus Crusade that re-energized the county last October with 854 people making decisions for Christ.

"This is the beginning of a six-year program in March each year that will culminate in another Go Tell Crusade in 2021," says Dr. Dave

Heller, director of the Columbus Baptist group.

"We have united again across denominational, racial and social lines. That's the way the Lord made us. This year, we call the tent meeting 'Revival of the Saints.' Next year, it'll be an evangelistic outreach program with Dr. Jeff LaBorg of Corryton, Tenn., speaking all four nights," Heller continued.

Speaker list

The Rev. Gregory Spaulding of the Union Baptist Church, Lake Waccamaw, will open this year's four-night program, followed by the Rev. Donald Conway of Chadbourne Pentecostal Holiness Church on Monday, March 7.

The Rev. Donald

Carter of New Hope Baptist in the Buckhead community north of Bolton will be the featured speaker on Tuesday, March 8, and the Rev. Ryan Edwards of Clarendon Baptist will close the revival on March 9.

Sunday's opening features a hot-dog supper beginning at 4:30 p.m. with services opening at 7 p.m. in the large field between the Living Word and Chadbourne Pentecostal churches along Business U.S. 74-76 on the east side of Chadbourne.

Children's program

"There's plenty of parking. And, we've arranged special programs for children ages 5 through the fifth grade to be held nightly at Joel's Place in the Living Word church's building," Heller pointed out.

Special music and presentations include the Go Tell Crusade Choir on Sunday, massed choirs from several churches on Monday and Tuesday nights, and a special appearance by Columbus

See Revival, page 8-A

Could create 139 jobs

Deal to reactivate G-P site in the works

By ALLEN TURNER
Staff Writer

Columbus Jobs Foundation Chairman Rick Edwards told more than 100 people Monday night that efforts to reactivate economic activity at the former Georgia-Pacific site west of Whiteville might be about to come to fruition.

Edwards' remarks came at an event at the Museum of Natural Sciences that was billed as a social/membership drive function.

Edwards told the group that an offer has been made on the former Georgia-Pacific property.

"They're working through it, piece-by-piece," Edwards said. "There are some tough contingencies, so keep your fingers crossed."

Edwards offered no other details because economic development matters are typically kept under wraps until announcements are made after completion of deals, but he did say that if the deal is done, it will mean 139 new jobs for the county.

Samantha Alsop, senior administrative specialist for the Columbus County Economic Development Commission (EDC), said that Monday's meeting was a success, as seven new members joined the Jobs Foundation, which was formed in 2015 from what used to be called the Committee of 100.

The Columbus Jobs Foundation works with county government and assists the Columbus County Economic Development Commission

See G-P site, page 11-A

School heads want flexible calendar

By SHALON SMITH
Contributing Writer

As time approaches for high school students in the area to decide whether to enroll in summer school courses at Southeastern Community College, they may be faced with an even bigger decision – to miss one of their final days of high school or to miss one of the first days of their summer school college course.

School districts across the state are stuck with mandated, statewide school calendar restrictions set by the General Assembly. State law determines school year start and end dates, the required hours of instruction between those two dates, and the number of teacher workdays allowed.

Local school boards do not have flexibility to meet their localized needs, they say.

Rep. Jeffrey Elmore of North Wilkesboro, a school teacher who chairs the House K-12 Education Committee, said bills introduced in the House allowing school systems flexibility with school calendars never advanced due to Senate opposition, according to the *Wilkes Journal-Patriot*.

The N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA) and groups such as Save Our Summers actively oppose any legislation that would shorten the length of public school summer vacations. They say it could negatively impact tourism businesses in the state.

The NCRLA is a key supporter of the school calendar law because families traditionally take vacations during the summer and a later August school start produces as much as \$1 billion each year in economic growth through increased tourism-related sales, they claim on their site.

In response to the law, a group called Let Our Calendar Authority be Local, or LOCAL, has joined forces with groups such as the John Locke Foundation, the N.C. Association of Educators, and the N.C. Parent Teacher Association to advocate for local calendar flexibility.

Two school districts in the state – Wilkes and Alleghany County school systems – are currently being used as "models of success"

See Calendar, page 3-A