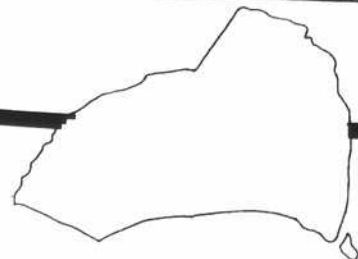


# BRUNSWICK IN BRIEF



## Harnett wants to join commission

**BOLIVIA** -- Harnett County has applied to join the Southeastern Economic Development Commission, a move supported by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

The SEDC was formed in 1968 by the counties of Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus, Hoke, Pender, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland to assist one another in their efforts for economic development.

Brunswick County approved a resolution of support on February 17. To be accepted, members of the commission must vote on allowing Harnett County into the organization.

## Brunswick collects \$794,866 in taxes

**BOLIVIA** -- The N. C. Department of Revenue has reported \$794,866 in local two-percent sales and use taxes collected by Brunswick County during the month of January.

According to the report issued by revenue secretary Muriel Offerman, the state collected a total of \$132.6 million in January. It is an indication of local economic strength.

Neighboring counties collected the following: New Hanover, \$4.2 million; Columbus, \$614,069; and Bladen, \$251,121.

## Leland awarded housing grant

**LELAND** -- The Town of Leland has been awarded a 1996 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to rehabilitate private dwellings, relocate homes, acquire land, pave streets and install water lines.

The target area is Old Fayetteville Road and includes Murrill Lane, King Moore Road and part of Oak Lane. Housing rehabilitation bid packages were picked up by several contractors and the bid opening was February 18.

Work involving housing improvements is expected to begin soon.

## Budget cuts would affect farm service

**SHALLOTTE** -- Farmers in the area are upset by proposed federal budget cuts that could close 35 of the state's 78 Farm Service Agency offices, including one in Brunswick County.

Brunswick's office would be combined with Columbus County's office, along with Bladen's. Farmers say the move would force many of them to make longer trips to get service.

Farm Service officials hope Congress will find the funds to keep the offices open, despite the proposal to shut some down. The agency administers programs covering crop insurance, farm credit loans and conservation measures.

After Hurricane Fran, the agency



Photo by Terry Pope

Above the trees: Forest Service officials hope to reactivate the Maco community fire-spotting tower in time for this spring's wildfire season.

# Spotting the fires

## Hurricane damage turns fallen trees into fuel for wildfires

**T**rees knocked down by two hurricanes last fall are posing another problem now six months after the storms. It is a problem out of sight of local homeowners but one which could place neighborhoods and communities in southeastern North Carolina in serious danger.

Forest service officials fear the debris strewn in wooded areas will help fuel forest fires this spring or make it difficult for firemen to put out such fires. The state has decided to find enough funds this spring to reopen some of the fire-spotting towers closed by last year's budget cuts.

Brunswick County rangers on Friday were trying to find someone to operate the tower in the Maco community, one of six in southeastern North Carolina that officials hope will be reactivated. The tower is located off U.S. 74-76 at Sandy Creek.

Others are located at Shallotte, Rocky Point,

**Forest officials hope to reopen six fire-spotting towers, including the one located in the Maco community.**

Wards Corner, Chadbourne and Chinquapin. The tower near Bolivia has remained open during the busy wildfire season.

Fourteen towers located in hurricane-damaged areas, and another 24 that were to remain open for four months of the spring fire season, will now be operated for eight months instead. The fire towers operate on the state's fiscal

year with a budget that begins in October.

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources will shift some of its funds, \$44,800 budgeted for salaries of vacant positions not needed this year, to help keep the towers open during the most dangerous period for wildfires in the coastal region. After that, the division hopes to find state funds to keep the towers open in the future.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials have also surveyed the area to look for trouble spots where downed trees from the storm pose problems for firefighters. It is possible that FEMA funds can help officials remove the hazards and clear the path for firefighters responding to wildfires.

Hurricane Bertha in July and Hurricane Fran in September both struck the Brunswick County coast as did two tropical storms during the hurricane season that starts all over again in June.

also administered \$17.5 million to help farmers clean up their crops. Tobacco and peanut price support programs are funded by the growers but also administered by Farm Service.

## County bags funds for trash station

**SUPPLY** -- County commissioners have budgeted \$679,820 to build a garbage transfer station at

the county landfill near Supply.

The capital project ordinance approved last week funds construction of the station for which a contract was awarded on December 16.

