

## 'Buckle Up' Oct. 1... It's The Law

If you don't normally use the seat belts in your car, it's time to start digging them out from behind the seat. Next week, on Tuesday, October 1, seat belt usage becomes mandatory throughout the state.

According to Nancy Eubanks at the state highway patrol office in New Bern, any front seat occupant or driver sixteen years of age or older, in a motor vehicle capable of carrying no more than ten passengers, must use a seat belt if the car was originally equipped such (vehicles made before 1967 were not required by federal regulation to have seat belts). Back seat occupants are not included.

Those caught not using the safety device will, until December 31, 1986, receive only a warning. After that, however, a violation carries a \$25 fine.

There are, though, a few exceptions to the law: drivers or occupants with a medical or physical condition making use difficult; drivers or occupants with a certified mental phobia; rural let-

ter carriers of the U. S. Postal Service while performing their duties; driver or passenger making frequent stops and leaving vehicle or delivering property from a vehicle if the speed between stops does not exceed 20 mph; any vehicle licensed and registered as property carrying while being used for agricultural or commercial purposes; or a motor vehicle that was not required by federal law to be so equipped (pre-1967).

State law already requires children three years of age and under to be restrained. While the new law addresses mainly those 16 and over, Eubanks said that the driver of a vehicle could be cited if a passenger between the ages of 3 and 16 was not buckled in.

State Highway Patrol Trooper Ken Hill commented Monday that, while he has not yet received any enforcement guidelines, he expects that the law will mainly be enforced in connection with accidents. He added that he hoped the law would save a few more lives.



Jennifer Swindell of Stonewall, 12, and her sister Christie, 8, were first place winners at the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Agricultural Fair in the poultry division. Jennifer won

four first place ribbons with her white Brahma hen and Christie also took a first place with her Barred Rock rooster. Next month, it's on to the State Fair in Raleigh.

## Holton Sentenced In Drug Smuggling

Another Pamlico County resident was sentenced last week in connection with the 1981 "Mermaid" drug smuggling operation.

Roy Holton, Jr., who had pled guilty to conspiracy and trafficking charges, received a sentence last week in Craven County Superior Court of 3 years, \$5,000 fine and 5 years probation following his release. This is the same sentence that other defendants who agreed to cooperate received.

Holton, according to District Attorney David McFadyen, managed to escape the early morning Gales Creek raid by law enforcement but was shot in the leg at the time. He had been recruited to assist in the offloading of the marijuana.

McFadyen commented that

Holton was the first defendant to voluntarily turn himself in and did so in February 1983, months before the arrests began in November.

Some speculation has arisen over Holton's being allowed by Sheriff Leland Brinson to serve his time in the Pamlico County jail. Holton is married to the daughter of Pete Bland, sheriff of Craven County. McFadyen said that it was up to the sheriff as to whether or not he would permit someone to stay in the jail. He added that he believed this may have been part of Brinson's agreement with Holton in return for his cooperation.

On October 11, the ten to fifteen remaining defendants, McFadyen said, will be sentenced.

Friday, 8 pm

Greene Central At Pamlico  
North Edgecombe At Aurora

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## Low Enrollment, High Costs Jeopardizing PTC

Pamlico Technical College had its smallest graduation class in history last month. And, in fact, the existence of the school itself was in jeopardy during the past session of the General Assembly.

In August, while thirty-three received high school equivalency diplomas through PTC, only five

earned associates' degrees, nine one-year diplomas and three certificates.

So how much does it cost for a student to receive his education at PTC, the smallest school in the state community college system.

Statewide, enrollment decreased four percent in the community

college system last year, said Cy Lynn, spokesperson at the Department of Community Colleges in Raleigh. However, he added, students enrolling in "non-degree, non-curriculum" programs have increased.

There was some discussion in the legislature this past session

about making PTC a "satellite" of another, larger community college, Lynn said, but the system fought to enable the school to maintain its own identity, believing that it was important for the county. Now, he said, the state office will be working closely with Pamlico Tech to determine what is needed to increase enrollment.

