

## Jail Renovation To Relieve Overcrowding

BY ETTA SMITH

The additional cell block being constructed at the Brunswick County Jail is only a temporary solution to the overcrowding problem there, according to a state official.

Tom Ritter, chief of the Jails and Detention Division of N.C. Facility Services, said an addition to the jail is something that will have to be done eventually—and if it isn't done soon the Sheriff's Department may have to look at the possibility of establishing an annex.

At their last meeting county commissioners approved a \$7,908 request from Sheriff John Carr Davis to renovate a classroom area at the jail. After renovation the area will house eight more bunks, a shower and toilet.

Davis told The Brunswick Beacon recently that he plans to request that commissioners budget money next year for the jail's expansion. Budget requests are due by April 23, according to the Regina White, clerk to the board of commissioners.

The jail was built in 1978 and has a 36-inmate capacity, according to Ritter. Ritter said Davis recently asked him for technical advice on how to add the additional cell block.

"I'm encouraging the commissioners to move forward on the jail expansion," said Ritter. "Because of the problem of overcrowding it's going to have to take place."

Jail overcrowding is a statewide problem, he said. In many areas annexes have been established to ease the problem. The annex would house persons on work release and serving time for misdemeanor offenses, said Ritter. It would be supervised and would include medical and food ser-

vices.

Brunswick County Jailor Linwood Gray said that there were 36 persons in jail last weekend, the average every weekend. He added that when a woman is placed in the jail she is placed in a cell block with eight bunks, which lowers the available space for male prisoners down to 31.

"We have had as high as 44 males in here at one time," said Gray.

He said tougher driving while intoxicated and civil content (non-child support) laws have added to the problem of jail overcrowding, but an increase in the county's population is also responsible.

"Because the court system is as slow as it is, it also causes us to have to hold persons longer," he continued.

Since none of the municipalities in the county have jails, all persons arrested are placed in the county jail, he said.

According to Chief Jailor Billy Gurganus, when the department has an overflow, it often sends prisoners to the Columbus County Jail to be held. This costs the department \$12.50 per day per prisoner.

"We've asked the commissioners for money to expand the jail," he said. "I think we'll get it, but I don't know when."

Gurganus added that there have been times when the department has run out of beds and placed mattresses on the floor for prisoners to sleep on. In one instance, he said they ran out of room for the mattresses.

"The new room will be like an annex," said Gurganus. "It will house DWIs and civil content cases. It will provide some temporary relief to the problem of overcrowding."



And Then There Were None

Three Brierwood turtles were sitting in the sun. The one on the right dived in, the one on the left slid under. The one in the middle toppled over and then there were none.

## Goal Is Better Relations With Tourists

Improving customer relations in the tourist industry is the goal of a seminar to be offered by the Brunswick Technical College Small Business Center on April 13.

The seminar will be held at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia from 7 p.m. to 10

p.m. The deadline for registration is April 9.

According to a brochure, the session will cover dynamic tourist relations, analyzing how employees deal with tourists and how they can improve.

Seminar leader Cathy Roberts of

Charlotte will cover steps to communicating accurately; a personal profile of listening ability; six strategies that guarantee effective listening; and ten crucial strategies for handling the irate tourist.

Roberts is associated with Cobb Miller & Associates of Charlotte and has 11 years' experience in office management, customer service, telephone sales and computer training.

Co-sponsored by the county's two chambers of commerce, the seminar is designed for small business owners, travel agents, hotel reservationists, telephone personnel, sales people and retail store employees.

To register, contact the center at 754-6900 or 457-6329, ext. 145.

## Tour Looks At Straw Operation

Pine straw production and harvest is the theme of a tour planned Friday, April 10, of the Bladen Lakes State Forest by the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service.

Extension Director Milton Coleman said the tour offers a chance for landowners with longleaf pine to see plantations that are in production, harvesting methods and equip-

ment and the effect of fertilization on longleaf stands.

The group will leave the Brunswick County Government Center at Bolivia at 7:45 a.m. and travel to the park headquarters on N.C. 242 north of Elizabethtown.

More information is available from the extension office.

## April 6-10 Is National Library Week

Brunswick Technical College Library is recognizing National Library Week April 6-10. "Take Time To Read" is the theme for National Library Week this year.

