

**Are you
superstitious?**

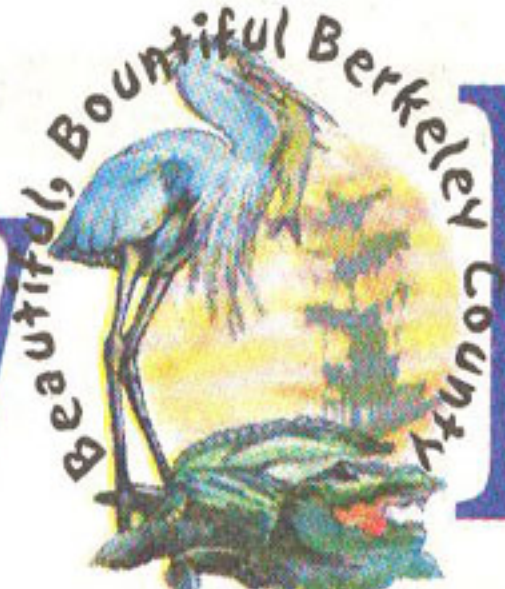
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**Lady Wolves claim
region crown**

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The Berkeley Independent



MONCKS CORNER, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Your local connection since 1918

4 Sections/26 Pages/50¢

Abstinence makes the heart grow fonder

By **M. Linda Ensor**
Independent News Editor

It's a dilemma parents have faced since the beginning of time. Should I teach my child that sex before marriage is absolutely wrong? Or should I take a more realistic approach and teach him/her about safe sex? Or should I pray that it never comes up so I don't have to say anything?

First Baptist Church of

Moncks Corner has an answer. For the second time, the church is hosting Heritage Keepers Feb. 27-28, according to Jamie Williams, the church's youth pastor. Heritage Keepers is a national group that holds classes that promote abstinence to teenagers and distributes curriculums to groups.

The course is appropriate for seventh through twelfth graders (boys and girls will be

taught in separate classes) from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. It's open to the public. Drop-ins are welcome.

The Heritage Keeper program is already in many Lowcountry school systems. Because it is funded through federal grants and donations, it's free.

"The class is a health and safety course that stresses that safe sex isn't as safe as it may

appear and that there are several diseases that are totally unhindered by condoms," Williams said. "You reap what you sow, and there's no escape of reaping the negative benefits of premarital sex. We want to give them (teens) fair warning."

He has been through the curriculum several times and has seen recommendations from Colleton, Charleston and Hampton county schools where

the program is ongoing.

"One of our goals is to get Berkeley County to accept the curriculum into public schools here," Williams said. On Friday night, Heritage will also have presenters here to present highlights of the curriculum to parents, educators and teens, so they can decide if they want it in their schools.

The Friday/Saturday format is very compact; Williams said the regular presentation

is done in PE or health classes over six sessions.

For more information, call Williams at 761-8116.

"We need parents to come, because if this curriculum doesn't have the parents' support, it probably doesn't have a chance," Williams said, noting that the school board rejected the program by a 4-3 vote.

You can learn more about the program at: www.heritage-services.org.