

Brunswick Takes Lead Role Opposing State DSS Policies

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 people, sometimes three or four, who will complete a separate application for each form of aid.
 "Why not have a generic application form?" Orrock said Tuesday morning. "Each of those workers keys the same information in the state computer network; there is so much duplicate work. The state has tried to set up so many checks and balances that it has basically made the system ineffective."
 Orrock likened the changes in the processing system to the difference in a 1965 Mustang "that you and I could change the spark plugs in and make other repairs to" to "a turbo-charged super-complicated" car of today.
 "We feel overwhelmed," he said. "It's reached the point of absurdity and there is nothing positive in the process anymore. Our workers feel like they don't have any control anymore."
 Orrock says the system also places unreasonable verification requirements on the agencies and fosters dependence on the system. He said the agencies often have to pay, with taxpayers' money, to get information from banks that the applicants could get for free but don't have the initiative to do so. Agencies also have to secure information

from other counties, such as birth certificates, because of that lack of initiative from applicants, he said.
 "I don't know if any incentives built into the system," he said. "It's my belief that the more I do for you, the less you will do for yourself. In many cases it's to people's benefit to remain on assistance rather than secure minimum-wage employment."
 He says the state has built in financial penalties for failing to meet compliance guidelines on processing applications. The penalty is \$50 for each week that a case exceeds compliance requirements of 45 days for AFDC and 60 days for Medicaid.
 However, he says, the state is currently monitoring a few counties in a pilot program that is supposed to encompass all counties next year. Through that process, Orrock says, the state will monitor selected cases (45 in Brunswick County) and grade the county's performance in handling those cases. If counties don't grade out to at least 455 of a possible 500 points, the state would assess a 2-1/2 percent penalty of that county's appropriations from the state, he said. "And that's money," Orrock said a county could lose 30 points for anything as simple as failing to obtain a complete address

on an applicant, such as failing to include the B on an address of 355B Something Road. "They monitored five counties and nobody passed," he said.
 The resolution states that the Brunswick County Department of Social Services subscribes to the theory that the Alexander vs. Flaherty settlement agreement "has placed unobtainable demands on the professional staff of Social Services; thereby placing undue pressure on us as service providers which in turn creates a hardship on the clients needing assistance."
 It includes seven parts: 1. that only counties with an average processing time above the mandated 45- or 60-day time frames be sanctioned.
 2. that upon signing an 8124 form at the front desk and being given an appointment, the client must keep that appointment or contact the agency within 10 working days. The county must make two attempts to contact the client during that period and, if there is no response within 10 working days, the application should be denied.
 3. clients should be responsible for obtaining and providing verifications to complete their applications, which would encourage clients' self-sufficiency "rather than

becoming dependent on the caseworker."
 4. that ongoing cases transferred to other programs or terminated for such reasons as not returning a monthly report or not coming in for a redetermination should be suspended, not terminated. And if the information is provided within 30 days, the benefits should be restored; if not, terminated.
 5. that counties receive additional state-supplied computer equipment so income maintenance caseworkers have immediate access to such equipment.
 6. that a single generic form be used for all programs and that cases be approved within 30 calendar days "based on clients' self-determination." And if the clients fail to provide additional verified information within 60 calendar days, the case would be denied.
 7. that the state pay at least 50 percent of the non-federal share for all financial-assistance administrative costs. Orrock says that cost is now split 50-50 between the federal government and the counties.
 Orrock says he doesn't have all the answers but that the resolution "is a beginning."
 In another matter Monday night, the county Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution disagreeing

with a proposal by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to repeal rules of no-wake zones in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.
 The Wildlife Commission says that because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicates that it believes no-wake zones in the Intracoastal Waterway "may constitute unreasonable interference to navigation," it cannot enforce such no-wake zones.
 There are five no-wake zones in Brunswick County that are certified by the state Wildlife Commission. However, the Corps of Engineers says none of them are federally permitted. They are the portion of the Waterway:
 1. that intersects the entrance to the "Old Yacht Basin" at Southport.
 2. that intersects the entrance to the Southport Marina.
 3. from a point opposite Rothschild Street at Holden Beach to a point 100 yards each of Conch Street.
 4. within 500 feet of Inlet View Marina, between Ocean Isle Beach and Seaside.
 5. within 100 yards of the Tanglewood area boat ramp opposite Holden Beach.
 In other action, the commissioners:

- formed a Committee for Disabled Persons to be headed by Helen Laugisch.
- scheduled a public hearing on bonds for 6 p.m. on Aug. 6;
- adopted a resolution by state Rep. David Redwine requesting that the mouth of Town Creek be dredged;
- adopted a Shoreline Access Plan, which is a method to make county shoreline more accessible to the general public;
- agreed to apply for up to \$750,000 in state Land Records grants;
- agreed to advertise a bid date of July 31 at 10 a.m. for water Special Assessment Districts 7, 9, 16 and 18K;
- approved a resolution calling for \$235,000 in two-thirds bond issuance be applied to improvements and additions to the county water system;
- approved an expenditure up to \$30,339 to relocate water lines to conform to changes in U.S. 17;
- appointed Bobbie Larrison of Long Beach to the Brunswick County Hospital Board, replacing Bobbie Larrison, who resigned.
- tabled an appointment to the Brunswick County Resources Development Commission for Dennis Crocker, who resigned.

