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THE CHOWAN HERALD

## Stores Lose Food Stamps ATLANTA, Ga. – Because of violations, 18 North Carolina grocery stores were disqualified from the food stamp program during the first six

from the food stamp program during the first six months of 1981, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service reports. "Considering the fact that

there are 8,869 grocery stores in the state authorized to accept food stamps, it is quite obvious that the vast majority of North Carolina retail food dealers are complying with the food stamp regulations," observed Edward W. Davidson, Southwest regional director of the food stamp program. Most of the dis-

Most of the disqualifications, Davidson said, resulted from stores selling ineligible items for food coupons, or discounting food stamps for cash. He added that food stamps, by law, can be used only to buy food. The only exceptions are garden seed and plants to be used to produce food.

Davidson explained that grocers, when applying for authorization to accept food stamps, agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the food stamp program. When stores violate the food stamp regulations, they are subject to criminal prosecution and disqualification from the program for periods ranging from 30 days to three years.

Currently, there are about 664,000 low-income people on the food stamp program in North Carolina. Each month they are issued \$23.5million in food coupons.

## Volunteers Sought

## For Park Work

In the face of a projected budgetary shortfall which previously had forced state announce to parks reductions in public access to many facilities during this fall and early next spring, Commissioner Ben H. Bolen announced today that volunteers are being recruited statewide to help in an effort to reopen hiking trails, picnic areas and some visitor centers.

"If individuals and organizations express



enough interest by pledging their support, we can expect to initiate statewide programs similar to the one presently starting - up at Seashore State Park in Virginia Beach,'' Commissioner Bolen said. The volunteers will be

asked to take over many tasks normally needed to properly operate the park's public offerings. Under the supervision of full-time trained park personnel, volunteers will help maintain hiking trails, visitor centers, picnic areas and public rest rooms. "An announcement of revised park operating hours for this fall and early next spring will depend upon the public's response to our proposed program and subsequent scheduling.' Bolen added.

Those wishing to volunteer their services should contact either their local state park or the Division of Parks, 1201 Washington Building, Capitol Square, Richmond, Va. 23219, Telephone: 804-786-2132.

# EIC To Host Food Program

The E.I.C. Inc., Head Start Program nounces the sponsorship ie Child Care Food Prc n. Free and reduced priced meals (breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack) will be available to enrolled children meeting the approved eligibility criteria at all centers listed below. Services will be provided without regards to race, color, or national origin.

Chowan County Head Start; Dare County Head Start; Hyde County Head Start; Gates County Head Start; Pasquotank Head Start; Perquimans County Head Start and Washington County Head Start.