

DSS ELIMINATES LIST

# Long Wait For Day Care May Be Over For County

BY TERRY POPE

The state plans to expand its children's day-care services to working poor families by the end of the year, but Brunswick County Department of Social Services Director Jamie Orrock says the county's day-care program is in better shape now than it has been in a number of years.

"We no longer have a waiting list for day care," Orrock said. "We have cleared our lists and are now on a walk-in basis."

Day-care services in North Carolina are provided for children of poor or working poor families. State funds come from a variety of sources, Orrock said. Last year, those funding sources dwindled, creating a waiting list of eligible children that was kept on a first-come, first-serve basis.

That waiting list grew to as high as 268 children last September. As more state funding became available, the list began to shrink. It fell to 156 in October, to 134 in December and to none this month.

An additional \$20,000 in funds helped to eliminate the waiting list

that had been growing since the 1988-89 fiscal year. Orrock said some families had remained on the list for a couple of years.

"The first opportunity for day care was given to those who had been on the list the longest," Orrock said.

To qualify for day care services, the parent must be working and in need of help based on income eligibility. Low income "working poor" families of four can qualify if they earn less than 60 percent of the state median income, or less than \$16,000 per year.

Persons who are going to school or undergoing training for full- or part-time jobs can also qualify.

Orrock believes that Brunswick County will be able to avoid waiting lists in the future. The state will receive about \$45 million in new federal funds to pump into its day-care services program in the fall.

Under the program, called "Uplift Day Care" by Gov. Jim Martin, an estimated 14,000 children on waiting lists around the state would be

*"I really don't see a problem in our county for two or three years down the road, at least."*

—Jamie Orrock  
DSS Director

able to get those services. The state now serves about 23,000 children in day care.

Gov. Martin's proposal calls for raising the eligibility level to 75 percent of the state median income, which means a family of four earning less than \$24,000 a year would be eligible for assistance. The program would also use a \$1 million revolving fund to offer loans and grants to church groups and other nonprofit agencies to open day care centers in areas that have few facilities. The loans would help those agencies meet state building codes for day-care centers.

State officials believe that expensive day care keeps some parents

from working, thus placing them on public welfare programs.

In Brunswick County, if parents qualify they can choose where they want their children placed from a list of centers DSS has contracts with all across the county, said John White, director of child services.

"We let them see the list and they make the decision," White said.

"We do not and cannot make a recommendation."

White said 72 children received child care services from the department in January. That figure jumped as the waiting list was eliminated, but final figures are not available, he said.

Eliminating future waiting lists, White said, will depend on available funds.

"It depends on how our budget goes this month," he added. "As of now, I see us adding some people on."

The county's JOBS program that will begin in July will also provide child care for people who participate in that job training program. JOBS will provide training for people who receive Aid to Families

with Dependent Children, the federally-funded assistance program for the poor, in an attempt to get them paying jobs, thus removing them from welfare lists.

Funds for the "Uplift Child Care" program are expected to be available to counties in October.

"I really don't see a problem in our county for two or three years down the road, at least," said Orrock.

Orrock reported the good news to the Brunswick County Board of Social Services, which met Monday for about 45 minutes to approve routine department reports. The board also met in executive session for about 15 minutes at the request of Chairman Frankie Rabon, but no action was taken on the personnel matter discussed.

## Students To Practice School Tornado Drill

Local school students are expected to take part in a statewide tornado drill Wednesday, March 6, as part of Severe Weather Awareness Week in North Carolina.

The drill is scheduled for the morning hours so it will not interfere with school lunches, according to a news release from the National Weather Service in Raleigh.

There are two parts to the drill, a tornado watch and a tornado warning. Messages will be sent over the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). If there is severe weather on March 6, the drill will be postponed until March 8.

A tornado watch means there is a potential for tornadoes because conditions in the area are favorable for them. A warning is issued only after a tornado has shown up on radar, has been sighted or has actually touched down.

Gov. James Martin proclaimed the week March 4-10 as a time to teach how to take cover during a tornado. The program is a cooperative effort of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety

Division of Emergency Management, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the National Weather Service.

"We were lucky in 1990. There were no major severe weather events in North Carolina last year," said Gov. Martin. "But we must not be complacent in 1991. Education is our most effective tool in protecting ourselves against severe weather."

Joe Meyers, director of the Division of Emergency Management, said knowing how to protect yourself and your family is the key to reducing injuries and saving lives in severe weather.

"Because North Carolina has not had a major tornado outbreak in a while, people may forget how dangerous tornadoes are," said Joe Dean, secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. "Now is the time to remind everyone how vicious mother nature can be if she wants to."

In 1990, 17 tornadoes struck the state, 12 in the eastern half. Although none reached the devastating category, four injuries were reported.