"We hope people will take time to read and use the library this week and throughout the year," said Librarian Sharon Smith. She noted that the "Take Time To Read" theme, chosen by the American

Library Association, salutes "1987—The Year of the Reader," proclaimed by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and affirmed by Congress.

Brunswick Technical College Library provides books, periodicals, audiovisual materials and equipment for instruction, information, pleasure and self-improvement. The library is open to adult community residents.

## Leland Site Knocked Off Treatment Facility List

BY SUSAN USHER

Leland Industrial Park is no longer being considered as a possible site for a comprehensive hazardous waste treatment facility.

It was one of 90 sites eliminated from a list of potential sites at a March 27 meeting of the N.C. Hazardous Waste Treatment Commission. Still under consideration are 49 sites in 25 counties, the nearest being in Bladen County.

The local industrial park was ruled out Friday because of its proximity to a surface water source, said Commission spokesman Kathy Neal.

The commission is charged by the General Assembly with finding a site for a facility that would include a chemical treatment plant and an incinerator. It would not include a landfill and would not handle either PCBs or radioactive waste.

Neal noted that elimination of the Leland site from the Commission's list means it was ruled out only so far as the commission's work is concerned. They are not ruled out for consideration for any other industrial or hazardous waste treatment facility.

If the Leland site had not ruled out because of surface water restrictions, it had been predicted that it and other coastal sites would be eliminated because of their high groundwater tables.

The Commission will meet again at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 9 in the Dobbs Building, Raleigh, with presentation of a detailed public information plan on the agenda. The commission plans to visit the remaining prospective communities and discuss residents' concerns about the facility before the winnowing process continues.



Foundation Board Officers Elected

Newly elected officers of the Brunswick Technical College Foundation Board of Directors are, from left, David J. Batten, president; Sheila McLamb,

secretary; Bruce Caldwell, vice president; and Al Laughinghouse, treasurer.

## Mountaineers Meet April 4th

The West Virginia Group will meet April 4 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sizzling Sirloin Steakhouse on Main Street in Shallotte.

With members from all over the county, the organization is open to all West Virginians, said Lois Taylor.

Also, a cookout is planned May 2 at 12:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Recreation Center, Long Beach.

For more information, call Taylor at 579-3149.

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## Open House Set April 12

Health-related screenings and displays will be free to the public when the Brunswick County Health Department holds an open house on Sunday, April 12.

The event is scheduled in observance of N.C. Public Health Week, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the health department at the Brunswick County Government Center at Bolivia.

Tour guides will show visitors through the department and refreshments will be served, said Director Michael Barrett-Rhodes.

The open house is only one of several events planned by the department during the statewide health week, April 12 through 18.

## CP&L Plans Siren Check

A low-volume operations check of sirens surrounding Carolina Power and Light's Brunswick nuclear plant is planned April 7 through 9.

Each siren's "growl" will last 60 seconds or less and will occur at varying times since each will be operated individually.

The sirens are situated at 33 locations throughout a 10-mile radius of the plant and would be activated simultaneously in the event of an emergency condition at the plant, warning the public to tune to the Emergency Broadcast System for more information.

## Life A Beach? Take A Walk

Walking's one of the best forms of exercise and can be a lot of fun, suggests the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, which has planned a series of casual walks on area beaches.

For anyone interested in joining the group, the dates and locations are as follows: April 21, Holden Beach, Holden Beach Pavilion, 2 p.m.; and May 12, Caswell Beach, public beach parking area, 10 a.m. The first walk was at Ocean Isle Beach on March 31.

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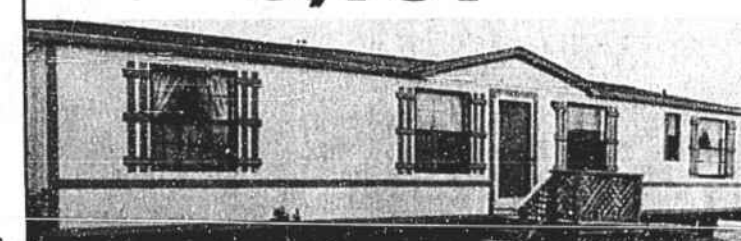
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