

# Wrongful Dismissal Alleged In Former BCC Teacher's Lawsuit

A Brunswick Community College business instructor whose employment contract was not renewed has filed a lawsuit against the college claiming she was wrongfully dismissed and seeking a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring the college to reinstate her.

In an Aug. 23 letter, BCC President W. Michael Reaves informed business instructor Jane Page that she would not be offered an employment contract for the 1993-94 academic year. The letter stated no reason for the action.

Page had been employed by the college continuously since Sept. 1, 1987, and had been under contract to work 40 hours a week for nine months, her complaint states. Her last contract, executed July 1, covered her employment from Sept. 1, 1992, through May 31, 1993, at a monthly salary of \$2,474.

Her complaint charges that Page

was "unlawfully terminated" because she had been told her contract would be renewed and that her name was listed in college publications as instructor for three courses being offered in the Fall 1993 quarter.

According to the complaint, Page let college officials know she intended to file a grievance action and was told no such procedure was available to her. It alleges that Page "received no prior oral warning, first written warning, or final written warning" of unsatisfactory performance under the college's personnel policies.

It also claims Reaves made no recommendation to the college's board of trustees regarding Page's dismissal, that she was not notified of her appeal rights and that she was "denied due process prior to her termination."

"Prior to Aug. 23, 1993, the plaintiff's performance evaluations had

been exemplary, and afforded no basis for the defendant to dismiss her in accordance with the mandatory provisions of the Personnel Policy for Brunswick Community College," the complaint states.

Page also "had not been subject to any prior disciplinary procedures or actions whatsoever," it adds, concluding, "There is absolutely no evidence justifying any just cause for the plaintiff's dismissal."

She is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000 on the grounds that the college's actions constitute a breach of contract.

Page's attorney, Gary Shipman of Wilmington, has asked for her motion for an injunction to be heard Oct. 11 in Brunswick County Superior Court.

The *Beacon* did not receive a copy of the complaint in time to contact attorneys for either party for comment.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

**New Head Of Building Inspections**  
Delaney Aycock wears a new hat these days as head of the Brunswick County Building Inspections Department. A county building inspector since January, 1989, with seven years' prior experience in the building industry, Aycock was recently named head of the department. He began his new supervisory duties Sept. 17 and will do double duty as a field inspector until someone is hired to fill his old position.

# Fall Weather Is Expected To Continue

The weather system that sent temperatures plunging into the 50s Monday night across the South Brunswick Islands may have finally kicked off the cooler, fall season.

"It looks like we're getting into typical fall weather for a change," Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday morning, when there was a definite nip in the air.

Canady's outlook for the next week is for both temperatures and rainfall to be near normal. Residents can expect temperatures ranging from 60 degrees at night to 80 during the day with one-half inch of rain.

For the period Sept. 21-27, Canady said the daily average temperature was 79 degrees, which is about 7 degrees above normal. He measured .79 inches of rain during the period.

The maximum high reading was 91 degrees on Sept. 24 and 26, while the minimum low was 62 degrees on the 23rd.

Canady said the daily average high was 88 degrees and the average nightly low was 70 degrees.

# Local Health Professionals Skeptical About Plan's Possible Cost, Outcomes

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Medical Association, insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies. "No plan will help unless you get the big manufacturers out of it," he said.

Referring to pharmaceuticals, he said, "You can get drugs cheaper in Canada because they sell them cheaper to wholesale houses there. I think Americans need to be protected from these big manufacturers. Fraud is a big factor, too."

The pharmacist has his own proposal for reducing health care costs and red tape. "I like the way they do it in China," he said. "They have barefoot doctors for those who have no money. The barefoot doctor takes their temperature and gives them some medicines, and if they don't get better he sends them on up the line." He acknowledged that pharmacists play barefoot doctor in America to some extent, "because people trust us."

Asked if Clinton's plan would affect his profession adversely, Thomas said, "It would tear the system all to pieces for pharmacists to suffer."

Insurance companies are a frequent butt of criticism when high health care costs are discussed. Anita Pope, agent for Calabash Insurance, put the blame on the state level. "North Carolina is the hardest state to pass anything when it comes to health insurance," she said.

Pope declared small businesses will go broke if they are forced to offer some kind of medical plan to their employees. "They already have to pay Social Security taxes, federal and state taxes, and some of them workmen's compensation," she explained. "This health care premium would just add to it."

She admitted, however, "We needed to put rate caps on a long time ago, but doctors and hospitals should be penalized, too."

A specialized field not clearly understood by everyone is home health

care, and Ed Harris of Shallotte has been explaining it for more than ten years. Now he finds he must inform President Clinton, as well. Harris founded Comprehensive Home Health Care, which he serves as president/CEO, in 1981. The company is now on the brink of nine clinic locations around the state.

"Clinton balanced the Arkansas budget partly by cutting home health from Medicaid and Medicare services," he said. "He and Congress both think it's a sinner service. We've been trying to educate people in Washington about what home health really is."

His concern with the new plan is how his business will be paid for medical services in the home. "All we know is that we'll get less," he predicted. "We're subsidizing Medicare now, and Clinton's talking about funding the plan with Medicare cuts. Also, we don't know who'll be managing the patient if home health goes or suffers."