In other severe weather events last year, lightning claimed the lives of five people in the state. Three of those deaths occurred on golf courses between April and early September. North Carolina remains number two in the nation in lightning fatalities, behind Florida.

The National Weather Service offers safety tips on ways to protect yourself during a tornado. People should find shelter below or near ground level or go to a central, interior section of the building, underneath sturdy furniture if possible.

Mobile homes should be evacuated and residents should either take cover in a shelter, ditch or other low, protected area. Motorists should also seek cover in a permanent structure or ditch if a tornado is approaching.

## Downed Line Sparks Fire

A downed power line sparked a fire Friday that burned about eight acres near the Carolina Power and Light Co. Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport before the N.C. Forest Service could bring it under control.

"We were told that the power line just broke," said Larry Hall of the Forest Service office in Bolivia. "It caused quite a bit of activity. It's just one of those things."

The activity Hall referred to also included a power outage in parts of Boiling Spring Lakes and the Southport area around 3:40 p.m. Power was restored within hours.

The Forest Service sent one fire plow to contain the fire, Hall said. When firefighters arrived, they found that a line that had apparently fallen from a pole was lying on the ground.

"It was a main transmission line, or that's what they told us," Hall said.

Last week's dry conditions also sparked a number of small woods fires last Wednesday afternoon.

Firefighters from various departments responded to calls at Sunset Harbor, Maco Road, Sandy Creek Acres and the Phoenix community in northeast Brunswick County. All of the fires were quickly contained.

"The rain this past weekend has helped us tremendously," Hall said. "We are almost in what we call the spring fire season."

The spring fire season in Brunswick County usually begins in late February and continues through March, Hall said. As of Tuesday, he noted, the county had been placed at a lower level of woods fire danger.



**Making waves on Holden Beach again this season!**

Opening soon to unveil all the newest, most inspired, most exciting, most complete collection of swimwear in both one and two-piece styles!

**SALT PEDDLER**

473 OCEAN BLVD. WEST • HOLDEN BEACH • 842-4808

# King's Appliance

Pre-Season Clearance SALE

"Dedicated To Serving Brunswick County"

## Hi-Efficiency Premium AIR CONDITIONERS



Model ACD14AA

Prices Starting At Only **\$215**

Variety Of Models From 4,000-24,000 BTU's

## JENN-AIR Downdraft Slide-in Ranges

These prices can't be beat!

## CAMCORDERS

Starting At **\$790**



CAMCORDER WITH 8:1 ZOOM LENS MODEL CG-9908

## RCA Dishwashers

Only **\$25/month** with approved GECAF Credit

These Prices Are Too Low To Advertise!

## AMANA Built-in Refrigerators

Save! Save! Save!

Sorry, at these low prices deliver & installation extra.

**13-Inch TV Sets**

You won't believe these prices!



13" Diagonal REMOTE PORTABLE TV MODEL 13GP431

Wicky Says, It's A DOG-GONE GOOD SALE!



**DON'T MISS THE SAVINGS**

Hwy. 17 & 211, Supply (West of Caution Light), 754-6138

## RUG EMPORIUM

By Popular Demand Sale Continues thru March BUT...You MUST Present Ad

| WOOLS      |            | KASMIRE LINE |            |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| SALE       | Reg.       | SALE         | Reg.       |
| 8x12 \$249 | \$400 & Up | 8x12 \$229   | \$279 & Up |
| 6x8 \$199  | \$225      | 6x8 \$119    | \$169 & Up |
| 4x6 \$89   | \$119      | 4x6 \$65     | \$79       |
| 2x8 \$69   | \$89       | 2x8 \$55     |            |
| 2x4 \$25   | \$34       | 2x4 \$25     |            |

| SAMIRA LINE |       | DHURRIE ACCENT COLLECTION |       |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| SALE        | Reg.  | SALE                      | Reg.  |
| 8x12 \$129  | \$179 | 8x12                      | \$299 |
| 6x8 \$99    | \$89  | 8x10                      | \$199 |
| 4x6 \$37    | \$49  | 6x8                       | \$159 |
| 2x8 \$27    | \$39  |                           |       |
| 2x4 \$13    | \$18  |                           |       |

ALL HANDMADES—Indian, Chinese, Romanian

Make us a reasonable offer, you will not be turned down.

We are overstocked at RUG EMPORIUM with beautiful area rugs and we must liquidate our inventory. We have the richest traditional designs colors and sizes in machine made and handmade carpets.

LIQUIDATION SALE ON ELECTRONICS

Phones • VCR's • Walkman • Car Audio • Etc.

**RUG & ELECTRONIC EMPORIUM**

We ship anywhere

3106 Hwy. 17 S., N. Myrtle Beach, SC

Before Harris Teeter/Pharm Shopping Center, next to Glatts Beachwear

(803)272-4875

Mon-Sat. 10-7, Sun 1-5