

Registration Cut-Off Date Near For March 8 Primary

Time's running out for Brunswick County residents who want to vote in the March 8 presidential preference primary election and are not already registered.

Monday, Feb. 8, is the deadline to register or to transfer an address from one precinct to another, according to the Brunswick County Board of Elections.

Individuals may register at the Brunswick County Board of Elections office at the county government complex in Bolivia. Those who are not certain whether they are registered should contact the elections office at 253-4338.

Anyone who will be out of town on election day or who is unable to go to the polls because of a physical disability that occurs prior to 5 p.m. of the Tuesday before the election, may vote by absentee ballot. Applications are available from the elections office.

On March 8, the county's polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Room For Garbage

To the editor:

An open letter to Commissioner Benny Ludlum and my other neighbors.

Dear Benny,

I must apologize to you and your fellow commissioners. In the past with any discussion about waste disposal I have used the word garbage rather than solid waste.

Now I understand—the last few times at the Oxpen transfer station there has been so much solid waste I have been unable to dump my garbage.

It doesn't take long for us to fill the dumpsters with pine boughs, limbs,

tires and building material. The other day I saw a couch, two chairs, a stove and a refrigerator. Someone said that a '56 Ford had showed up at Oxpen. Oops—maybe someone has moved in!

Seriously, commissioner and neighbors, the place is unfit for public use at times. When it is wet—don't leave your garbage because the dogs who are hanging out scatter it.

Jess Parker
Silver Hills

Garbage Commissioner
(Boyd Lott gave me that title)

Hunt Lost More Than He Gained

To the editor:

Why did Jim Hunt endorse Albert Gore for President?

In my opinion Jim Hunt had to be in the spotlight during Super Tuesday in whatever way possible. If Hunt had gone to the Senate in 1984, he would be running for President himself.

There are several good reasons why Jim Hunt, in particular, should have stayed on the sidelines during Super Tuesday. I want to address one reason in particular.

Jim Hunt and most Democrats who hold or have held state or federal office in North Carolina in recent years, owe their election to the strong support they receive from black voters in this state. Terry Sanford certainly would not be in the Senate

without it.

Jim Hunt made a close race for the senate against Jesse Helms only because he got over 90 per cent of the black vote. Hunt is counting on that same support in 1990. Does he deserve it?

In my opinion Jim Hunt felt supporting Gore on Super Tuesday would help him get to the Senate in 1990. Hunt must know Albert Gore doesn't have a chance of getting to the White House in 1988.

If for no reason but to show appreciation to the black voters in this state, Jim Hunt should have stayed out of Super Tuesday. He lost far more than he gained.

Harrill Jones
Gastonia

Letter Expressed Fears Of Many

To the editor:

Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate Jim Fournier's letter to the editor in last week's Beacon. He expressed the fears and warnings of many property owners, especially those of us who live here.

Greed and dollar signs do strange things to our species and some of our government officials and business people are not immune. What a horror to think we could end up as Ocean

Isle has. It is so important to keep the possibilities of being lulled into a false sense of security always on our minds. All too often wolves wear sheeps' clothing. As long as people like Jim Fournier are here the chance of the unthinkable happening is lessened.

Many thanks for keeping this before the public.

Anne G. Campbell
Holden Beach

Shallotte Office Awaits Hiring Of New Postmaster

Shallotte's post office is expected to have a new chief at the helm within the next 45 days, according to a regional postal official.

Ed Odom, retail sales and services manager for the Fayetteville Post Office, said applications are now being accepted and reviewed for the Shallotte postmaster position, which was opened following the official

retirement of Homer Andrews Jan. 15.

Andrews left the office in April 1987, on sick leave pending disability retirement. Since that time, Shallotte has had two different officers in charge.

Odom said Fayetteville Regional Postmaster Jeff Martin will interview qualified applicants before appointing the next postmaster.

Health Board Takes No Action On Smoking Policy

BY RAHN ADAMS

The Brunswick County Board of Health this week began discussion of a proposed smoking policy for the county health department, but tabled the matter after board members disagreed on how strict the policy should be.