Pamlico Tech is trying to cut costs, said Paul Johnson, president of the school. Positions have been cut—only part time instructors were hired for the english and

math courses in the new college transfer program, the audiovisual position was not filled, other staff members are taking over the duties previously handled by the dean of continuing education and the light construction curriculum was closed.

There was the equivalent of 85.88 full-time students enrolled in the degree, diploma and certificate programs last year at PTC (a total of 159 full-and part-time students comprised the full-time equivalency or FTE).

During 1984-85, a total of 1,034 different people participated in offerings ranging from the two-year degree programs to continuing education classes.

But the light construction course was closed this year, due mainly to low enrollment: 6.75 people. In the past years, the early childhood and agricultural science programs have also been closed because of a decreasing number of students and,

(See PTC, Page 14)

## Free-Roaming Animals Making Nuisances Of Themselves

If you see a white short-haired cat wandering around in Oriental, don't stop to pet him. He's known to have bitten three people. But this cat is just one of several that are causing problems in the area, according to the director of the Pamlico County health department.

Jim Baluss, director of the health department, said that recently the department has received several complaints about animals but that there are no local ordinances, county or otherwise, governing animal control in Pamlico County, only the state statutes. The only authority the health department has, he explained, is to quarantine, not destroy, documented vicious animals...but there are no facilities to do so.

One of the complaints involves a number of cats living around a summer home located at the waterfront in Oriental. The owner, as well as neighbors, are concerned, Baluss said, and have requested assistance which the department is unable to render since none of the animals has shown itself to be vicious.

In another case, a woman in Maribel who had to go into the hospital left behind about twenty dogs. Neighbors fed them for a while but when they became a nuisance "those dogs basically just went without," he said. Since the animals were not vicious, the health department had no authority over them, Baluss explained.

The fact that none wore a rabies tag was "immaterial," he added.

Ten cats in Oriental, some pets and some not, began roaming the neighborhood in search of food after the woman who had been feeding them had to go into the

hospital, Baluss continued. One neighbor, he added, was literally knocked down when they mobbed her looking for food.

One cat in this group is vicious,

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## Municipal Elections Will Offer Few Surprises

There won't be too many surprises in the November municipal elections. In fact, in only one town is there any opposition for the mayor's job.

Oriental has the one and only opposed mayoral race in the county—incumbent Bill Harris and Grace Evans, who is running for the first time, will be vying for that position. When the filing period closed at noon on Friday, September 20, Oriental voters also found themselves with a choice for commissioner. For the three seats, incumbents Brantley Norman, Dennis Barkley and Rad Lewis filed, along with Robert Keller.

Larry Ford filed for mayor in Arapahoe with Harvey Hardison, Woodrow Boyd, George Harper, Charles Brinson, all incumbents, and Vernon J. Daniels running for commissioner.