Commissioners amended the 1996-97 budget to make the funds available for the solid waste department project. The transfer station is needed to manage garbage arriving by trucks at the Supply landfill.

Under a 25-year contract with the Vedco Energy Corp., the trash is

suppose to be shipped to a sorting plant in Fayetteville for recycling and incineration.

## No news yet on garbage shutdown

**BOLIVIA** -- County officials are still awaiting word on whether the Vedco Energy Corp. incinerator and recycling plants in Fayetteville will be reopened soon.

The plant stopped accepting trash

from the county on December 16. BCH Energy, operators of the plant, indicated it may be six weeks to three months before the company can resolve financial and mechanical problems surrounding the project.

Brunswick County has a 25-year contract with the company that operates a recycling sorting plant and incinerator at the DuPont Co. plant in Bladen County. Company officials believe the plant will be

reopened within a year.

Meanwhile, Brunswick County has been using its own landfill in Supply to dump garbage and has been negotiating long-term options with the Browning Ferris Industries landfill in Sampson County and the New Hanover County incineration plant.

## Split vote pulls the plug on copy deal

**BOLIVIA** -- A 3-2 vote has pulled the plug on a deal to seek purchasing power on copiers for departments at the county government center near Bolivia.

A motion to enter into agreement with Robert Segal of High Point, an expense reduction consultant, was defeated along party lines with two Republicans -- Leslie Collier and David Sandifer -- favoring the move. Three Democrat commissioners -- Don Warren, Bill Sue and JoAnn Bellamy Simmons -- voted against the agreement.

Segal has worked under contract with the county to reduce costs. His work has focused on energy, the cafeteria, housekeeping and insurance premiums. He is paid half of the initial savings the county records in the first year after implementing his recommendations.

Some county commissioners, however, question if the county should continue the projects with Segal.

## Homemakers host 'get acquainted tea'

**SUPPLY** -- The Brunswick Extension Homemakers will hold a "Get Acquainted Tea" at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 17, at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. meeting room at the district office on U.S. 17 north of Shallotte.

Anyone interested in knowing about the homemakers activities along with all members past and present are invited to come and discover the many aspects of membership.

Learning, creating and a host of interesting projects to help members and the community make up the programs of the extension club.

## County asks state to pay energy costs

**BOLIVIA** -- A resolution adopted by Brunswick County commissioners asks the N.C. General Assembly to pick up the energy costs for public schools.

In 1990, the state paid up to 40 percent of the school system's costs for energy and transportation and heating. During the next two years, in 1991 and 1992, the counties saw a complete phase-out of state funding for the costs, without notice to prepare for the shortfall.

Inflation has had a "sobering effect on the costs that the public school system must pay in order to meet the increasing demands that a healthy economy and increased population have placed on the educational system," the resolution states.

The resolution forwarded to state legislators indicates the state is in a better position to pay 100 percent of the energy costs for schools.

## Seafood Source RETAIL MARKET

8164 River Rd. SE, Southport • 457-0606



Fresh Atlantic Salmon.....\$5.50 lb.  
Fresh Local Whiting.....\$2.25 lb.  
Fresh Sea Scallops.....\$6.95 lb.

Coming Soon.... Smoked Trigger Fish  
We accept food stamps

## PEDDLERS PANTRY

All prices lower than major grocery stores!  
Beside Jones Store, Hwy. 211  
Open Wed.-Sat. 9-6  
457-0025

ALUNT JEMIMA ORIGINAL.....	32 oz.	99c
CAP'N CRUNCH CEREAL.....	15 & 16 oz.	\$1.75
OCEAN SPRAY CRAN DRINKS.....	48 oz.	\$1.50
GOURMET CRACKERS.....	8 oz. box	79c
CAN VEGETABLES.....	asst.	35c
TOMATO SAUCE.....	8 oz.	25c
KRAFT MARSHMELLOWS.....	10 oz.	50c
WEIGHT WATCHERS MAYONNAISE.....	32 oz.	\$1.00
BREATH SAVERS MINTS.....	8 pk.	\$1.00
TAGAMET.....	64 tabs.	\$5.50
ULTRA GLOW SKIN CREAM.....	3.6 oz.	\$2.00

# Here's your silver lining...

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Brunswick County \$10.87 - Senior Citizens \$8.87  
North Carolina \$16.47 - Senior Citizens \$14.47  
Elsewhere \$19.00 - Senior Citizens \$17.00

## The State Port PILOT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Clip & Mail with Payment to:  
The State Port Pilot  
P.O. Box 10548, Southport, NC 28461