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# THE PENDULUM

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## A GROWING AMERICAN DILEMMA:

# When food banks can't feed



Graham resident and six-month long volunteer Bill Sloan, left, loads food at Loaves and Fishes in Burlington.

Alexa Sykes  
Reporter

As the recession continues to impact more lives, the definition of "need" is continually evolving. Hunger is now a growing epidemic in America, and the state of North Carolina is no exception.

According to a new report by the Department of Agriculture, the number of Americans who lived in households that lacked consistent access to adequate food rose to 49 million last year. The statistics come from a tracking project the government began 14 years ago called "food insecurity."

Specifically in the Burlington area, those with educational backgrounds, as well as those who are accustomed to having a steady income, may have to rely on organizations such as Loaves and Fishes, a

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### Food insecurity in the United States

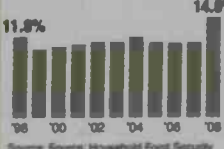
Seventeen million U.S. households in 2008 had difficulty putting food on the table, an increase of 4 million from 2007.

Food insecurity: Access to adequate food limited by lack of money

Year	FOOD SECURITY		
	Enough food	Low	Very low
2008	100 million 86.4%	10.3 million 8.9%	6.7 million 5.7%
2007	104 million 88.9%	8.2 million 7.0%	4.7 million 4.1%

#### Spike in 2008

Percent of households with food insecurity



#### Food insecurity by state

Average, 2006-08, percent of households



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Household Food Security in the United States, 2008. U.S. Agriculture Dept. Graphic: Judy Tebbels © 2009 BCT

Burlington's Loaves and Fishes organization serves more than 7,000 people per month.



DAVID WELLS | Photo Editor

As of Dec. 1, it is illegal across the state of North Carolina to text message while driving.

# Texting behind the wheel now illegal in the state

Anna Johnson  
Senior Reporter

North Carolinians, lay those thumbs to rest. As of Dec. 1, texting while driving is illegal across the state.

This legislation brought the number of states banning texting while driving to 19. The ban also includes sending e-mails or other forms of sending or reading electronic messages while driving a vehicle.

The law does not apply if the vehicle has come to a legal stop or is not in motion. It also does not apply to police officers, emergency responders or firefighters while "in the performance of their official duties."

But the law has left some law enforcement officers puzzled as how to enforce the new legislation.

"Obviously, don't text and drive," said Chuck Gantos, director of Campus Safety and Police. "My problem with this law is any time you have a rule or regulation or law like you have the ability to be enforced within the parameter of the constitution."

Gantos said the regulation will be enforced like any other law, but that it will be difficult since it will boil down to what a police officer said versus what a driver said.

Randy Jones, the public information officer for the Alamance County Sheriff's Office, said the Sheriff's Office will enforce the law like any other traffic violation and look for individuals who might be texting while driving.

"If there is a dispute, you can always subpoena the records (to see if the driver was texting)," Jones said.

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# Lindner Hall exceeds hopes, receives gold standard LEED certification

Jack Dodson  
Senior Reporter

Next month, Elon's newest building on campus, Lindner Hall, will house a plaque made of recycled glass that announces the gold standard Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification of the building.

The certification includes different levels of achievement, ranging from certified to silver, gold and platinum. These levels are earned using a points scale that rates aspects of construction like reduced site disturbance, storm water management and water efficiency.

Lindner Hall is Elon's first building to receive LEED certification. It was only expected to receive a silver rating, Elon sustainability

coordinator Elaine Durr said.

"The process for LEED is that you target a certain type of certification ... we received a higher rating than we had originally applied for," she said.

Neil Bromilow, the primary owner's representative for Lindner Hall and the director of planning, design and construction management at Elon, said he was not surprised by the achievement.

"We were shooting for definitely a silver level, so we had some extra points included in case we lost some during the final USGBC review process," he said. "As the project proceeded, we were able to gain some extra credit points for things such as waste management on site, so I was not shocked to get gold."

The university originally applied

for 40 overall points, expecting to miss a few and remain on the high end of silver certification, Durr said. The school received all 40 points, though, which is above the 39-point threshold for gold.

"We were on the high end of silver and had those 'maybe' points," Durr said. "It's not common for a project to achieve every point that they apply for and we were able to do that."

Bromilow said the project first started by establishing LEED goals.

"Before the design began, we made lists of possible LEED features to be included in the building, so LEED began first, then the design," he said.

Durr said the university has a green building policy, in which all

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