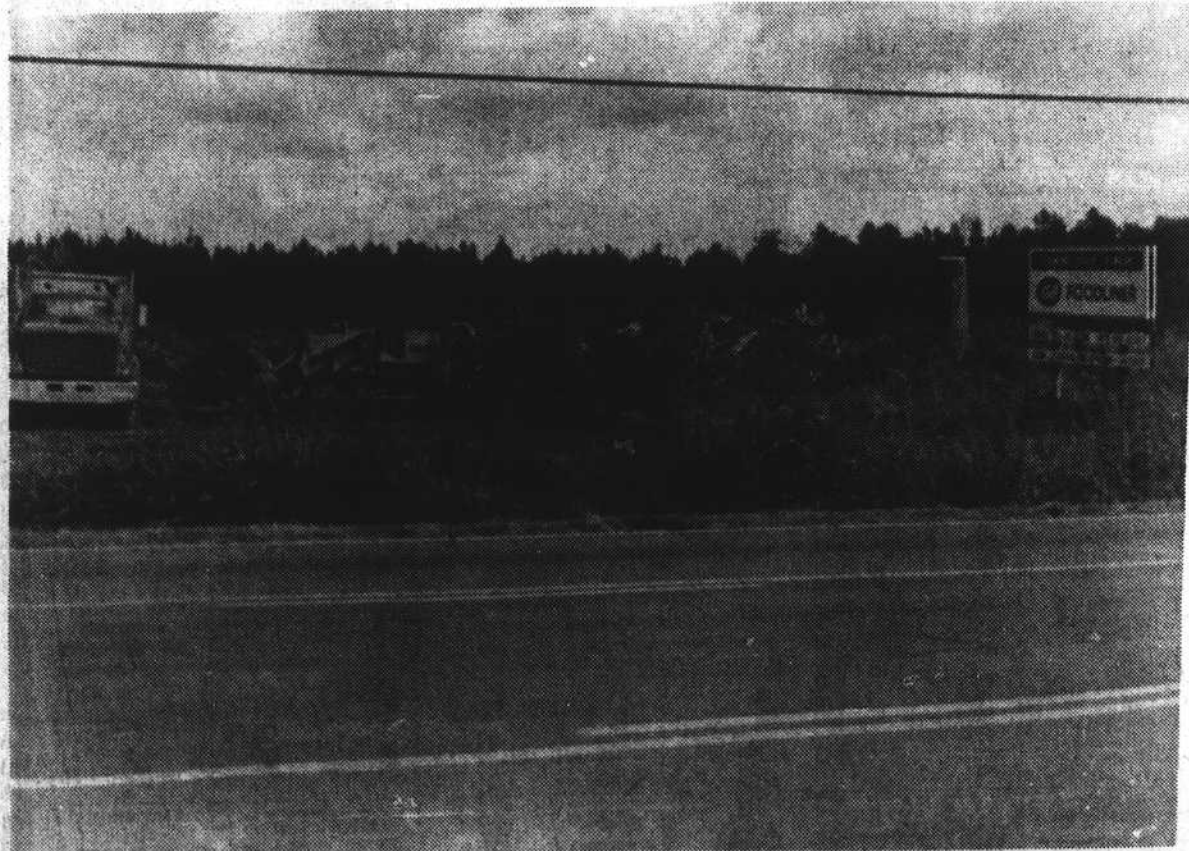
In Minnesott Beach, Otis Peele

will be seeking another term as mayor. In the race for the four commissioners' seats are incumbents John Anthes, Bill Luck, Paul Johnson and Lawrence Tucker as well as James Durham and Charles C. Tomlinson.

Vandemere voters will have a field of seven from which to choose their five town board members: Marina Potter, William Jones and Judy Thaanum, all incumbents, and Benjamin Stancil, Keith Cowell, Russell McLean and John F. Williams. Billy Harris has filed for mayor.

Five seats are up for grabs in Mesic with six candidates filing for the town council. They are Holon Gibbs, B.H. Jones, Theron Jones, William E. Credle, James Cooper and Leory Credle. Edward

(See Elections, Page 14)



Developers of the IGA Alliance recently received the go-ahead to begin the site modifications for the sewage disposal system.

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## Work Begins On Shopping Center

Recently the developers of the new shopping center proposed for Alliance received permission from the Pamlico County health department to begin the site modifications determined to be necessary for proper functioning of a sewage disposal system.

The proposed site has been at the center of controversy for some time but after a hearing before the state earlier in the year, the shopping center's owners and engineers and the state's engineers finally reached an agreement on a sewage disposal system. Instead of the septic tank

originally proposed, the new, approved design features a low-pressure mound system with extensive site modifications to facilitate drainage.

Health department director Jim Baluss, whose environmental health division will be overseeing the work, said that although the required easements from Weyerhaeuser and the railroad have not yet been presented (they are necessary to allow proper maintenance of the drainage ditches), Bill and Ricky Wilkes, the developers of the three-store shopping center, have been told that

they can go ahead and begin the site modifications. The work will be inspected frequently, he said, adding that he didn't foresee any further difficulties.

When the system is finished, an operations permit will be issued that will allow the system to operate as long as it is in compliance.

Ricky Wilkes, who will be managing the IGA-Foodliner and the complex, said Monday that he did not know when the system would be completed but that once it was, it would take another six months to construct the buildings.