

Dolphins Wash Ashore

PHOTOS BY JOHN CLARKE

Two dead dolphins washed ashore recently at Holden Beach. At left, Gloria Barrett examines the most recent one which washed up at 237 Ocean Boulevard West Saturday, Oct. 17. The other one (at right) washed up Oct. 11 at 941 Ocean Boulevard West. Both were about eight feet long. One is thought

to have died as a result of an injury caused by being caught in a fish net, and the other is thought to have died of sickness. Both were buried by Holden Beach maintenance crews.

Street Maintenance Funds Allocated

Brunswick County's city streets will ride a little smoother next year thanks to the distribution this month of more than \$487,000 in street aid to 11 municipalities.

The aid, known as "Powell Bill" funds, is allotted to participating cities and towns by the N.C. Department of Transportation for improvements to streets and roads not included on the state highway system.

The funds are distributed based on a formula set by the General Assembly. Some 75 percent of the money is allocated on the basis of population, while the number of non-state system street miles in each municipality is used to calculate the remaining 25 percent.

Boiling Spring Lakes received the largest allocation in Brunswick County, \$153,885.74, based on an

estimated 1986 population of 1,448 and 114.11 miles of non-system roads. Other local allocations include:

- Long Beach, \$142,939.99 (2,961 population/82.98 miles);
- Southport, \$77,950.67 (3,499/18.39);
- Shallotte, \$30,365.29 (1,035/11.84);
- Ocean Isle Beach, \$21,191.65 (322/13.97);
- Sunset Beach, \$19,492.97 (440/10.80);
- Holden Beach, \$17,851.90 (349/10.66);

- Navassa, \$9,406.62 (479/1.41);
- Bolivia, \$6,865.46 (332/1.28);
- Calabash, \$4,431.15 (160/1.6); and
- Caswell Beach, \$2,850.66 (159/.23).

The local municipalities' combined allocations amounted to \$487,202.10, with a combined population of 11,184 and 267.27 miles of non-state system roads.

This year's record allocation across the state includes for the first time the full effects of an increase in the level of contributions that resulted from the partial adoption of Governor Jim Martin's "Roads to the Future" program by the 1986 General Assembly.

Last year's statewide allocation was \$54.7 million and included some but not all of the increased funding level.

Across the state, Charlotte received the largest amount, \$7.7 million, while the Pitt County town of Falkland received the smallest amount, \$2,240.15.

Charlotte's share is based on an estimated 1986 population of 376,228 and 1,427.61 non-system miles. Falkland's population is 125, with .18 miles of non-system miles.

The Powell Bill was established by the General Assembly in 1951 as a means of providing the state's cities and towns with money to build and maintain streets not included on the state highway system.

Named for State Senator and former Whiteville Mayor Junius K. Powell, the original legislation called for the state to turn over one-half cent of the state's original 7 1/4-cent per gallon gas tax to local governments for use, largely at their own discretion, for improvements to non-state maintained urban streets.

The state's contribution was increased in 1972 to one cent per gallon, in 1981 to 1 1/2 cents per gallon, and in 1986 to 1 3/4 cents per gallon.

This year the department is again electronically transferring the funds to more than 20 percent of the municipalities instead of mailing checks. These transfers represent 75 percent of the total allocation.

Woods Fire Extinguished

At least 25 firefighters from four volunteer fire departments and the state forest service extinguished a woods fire last week near Calabash.

According to Calabash Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief David Scott, a wooded area located 1 1/2 miles off N.C. 179 on Old Georgetown Road near Pearl Golf Links burned in the 10:35 p.m. Thursday blaze.

Scott said the woods fire covered an approximate 200-yard radius and involved no buildings.

"If we'd had wind, we really would've had a bad situation," Scott said, noting that the fire spread slowly through the underbrush, allowing firemen to contain the blaze.

One Calabash VFD firemen suffered an apparently minor injury while firefighting efforts were underway, he said.

Willie Stanley was treated at the scene, after he was struck in the eye

by a tree limb, Scott said.

Thirteen firemen and one truck from Calabash VFD responded to the initial fire call, which was phoned in by a golf course security guard, Scott said.

In addition, manpower and three additional trucks were sent from the Sunset Beach, Shallotte and Shallotte Point volunteer fire departments.

A plow from the N.C. Forest Service was used to cut a fire break around the burned area, after volunteers contained the blaze.

"There wasn't much water used," Scott said. "It was mainly manpower—using brooms, rakes, shovels or anything we could get our hands on—to put it out."

Firefighters were on the scene for about 3 1/2 hours, he said.

Scott said Friday that the cause of the blaze was not determined, but that it apparently was not the result of controlled burning.

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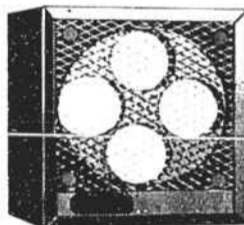
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