

Scientists Mount Biggest East Coast Winter Storm Watch

BY BOB CAIRNS
 N.C. STATE UNIVERSITY INFORMATION SERVICES
 A dress rehearsal for the largest East Coast winter storm survey in history is underway along the coast of North and South Carolina.
 Weather analysts, cloud and air physicists and experts on radar, instrumentation and computer modeling are preparing for a January 1986 investigation of the Hatteras lows, the East Coast's Number One winter weathermaker.
 The \$7 million program called GALE (Genesis of Atlantic Lows Experiment) is funded primarily by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.
 Its goal is better forecasting of severe winter storms.
 "When these cyclones are born off the Carolina coast, they present serious weather forecasting problems from North Carolina all the way to New England," said Dr. Gerald F. Watson, a N.C. State University meteorologist.

The Hatteras lows are hundreds of miles in diameter and whirl in a counter-clockwise direction, generating storms that vary in intensity and produce everything from light rain to heavy snows.
 According to Watson, a better understanding of the early stages of the physical processes that produce these storms will help weather analysts make more specific predictions about the kind and amounts of precipitation to expect in an area.
 "In the past, our inability to observe thousands of feet above the storm systems and to monitor in offshore waters made it difficult for even the most modern computerized forecasts to be accurate," Watson said.
 "Newspaper and television maps tend to show us weather as a two-dimensional thing," he said. "Weather is not just a consequence of physical processes occurring near the earth's surface, but the combined effect of several factors at work in the first 10 miles above the surface."
 In an effort to gather strategic data, the GALE program will employ aircraft,

research ships, digital radar systems and state-of-the-art balloon sounding systems and automated surface weather stations in a network stretching across the Piedmont and coastal plains of North and South Carolina.
 In addition to the major funding agencies, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Air Force are supplying personnel and instrumentation for the project.
 The investigating scientists are from N.C. State, Pennsylvania State University, Drexel University, University of Washington, State University of New York-Albany and several government laboratories.
 In what Watson calls a "crucial rehearsal," the scientists are testing their equipment and the forecasting techniques that will be used to determine when the 1986 Hatteras lows will occur.
 "We have to see how accurately we can anticipate these weather systems," he said. "It is imperative next winter that we know when

to launch our balloon experiments, send up the planes and plot our ships' routes."
 In the coming months the weather scientists will be working in laboratories and along the coast of the Carolinas testing balloon sounding systems, installing digital radar systems and deploying and checking ocean buoys. The search for appropriate sites for radar towers and automated satellite weather stations will continue into the summer.
 The test results from this year's rehearsal will help the scientists chart plans for the 1986 program.
 "Every last detail has to be predetermined—everything from the launching of a balloon to the ocean location of a multi-million dollar research vessel," Watson said.
 "Once we've made these decisions, it's up to Mother Nature. We can only hope that she'll provide the typical winter situations that we're looking for."
 When the GALE program begins, the January-March 1986 storm research will be monitored by scientists in a control center

located at Raleigh-Durham Airport.
 During the three-month period, N.C. State investigators will be responsible for two of the program's major research components.
 Meteorologists Dr. S. Sethuraman, Dr. Pal Arya, Dr. Jerry Davis and Dr. Allen Riordan at NCSU will analyze data taken from experiments near the surface of the land and water.
 "These scientists are interested in studying the storms where heat, moisture and energy are exchanged and will be attempting to learn more about how these interactions affect the low pressure systems," he said.
 Watson at NCSU and Dr. David Barber, a project consultant, will study each system's evolution.
 "We're interested in the details within the storms, the circulation patterns and other subtleties that bring rain to one location and sleet or snow to another," Watson said.
 "When these data are compiled and appropriate computer models are designed, we will be in a much stronger position to make accurate predictions about winter storms produced by the Hatteras lows."

Committee Recommends Expanding 'Gifted Program' To All

BY TERRY POPE
 Brunswick County Board of Education members received their first glance Monday night at a proposal to expand the schools' gifted educational program to all grade levels.
 If approved by the board, students in kindergarten through 12th grade would begin a three-year adjustment into the program next fall. The idea to expand the program for academically gifted and developmentally advanced students began last February, when Superintendent Gene Yarbrough requested that a committee be formed to develop the comprehensive plan. Members chosen to the Committee for the Advancement of Gifted Education (CAGE) included teachers, administrators and parents.

tional local funding next year.
 "A lot of long range studies were performed," said Stephany Tewey, assistant superintendent and member of the CAGE committee. "They determined that it wasn't necessarily just the children with the high IQs, but also those with the drive and motivation to complete tasks that made contributions to our society."
 "In addition, there is an underlying belief that giftedness can be nurtured, especially in the K-3 levels," said Cathy Furpless, gifted services teacher at South Brunswick Middle School and CAGE chairperson.

