

# BRUNSWICK IN BRIEF

## County jobless rate around 6.7 percent

**BOLIVIA** -- More than two-thirds of the counties in North Carolina saw their unemployment rates drop in October.

Brunswick County's rate slipped from 6.8 to 6.7 percent during the month, according to figures released by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

In October, approximately 1,810 persons were actively seeking jobs compared to 1,850 in September.

Rates fell in 73 counties, went up in 21 and remain unchanged in six.

Tyrrell County has the highest rate at 8.7 percent, and Orange County reported the lowest at 1.7 percent. The overall state rate is at 3.9 percent.

## Eight take food service workshop

**BOLIVIA** -- Eight local persons completed a food safety course recently held by the food and lodging environmental health specialists at the Brunswick County Health Department.

The program is open to all who handle food, including restaurant employees, day care food handlers, school cafeteria staff members and the public.

Individuals who successfully completed the food protection short course and their employment are Mary Jo Jackson, Doshier Hospital, Southport; David Chellam, Derbster's, Calabash; Jodi Brown, Winds Coffee Shop, Ocean Isle Beach; Janet J. Coster and John McCarthy, Tamer's, Ocean Isle Beach; Diane Giliam-Davis, Heather Hardwick and Caroline McEleney, Crabby Oddwaters, Sunset Beach.

## Citizens request 28 handgun permits

**BOLIVIA** -- Twenty-eight persons had requested concealed handgun permit applications from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department as of Monday afternoon.

The process began across the state on Friday, December 1, as part of new legislation that allows persons who qualify to legally carry concealed handguns.

"It's not as bad as I thought it was going to be," said Sgt. Doug Todd, sheriff's deputy who will process applications at the department near Bolivia.

Todd said 14 persons requested applications on Friday and another 14 on Monday.

"Most are 30 or above in age," he said.

Hours are Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.; and Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Tires slashed by River Run vandal

**LONG BEACH** -- Two victims told Brunswick County Sheriff Deputies they had their tires slashed while parked at the River Run Shopping Center on Long

## Dramatic rise in collected goods

# On the verge of change

## 'Blue bag' experiment next month may determine the future of recycling

By Terry Pope  
County Editor

Changes in store for the county's solid waste program next month mean garbage and recyclable material will be shipped to an incinerator and sorting plant near Fayetteville.

But the county's contract with Vedco Energy Corp. won't affect the current collection system, which produced a dramatic 48-percent increase in the volume of recyclables gathered over the past year.

"We're on the verge of changing our whole disposal system, to start sending our waste out of the county," said Heather Sandner, county recycling coordinator.

The future may be blue, as in blue bags, for the disposal of newspapers, plastic, glass and aluminum for some residents. A pilot program between the county and Long Beach will target 100 homes there for the blue bag program, where families place recyclables in special light blue bags and deposit them into the normal waste stream with other household garbage. At the sorting plant, the blue bags are sorted out from the rest of the incinerator fuel to be recycled.

"We're going to try to identify where we need to go," said Ms. Sandner. "If these families don't like it, there's no point in expecting the whole county to do it."

If the families show positive results, it may become the newest move in recycling. It may also become the easiest method for those who watch where the plastic and newsprint go.

The county's contract with Waste Industries Inc. expires in June. The county must decide which route it wants to take. Special recycling containers at the landfill and solid waste transfer stations collected 853 tons of glass, plastic, aluminum cans and newsprint between July, 1994, and June, 1995, an increase of almost 48 percent over the previous year.

However, 85 percent of total waste produced in the county, about 94,000 tons, is buried at the county landfill. Steps are needed to cut that flow.

"We're going to continue as usual the next six months," said Sandner. "If the blue bags take hold, then we'll phase that process in and the whole county will participate."



Containers at the Leland transfer station are overflowing with recyclable materials.

### From July, 1994, to June, 1995

Glass, plastic, aluminum cans, newspaper, cardboard, paper  
**853 tons**

Yard debris, household appliances, scrap metal  
**11,105 tons**

## Beach Road last week

One Long Beach resident told deputy Billie Jo Marzalues she was driving her 1995 Mercury Sable home when she noticed a flat tire. On closer inspection, she saw it had been cut with a knife.

A Southport resident told deputy Sgt. Brian Sanders a tire on his 1995 Mercury Tracer was also cut.

The incident happened Friday, December 1. One car had two cut tires. Damage was listed at \$150.

## Damage has owner at the Trails End

**SOUTHPORT** -- A backhoe owned by Kenneth McClain Construction Co. and parked at a pit on Trails End off N.C. 211 was vandalized twice last week.

The 1983 Drott backhoe received \$400 in damage on Wednesday, November 29, when someone broke and removed a glass from the top, reported deputy Billie Jo

## Marzalues.

On Saturday, December 2, damage was listed at \$150 when a gas line was cut and fuel spilled onto the ground.

## County goes to the well for samples

**BOLIVIA** -- County residents with wells located within 500 feet of an intensive livestock operation will no longer pay a \$50 fee to

have their wells monitored by the Brunswick County Health Department.

County commissioners Monday night unanimously approved the exemption upon the recommendation of the board of health.

The health department will now monitor water samples from these wells for fecal coliform and chemical wastes for livestock.

An intensive livestock operation (ILO), as defined by Brunswick

County Cooperative Extension, means any operation that feeds, confines or maintains livestock which are fed primarily by means other than grazing.

To qualify as an ILO, such an operation must harbor at least 100 head of cattle, 75 horses, 250 swine, 1,000 sheep or goats or 30,000 birds.

## Another rabies case confirmed in Ash

**ASH** -- State officials have notified the Brunswick County Health Department that a raccoon tested for rabies last week was infected with the disease.

The animal got into a fight with a domestic animal at a home in the Ash community on Mt. Carmel Lane, said Jan Reichenbach, health department spokesperson.

The animal tested positive for the deadly virus. It was the fifth positive case reported in Brunswick County in 1995.

The pet involved in the fight was not up-to-date on its rabies shots and will either have to be destroyed or kept in quarantine for six months.

"We know there are more cases of rabies out there," said Ms. Reichenbach, "but the state only requires now that we send the heads of animals that have been engaged in contact with other animals or persons."

There is a statewide boost in the number of rabies reports that has kept the state lab busy with testing.

Ms. Reichenbach said the best way to prevent spread of the disease is to keep pets vaccinated against rabies.

## Leland, Belville to open sewer talks

**LELAND** -- Leland town attorney A.A. (Andy) Canoutas and town engineer Bob Lyons were to meet Tuesday with Belville officials in the midst of negotiations over a sewer project.

Leland has extended an offer to Belville, hoping to purchase up to 200,000 gallons of capacity at the Belville treatment plant. However, there is disagreement over what Leland should pay for maintenance costs.

The next Leland Town Council meeting is set for December 21, at 7 p.m. The council may review progress on negotiations at that time.

## Health board adds newest member

**BOLIVIA** -- Sunset Beach real estate agent Annette Odom is scheduled to take the oath of office Monday as the newest member of the Brunswick County Board of Health.

She will take the seat formerly held by Ocean Isle Beach contractor Bruce Quaintance.

Also on the agenda is public comments, presentation of employee awards, a position reclassification request from nursing director Judi Allen, committee reports and interim health director's report. The board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the department conference room.

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