Late Rainfall Is The Key To Local Tobacco Harvest

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 Lack of rain caused only minor problems for other crops, mostly soybeans, Barrow indicated.
 The county's soybean crop should show very little loss as result of dry weather, with some loss of germination in late-planted beans.
 "However, most soybean varieties don't flower until early August and then they have a wide window for setting flowers," he said. "We've got a lot of potential for our soybean crop this year."
 While sweet potatoes were "suffering" from the dryness and heat, he said the damage was not irreversible.
 Last week Barrow had estimated damage or loss of yield to the local tobacco harvest at 10 percent to 15 percent overall, with damage varying from area to area. But with more rain between now and the end of harvest in late August, the crop could show some measure of recovery, he said.
 "Tobacco is a plant that has a surprising ability to rebound," Barrow said. "It's still not too late. The first tobacco harvested was a little light and the quality was not as good as we had hoped. But there's still time for it to put on weight."
 Most farmers have cropped once and will go over their fields twice

more before the end of the season, he said.
 As many as 80 percent to 90 percent of Brunswick County tobacco farmers sell their crops at warehouses in Whiteville and Tabor City in Columbus County, which is part of the Border Belt, said Thomas McLamb, executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). That belt opens Tuesday. Some farmers in the Leland area sell at Wallace, which is part of the Eastern Belt, which will open Wednesday.
 Markets in all five flue-cured producing states are opening early this year, the result of early planting. The Border Belt market opened Aug. 7 last year.
 Brunswick County producers have planted 1,801.57 acres in tobacco this year on 153 farms, up slightly from 1,755.86 acres a year ago, McLamb said. This reflects an increased allotment, 4,215,324 pounds compared to 4,114,965 pounds last year.
 The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp., a grower-owned cooperative, has set price support at \$1.488 per pound for tobacco. The cooperative buys and holds for later sale tobacco that receives bids below price support level.



This Gator Won't Bite
 A group of vacationers from Brevard create an alligator on the strand near Holden Beach Fishing Pier Monday. Pictured, from left, are Tamara Byrd, Dana Loveday, Erica Loveday and Monica Byrd.

Leland Annexation Vote Repealed

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 bound by any promises made during a Monday morning meeting, that if it chooses it can immediately begin again the process of annexing the Chapel Loop Road area.
 Monday's meeting with Redwine and Loop Road spokesmen Barbara Jenkins was initially called, he said, to make sure that Redwine understood the terms of a preliminary agreement reached between the town and area at a special meeting Saturday night.
 Redwine had earlier offered three "cooling-off" alternatives to the parties: to proceed with the bill and repeal the annexation; to have council rescind the action; or to extend the effective date of the annexation.
 He said the "cooling-off period" was needed to allow time for discussions among northern Brunswick County towns and community leaders regarding the area's future direction. He said he would like to see the first such meeting held in August.
 But Monday, Redwine chose not to support the agreement reached by the two sides. The town had agreed, with Ms. Jenkins' initial concurrence, that it would poll Chapel Loop Road residents and abide by their wishes in any future annexation attempt made before 1993.
 "I got to thinking about it," Redwine said Tuesday. "If the board had allowed Chapel Loop

Road the same consideration as Olde Towne, we wouldn't be having this problem."
 Residents of Olde Towne, an affluent subdivision near Leland and Belville, had also been targeted for annexation. But, after residents there rejected the proposal in the straw vote, Leland Town Council chose not to annex the area. Though few Chapel Loop Road residents didn't participate in the straw poll, he said they did express their opinion of it at various meetings. "There is more than one way to gauge public opinion," he said.
 Baldwin said Redwine "confused the situation" so much at the Monday morning meeting that Chapel Loop Road also withdrew its approval of the tentative agreement.
 But Redwine said it had come to his attention that the proposed agreement would "stifle any growth Belville might want to attempt in the future."
 "That didn't seem fair to me either."
 In dispute: the status of a narrow corridor along N.C. 133 that separates Olde Towne from both Belville and Leland. The area was included in the Chapel Loop Road annexation. Redwine said it should be taken out and considered as a separate area.
 The corridor would be essential, he said, if Olde Towne were to be

annexed in the future either voluntarily or involuntarily by the town of Belville. Without it, annexation of Olde Towne by either town would be a "satellite" annexation with the area separated from the rest of the municipality.
 Redwine said Belville has agreed not to proceed with any voluntary or involuntary annexation of the Chapel Loop Road area before Jan. 1, 1991, "and then not unless the people in an area petition the town of Belville and vote to join." He said Mayor Kenneth Messer is sending a letter to that effect.
 "That gives us time to initiate the other," Redwine said, referring to the community-wide meeting he intends to propose.
 Contrary to the wording of the motion by Leland Council to rescind the annexation, Redwine said the action taken by the legislature Tuesday won't weaken state annexation laws. "This only affects Leland," he said. "It doesn't affect anybody else."
Drawing The Lines
 At the time the annexation was proposed, Chapel Loop Road residents had been discussing the idea of incorporating as a town for some months. Leaders put off formal action partly at Redwine's urging to first talk with other communities in northern Brunswick County about the area's future.
 When Leland Town Council first