Under the plan, a resource-enrichment program would be recommended for the primary and elementary schools while providing more accelerated learning opportunities in the areas of mathematics and science would be the key to the middle school program. Ms. Furpless said. Three teachers in the county's middle schools currently work with gifted students while high school students are offered advanced courses.
 "I like this program because it gives all teachers in school a chance to learn about gifted students and

how to deal with them," said parent Ruth Somers, a former exceptional children's program supervisor with the county schools.
 Expanding the gifted program will also enable the community "to develop their own resources, their own minds, and their children's minds," Ms. Tewey said.
 After forming the committee last year, Ms. Tewey, Furpless and

Somers toured other gifted programs offered in the state. Included were elementary programs in Greenville City Schools; middle school programs at Albritton Middle School at Ft. Bragg and Lillington Middle School; and high school programs at Sanford and Lee County Schools and Fayetteville City Schools.
 "I feel certain that your efforts, when implemented, will stimulate more learning among children and youth," wrote Ruby Murchison, consultant for academically gifted with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, "as well as bring to their attention a great deal of knowledge about topics not generally included in the regular school program. I envision that identified students will be 'turned on' by the gifted program and stimulated to participate in the learning experiences."

Yarbrough called the proposal a vehicle that can be used to start putting the program into effect at all grade levels. The program will be gradually implemented within the next three years if approved by the school board.
 "We gave ourselves a three-year time line," Ms. Furpless said. "With the amount of activities involved, it should be something that has a growth factor. It should not be something that you can start instantly."

Students in the K-3 level, or the Triad Enrichment Program (TEP), will participate in three types of activities to help each child expand his or her range of knowledge. All students in grades 4-5 will be offered enrichment programs designed to improve their attack of knowledge in all curriculum areas.
 In grades 6-8, students would use the processes of learning to tackle academic subjects in preparation for high school. In grades 9-12, the program would continue academic acceleration as well as making provisions for career choices, such as taking advanced placement courses in cooperation with Brunswick

Technical College or UNC-Wilmington.
 "I think it's an exciting concept that gives an opportunity for maybe a larger number of students to participate in the gifted program," said board member Doug Daxley. "I like the idea of focusing not only on the point system, but students that are developmentally advanced as well."
 Ms. Tewey estimates expanding the program may cost an additional \$30,000 in local funds in the first year and \$26,500 in state funds for four part-time positions and one full time staff member to serve as high school program manager. In its second year, the program would cost an estimated \$50,000 in extra state and local funds and an extra \$4,000 in state funds for the third year.
 "The state does not fund K-3 programs," Ms. Tewey said. "In the Greenville schools, the program has had a tremendous impact on the school system. Looking at this, it seems like a very reasonable program."
 Recruiting teachers for the program should also be no problem, since more teachers are becoming certified in gifted education, she added.

NBHS Variety Show Saturday

The second annual North Brunswick Variety Show will be held Saturday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m., at the school.
 Special entertainment will be provided by the North Brunswick faculty and coaching staff. Contestants in the show include the Rainbow Cloggers from the Brunswick School of Dance and the YWCA Showtime Dancers of Wilmington.
 Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students. Proceeds will go to the North Brunswick Athletic Booster Club.

Lakes VFD Plans April Yard Sale

Supporters of the Bolling Spring Lakes Volunteer Rescue Squad can start collecting items now for an April 20 yard sale, says John Dozier, spokesman.
 The sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the squad building on N.C. 87, with proceeds going to the squad.
 Persons wishing to donate items may call the squad building at 845-2611 to arrange pickup, he said, or they may deliver items to the building anytime during the day Monday through Wednesday, April 15-17.

Seniors Elect New Officers

Members of the Holden Beach Senior Citizens club elected new officers for the following year at their monthly meeting Monday, March 11, at the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department.
 Elected were Grace Peoples, president; Neil Stevenson, vice-president; Helen Scantiff, recording secretary; Ruth Hill, corresponding secretary and Norma Folmsbee, treasurer.
 Kelly Holden, of H&R Block of Shallotte, spoke to the group on state and federal income taxes followed by a question and answer session.
 Plans were also made to travel to Charleston, S.C., on April 19 to tour Boone Hall, Brookgreen Gardens and the market place in Charleston. On April 29, the group will travel to Williamsburg, Va. for three days.
 A petition was also circulated that will be presented to Congressman Charlie Rose concerning the closing of the veteran's hospital, which the organization is against.
 A bake sale will be held by the club on April 6 across from the Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad with proceeds going to the building fund.

Shriners To Fry Chicken

The Sudan Thunderbolts will hold the annual Brunswick County Shrine chicken fry Saturday, March 23, at two locations, at Holden Beach and at Long Beach, beginning at 11 a.m.
 Each \$3 plate will include fried chicken, potatoe salad and cole slaw with roll, said Thunderbolts Captain Randy E. Hewett.

The Thunderbolts own and operate their miniature race cars to promote the principal work of the Shrine, to care for burned and crippled children. Funds raised by the unit from the annual chicken fry will help the Shrine toward this goal.

BBQ To Help Youth Football

A barbecue dinner at Longwood Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 30, will benefit West Brunswick Youth Football.

Each plate will cost \$3.50. Proceeds will be used to pay off a debt from the 1984 season, said spokeswoman Brenda Russ.

Program Offers Training

Brunswick Buddies, a volunteer program that matches troubled youths with caring adults, will offer a mini training session for new volunteers Monday, March 25, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 113 of the Brunswick County Courthouse.

The session will train adults to work with troubled youths on a one-to-one basis. There is no charge.
 More information is available from Tami Miller, program director, at 253-4417.

Discount Listings Needed

Businesses who would like to be listed in the Senior Citizen Discount Brochure for Brunswick County should contact the Information and Referral Center in Bolivia.

adding new firms and businesses that are not listed," said director Grace Bratt.
 The center also issues Tarheel Senior Citizen Cards at the office at the county government complex in Bolivia.

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