Harris acknowledged he had always had "a problem with government intervention," having left his post as Brunswick County Health Director in 1981 to set up his independent business. "I've traveled in many other countries where the government manages health care and what they get is very bad medicine," he said.

Hospital bills are among the villains in rampaging health care costs, but Doshier Administrator Edgar Haywood said his costs could be cut in two if every "customer" paid completely.

"If our room rates were apples we were selling for 35 cents and everyone paid for their apple," he said, "we could reduce charges for everyone by 50 percent tomorrow."

Haywood said he couldn't understand how the concept of managed competition, part of Clinton's plan, would work in rural America. "A large number of hospitals are grouped into big HMO's and their

services bid off," he said. "The purpose is to control costs, but how does that work here in Brunswick County where we just have two hospitals in such a large area?"

He described the present hospital situation as a "Catch 22."

"Our costs are so astronomically high, they've driven everyone away," he noted, "and that's partly because we consumers want the best and don't want to wait for it. Now we have these marvelous things we can do, but we can't afford them."

Most local health care professionals agreed on one thing: something different had to be attempted. As Susan Gibble put it, "Something needs to happen; my fear is simply that government thinks it can handle it."

# '93 South Grads Given TB Skin Test

The approximately 200 spring graduates of South Brunswick High School last week joined the list of those receiving skin tests for tuberculosis.

That brings the total number of students, staff and faculty tested to nearly 900, prompted by the diagnosis of the TB virus this summer in a 1993 graduate of the school.

While it is unusual to test such a large number of people at one time, it is simply an effort to prevent a possible local outbreak of TB, said Rhodes.

Rhodes said readings of the skin tests have not shown higher levels of exposure to the virus than are found in the general population. Nine students, or less than 1 percent of the current students tested, were found to have been exposed at some time to the virus. As of Friday, no students had been found to actually have TB.

# Calabash Again Postpones Decision On Authority Vote

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Calabash Board of Commissioners on Tuesday postponed a decision on whether or not to cancel a referendum that would activate the joint water and sewer authority it formed with Sunset Beach. The board plans to hold off on the vote until a committee reviews the feasibility of a new offer to purchase the Carolina Blythe sewage system.

The board agreed instead to pay a Wilmington engineering firm \$3,200 to inspect the treatment plant and evaluate its operation to help the town determine if Carolina Blythe is worth the \$4.5 million asking price.

At its last meeting, the board appointed commissioners Jon Sanborn and Keith Hardee to a committee charged with studying an offer made by Carolina Blythe owner Billy Burnett under which he would finance the sewer system purchase at a fixed interest rate of 5.25 percent for 30 years.

Also at the earlier meeting Sanborn and Hardee were authorized to hire accountants and engineers to help them weigh the proposed Carolina Blythe purchase against an ongoing plan under which Calabash and Sunset Beach would build a joint sewer system financed through state and federal grants and

*"If the town buys Carolina Blythe, we won't need a referendum."*

—Jon Sanborn

loans repaid by user fees.

The engineering firm hired by the two towns, Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., currently is shepherding their funding applications through the approval process. However, the firm was not asked to advise Calabash on the offer to purchase Carolina Blythe, which is being considered as an alternative to the larger joint system.

"We need to get away from our own engineers and anyone else who might have a vested interest," Sanborn said Tuesday.

Instead, the commissioners unanimously agreed to hire Joseph Hill Associates of Wilmington to prepare a report on Carolina Blythe's current capabilities and physical condition. The town's hired accountants also have been directed to review the cost and benefits of Burnett's purchase offer.

Sanborn Tuesday asked his fellow commissioners to table consideration of the sewer authority referendum until the board receives the findings of the studies. The town had planned to allow voters to approve its regional sewage system plan before allowing its South Brunswick Islands Water and Sewer Authority to accept grants and loans and begin construction of the system.

"If the town buys Carolina Blythe, we won't need a referendum," he said.

Early in the planning for the joint sewer system, the board agreed to have a referendum after residents of the Carolina Shores development voiced opposition to the authority's formation. Recently, Powell Associates engineers advised the town that the vote would no longer be necessary since revised plans for the system call for it to be funded entirely by user fees with no financial impact on Carolina Shores.

A resolution was drafted to cancel the referendum, but the board has repeatedly delayed action on the proposal.

Sanborn said he expects to have a report on the findings of his committee prepared in time for the board's next meeting Oct. 12.

# Rabies Clinics Draw Huge Response

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Companion Animal Hospital in Shallotte for their shots.

Receptionist Angie Bias said the Companion staff stayed on duty until almost 5 p.m., although its clinic had been scheduled from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Bias estimated 350 to 400 pets were inoculated, a majority of them from the Ash area.

At Seaside Animal Hospital, Dr. Ernest Ward was still catching up on paperwork Monday, after vaccinating more than 200 animals until he ran out of vaccine.

Almost all the pet owners had

questions about rabies, he added. Ward said the greatest misconception about rabies is that dogs are at greater risk than cats. "Cats are the natural hunters, and they're also the animals most likely to be allowed to roam."

None of the sites reported any problems with riled pets or humans, despite long lines and mass confusion. "It was a miracle," Ward said. "The Lord was looking after us that day."

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