voted on the Chapel Loop Road annexation, the measure did not gain the necessary four-fifths vote needed for adoption on first reading. However, a 3-2 division was sufficient to approve the measure on second reading at the July 5 meeting. Voting for annexation were Council members Lynette Carlisle and William Benton and Mayor Russell Baldwin. Opposing it were Council member George Yates and Jane Gilbert.
 The annexation occurred over protests of Chapel Loop Road residents, who for the most part had boycotted a "straw vote" conducted by the town to determine how the area's estimated 200 residents viewed the proposed annexation. All six ballots that were returned opposed annexation by Leland, a viewpoint reflected by residents of the area who have attended public hearings and other council meetings on the subject.
 A group of 271 Leland residents also presented a petition to the town objecting to the annexation effort.
 Redwine said he was initially told by the council that the town would abide by the results of the straw poll. The only debate he recalled was over the definition of "overwhelming majority." He said he felt all that was necessary to direct the council one direction or another was a clear majority—50 percent plus one vote.

Sunset Wells Enable County To Get Past Holiday Crunch

The Sunset Beach wells enabled the Brunswick County Water Department to get past the July Fourth holiday period without a major water shortage in the South Brunswick Island area, according to the county Public Works Department.
 The water usage for the area south of the No. 4 pumping station, which is just south of Brick Landing Plantation, peaked on Friday, July 6, when 2.06 million gallons of water were used, which is .06 more than the 2.0-million-gallon-per-day capacity of that station.
 The Sunset Beach wells were placed on line that day and were still in operation Monday, although the water demand fell below the station's capacity.
 Water demand in the area reached 1.89 million gallons on Tuesday, July 3, according to the Public Works Department, growing to 1.99 million gallons on July 4, 2.02 million gallons on July 5 and to 2.06 million gallons on July 6. The demand fell to 1.85 million gallons on Saturday, July 7 and to 1.71 million gallons on July 8.
 The peak hour of water usage each of those days was 5-6 p.m., according to the Public Works Department. From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on July 6, according to the Public Works Department, 130,997 gallons of water were used, which is at a rate equivalent to 3.14 million gallons a day.
 The second peak hour came from 5 to 6 p.m. on July 4, according to the Public Works Commission, when 127,727 million gallons of water were used. The third peak hour was the same time on July 5, when 120,567 million gallons were used.
 The Sunset Beach wells provide .194 million gallons of water a day, according to the Public Works Department.

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Warm Days, Rain In Forecast

Temperatures and rainfall across the South Brunswick Islands are expected to hover near normal over the next few days, meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.
 Temperatures should range from the low 70s at night to a high of about 90 degrees. The area could get between three-quarters of an inch to an inch of rainfall, he said.
 For the period July 10-16, Canady said the maximum high of

94 degrees occurred on the 10th, while the minimum low of 74 occurred on the 11th.
 A daily average high of 90 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 77 degrees for a daily average temperature of 83, which he said was about two degrees above average.
 At his Shallotte Point home, Canady measured .76 inch of rainfall.

Seminole Patchwork Workshop Planned

The Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service will conduct a workshop on Seminole patchwork. The workshop is scheduled for July 30, 31 and Aug. 8, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day.

The class will be limited to 10 people and a list of supplies will be sent to registrants. For more information, call the Extension office at 253-4425.

Glenda Warren Is County's First Female Fire Chief

Glenda Warren Monday night became Brunswick County's first female fire chief.
 Mrs. Warren was unanimously elected chief of Waccamaw Fire & Rescue. She previously served as assistant chief under her husband, Gregg Warren, who was fire chief for seven years.
 The new chief said she will announce new officers of the volunteer fire and rescue department at the July 26 Board of Directors meeting.

3 Arrested On Drug Charges

Shallotte Police arrested a Supply area man Monday morning after finding cocaine in a vehicle stopped on Holden Beach Road.
 Dolphus Lee Bryant, 40, of Route 3, Supply, was arrested Monday at 2:30 a.m. and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver, maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of selling and delivering cocaine and driving with a revoked operator's license.
 Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said a 1974 Chevrolet was stopped on Holden Beach Road Monday after officers learned the

driver did not have a valid operator's license.
 Police later searched the vehicle and found six "rocks" of crack cocaine with a street value of \$300, Gause said.
 Shallotte Police also charged two other Brunswick County residents with one count each of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in separate incidents last Friday.
 Ervin Hawkins, 51, of Supply, and Samuel Eugene Mitchell Jr., 21, of Route 5, Leland, were arrested last Friday night following vehicle searches, Gause said.

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