

Loggerhead Sea Turtles Find Another Safe Home

BY TERRY POPE

Another North Carolina coastal community has joined the list of places that strive to protect the nesting loggerhead sea turtle. Holden Beach has become the most southern coastal community in the state to join the loggerhead sea turtle conservation program. The conservation effort is sponsored by the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program administered by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. The addition of Holden Beach to the conservation program boosts the number of coastal towns and communities to 15 that are a part of the effort to protect the loggerheads from extinction. At Holden Beach, resident and former town councilman John Clarke will act as liaison

for the program between the town and wildlife officers. Anyone on Holden Beach who spots a nesting or stranded turtle is asked to contact Clarke. So far this year, there have been seven loggerhead nests discovered on the beach, said Melinda Welton, endangered species project leader with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "This is the first time we've had someone actually accumulate totals on the number of nests on Holden Beach," Ms. Welton said. "In the future, I see no reason why we can't have anywhere from 10 to 15 nests here each year." Ms. Welton spoke to a group of about 50 people at the special meeting of the Holden Beach Community Watch last Thursday.

Nests along Holden Beach have been marked and checked for safety from erosion and predators. Wildlife officers will return in the fall to dig up the nests, to study the eggs that didn't hatch or those that did, in an attempt to learn more about the mysterious loggerheads. There have been approximately 700 loggerhead nests discovered along the N.C. coast this year, Ms. Welton said. Of those, approximately 400 have been aided by the conservation program. The conservation program is funded by the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund, which consists of contributions from individuals as designated on their state income tax returns or other donations. In 1984,

more than \$218,000 was contributed to the program that also works in protecting and hatching bald eagle chicks and peregrine falcon chicks. Most loggerhead nests that are discovered are protected by a wire screen that keeps raccoons and other predators away from the 100 to 120 eggs inside. The nests are not moved unless there is threat of erosion or other damage. Loggerheads lay their eggs from mid-May to early August, with North Carolina being the northernmost state where the females frequently come to shore. Eggs laid in late June or July usually take from 55 to 80 days to hatch. According to Ms. Welton, several things have caused the loggerhead to near the point of extinction, including

coastal development and lights shining along the shore. Female loggerheads are easily disturbed by lights as they come to shore, "so the best thing is to keep outdoor lights down or off after 10 p.m. if you live on the oceanfront," she advised. Anyone seeing a loggerhead coming out of the water should crouch down and wait in the dark for the turtle to find a spot to lay her eggs. It usually takes the turtle about 20 minutes to dig a nest and begin lay-

ing her eggs, she said. Once she begins laying her eggs, she is usually not as easily disturbed. Bright lights are also a problem for the hatchlings, she said. They are attracted to the light and will often go toward the light source rather than toward the water. "Where these little guys go and how long it takes them to grow up is one of the mysteries," Ms. Welton said. "We often see them when they are small and when they are large females, but not in between."

Quick Action Attributed To Increase In Officers

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County sheriff's officers are crediting the department's recently increased manpower with the speedy capture of two robbery suspects Sunday night at a Hickman's Crossroads roadblock. The roadblock, manned by Officer Donald Gates, was one of several set up following report of an assault and robbery of a woman outside the Dockside Restaurant in Calabash, said Phil Perry, chief of detectives with the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

"It was one time the extra manpower came in good," said Perry. "We had the manpower to send an officer to the scene and to set up roadblocks. And we had extra help in the office, a sergeant and an extra dispatcher to call the officers and other agencies simultaneously. "Things went just like they were supposed to," he continued. "Everything was in place. It may not happen again, but it paid off this time." Additional officers and dispatchers were approved for the department

for the budget year that began July 1. The expansion allows a doubling of road patrol officers and assignment of a night sergeant at the office in Bolivia. Charged with common law robbery in the Sunday night incident were Anthony Leon Daniels, 16, of Little River, S.C., and Nathaniel Junior Williams Jr., 19, of Route 1, Little River, S.C. Daniels, also was charged with assault on a female. Both remained in the Brunswick County Jail Tuesday, Daniels under \$5,100 bond and Williams under \$5,000 bond.

Perry said a 26-year-old woman was outside the restaurant at about 11 p.m., waiting for a friend to get off work, when she was confronted by Daniels. After grabbing several parts of her body, he snatched her pocketbook and ran to the side of the restaurant, where Williams had parked their vehicle. The South Carolina Highway Patrol along with area law enforcement officers were given a description of the suspects' vehicle.