The health board met Monday night in Bolivia, after its monthly meeting was rescheduled from Jan. 11 due to inclement weather. The full board was present, with the exception of Dr. John Madison.

At the start of the meeting, Carolyn Hankins, Fred Lesh, Ricky Parker and Pearly Vereen were sworn in for three-year terms on the board.

Also, Bill Rabon was re-elected as board chairman, and Lesh was elected vice chairman.

Smoking Policy

The smoking policy was proposed by Health Director Michael Barrett-Rhodes, who said it was intended to address complaints he has received from several health department employees.

"This is a 'smoking' policy, not a 'no smoking' policy," the health director explained.

According to Barrett-Rhodes, approximately one-third of the department's employees smoke, while at least five non-smokers have complained that they are "allergic" to tobacco smoke.

He added that the main problem with smoking occurs in departmental staff meetings, which generally last from 30 minutes to one hour.

The proposed policy would prohibit

smoking in sections of the Public Health Building where "no smoking" signs are posted. Also, smoking would not be allowed in group meetings of more than two persons.

In addition, the proposed policy stated that "if any staff member of the Brunswick County Health Department feels their rights are being infringed on or health is being jeopardized by smokers, then they should file a complaint with the health director. The complaint will remain totally confidential as to its source. The health director will impose a no smoking policy in that area where the employee is located."

Barrett-Rhodes said he came up with the policy "versus trying to ban smoking totally" and "to at least try to get it to where people weren't having discomfort."

Board member Frankie Rabon, who is also a county commissioner, expressed opposition to the proposed policy.

"I think the smoker has as much right as the non-smoker," Rabon told board members, later adding, "If you're going to stop smoking, you need to stop it department wide."

Also, Jerry Lewis questioned whether or not board action on the matter was necessary to control whatever problems exist.

"Do you really think we need to get into this?" Lewis asked Barrett-Rhodes. "Can't you handle this?"

"As a board member, I don't want to get dragged into telling a person whether they can smoke or not,"

Lewis added.

Lewis' motion to instruct the health director to handle problems with smoking on a case-by-case basis failed for lack of a second.

Another motion—simply to prohibit smoking in group meetings—also was defeated. The motion was made by Parker, who was serving in his first health board meeting. Parker and Ms. Hankins supported the motion.

The board passed Vereen's motion to table the matter indefinitely, with Lesh casting the lone vote against delaying action on the policy.

After Monday's meeting, Barrett-Rhodes said he did not know if or when the board would review the proposed smoking policy again.

Director Reclassified

In other business, the board voted to recommend reclassifying Barrett-Rhodes from Health Director II status to Health Director III with the county and state. The action will require county commissioners' approval.

The unanimous vote followed a 90-minute executive session, which was requested by Ms. Hankins on behalf of a committee appointed to conduct the performance evaluation of the health director.

The salary range for Health Director III is \$28,540 to \$41,254 per year. Barrett-Rhodes said his current salary is \$37,354, which is the upper limit on the Health Director II pay scale.

Service Discontinued

The health board Monday also

voted unanimously to discontinue offering sewage disposal and water supply system recertifications for loan approvals.

Barrett-Rhodes told board members that several other counties also have discontinued the recertification program because it is not a mandated service.

"I personally think it's an increased liability for us," Barrett-Rhodes said. He pointed out that private agencies in the area do offer the service.

The health director said potential problems can arise especially when a lending institution requests recertification for a dwelling that has been vacant for an extended period of time.

The health department has difficulty determining if the dwelling's sewage system is in proper working order when the system is not in use, he noted.

Also, he said the department cannot "speculate" on whether or not the system works, according to an opinion by County Attorney David Clegg.

Other Business

In other business, Bill Rabon appointed Madison to the personnel committee; Lesh, Ms. Hankins and George Clemmons to the personal health committee; and Parker to the environmental health committee.

Also, a meeting of the environmental health committee was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 5:30 p.m., at the health department.



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