Two single-vehicle accidents Thursday and Sunday and a two-car collision early Saturday morning resulted in damages and charges but no injuries, according to Ruby Oakley, spokesperson for the N.C. State Highway Patrol. According to Oakley, Travis Ray Long, 21, of Whiteville, was charged Thursday with leaving the scene of an accident and driving with a revoked license following a 1:15 a.m. accident one mile west of Shallotte on N.C. 130. A report filed by Trooper B.C. Jones states that Long's 1980 Chevrolet ran off the left side of the highway and struck a ditch, causing some \$700 in damages to the vehicle. Long then left then scene of the accident and was apprehended by Jones. Neither Long, nor a passenger in the car, Joseph Lee Long Jr., 21, of Ash, were injured. Oakley also reported a two-vehicle accident which occurred Saturday at 2:15 a.m. on U.S. 17 10 miles South of Shallotte at the intersection of RPR 1300. According to the report filed by

Trooper B.C. Jones, Ruby Evon Gause, 29, of Shallotte, was charged with driving left of center after her 1973 Pontiac crossed the center line and struck a 1975 Chevrolet driven by Walter Stroud, 39, of Spartanburg, S.C. Damage to the Stroud vehicle was estimated at \$3,000, while damage to the Gause vehicle was listed at \$1,500, Oakley said. A third accident, which occurred Sunday at 12:30 p.m. some 3-4/10 miles south of Shallotte on N.C. 179, involved one car and resulted in alcohol-related charges against the driver. Theodore Carlitz Kinlaw, 50, of Shallotte, was charged by Trooper D.B. Harvell after the 1980 Ford truck he was driving ran off the left side of N.C. 179 and struck a ditch. According to Oakley, Kinlaw was charged with DWI and a liquor violation. He was not injured in the accident. Trooper Harvell estimated damages to the Kinlaw vehicle at approximately \$2,500.

Road Construction Monies Approved By State Board

Brunswick County will receive \$442,859 as its 1985-86 allocation for secondary road construction improvements. The funding is a part of over \$47.1 million to be used for that purpose statewide. The funds, appropriated by the General Assembly earlier this month, were approved by the N.C. Board of Transportation July 12.

The legislative action guaranteed that 1-3/8 cents of the state's 12-1/2 cents per gallon gas tax will be used for secondary road improvements. The amount of funding for each county is determined by a formula established by the state legislature. According to the formula, every county receives a percentage of the

total funds based on the unpaved secondary roads in the county in relation to the total mileage of unpaved roads in the state. Statewide, 17,929 secondary road miles remain unpaved, a figure that represents 20 percent of the state's highway system. Brunswick County is listed as having 168.33 miles of un-

paved roads. The funds allocated will be used for improvements such as new paving, widening existing paved roads, improving unpaved roads to an "all weather condition," replacing small bridges, and strengthening paved roads to relieve presently weight restrictions.

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Conservation Funds Head For Southport

The City of Southport will receive close to \$10,000 in federal land and water conservation funds, according to Tommy Rhodes, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. The monies, which are used to

assist local government and state park programs, is part of \$1.6 million in project recommendations announced by the department. Funding received from the 1985 program must be matched. The match money can come from in-kind donations of land or materials or

General Revenue Sharing of Community Development Block Grant funds. Southport will receive \$9,750 in funding. Also to receive funding is the City of Wilmington, which has been recommended to receive the maximum \$50,000 grant allowed.

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Two Injured In Accidents

Two people were seriously injured last week in accidents on Brunswick County's highways during the extended Fourth of July holiday weekend, the State Highway Patrol reported.

by John F. Ballard, 46, of Leland. Both Ms. Davis and Ballard received minor injuries and were taken to Doshier Memorial in Southport.

Typical mid-summer weather should continue not only into the next several days, but through the next 30 days or so, says Jackson Canady, Shallotte Point meteorologist. "It's good to know we're going to have a typical summer," he added Tuesday.

102 degrees during the period of July 9-15, occurring on the 9th. "Anytime it gets that hot here it's probably close to a record," Canady noted.

Also on the 9th and again on the 11th, the minimum low temperature dipped to a comfortable sleeping temperature of 65 degrees.

An average daily high of 98 degrees and an average daily low of 68 degrees combined for a daily average temperature of 83 degrees, which Canady said was about three degrees above normal.

Overall, it was a relatively quiet Fourth of July for Brunswick County except for the two accidents, said Highway Patrol spokeswoman Ruby Oakley.

Trooper Dove charged Ms. Davis with driving on the wrong side of the road in the accident.

Typical of mid-July, temperatures should range around 70 degrees at night to around 90 degrees in the daytime, he said, with about three-quarters inch of rainfall.

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He measured .84 inch of rain in his backyard gauge at Shallotte Point.

In one accident, a Southport boy was seriously injured Saturday afternoon after the car in which he was riding was reported to have crossed the center line and struck a pickup truck on N.C. 87 near Boiling Spring Lakes.

Dan Daley, 20, of Camp Lejeune was seriously injured in the accident and taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington. Also receiving minor injuries were Michael Ray Seawood, 21, the driver of the car, Darick Hayes, 21, and Timothy Shaw, 18, all from Camp Lejeune.

According to Dove's report, Seawood was driving on a straight stretch of highway when he ran off the road on the left, came back onto the highway, ran off the right side and overturned.

He measured .84 inch of rain in his backyard gauge at Shallotte Point.

Seawood stated another car ran him off the road. No charges were filed in the 3:30 p.m. accident. Damage was estimated at \$1,200.

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