



HOLDEN BEACH SWEEPERS Colleen Slusher and Adeline Broadnax brave a misty morning to make the strand a cleaner place. STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

Big Sweepers Clean Area Beaches

BY SUSAN USHER AND DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County's beaches are a lot cleaner thanks to an estimated 700 volunteers who braved rain showers Saturday to pick up plastic bottles, aluminum cans and other litter as part of the statewide Big Sweep.

"Considering the rain and all we had a real good turnout," said Becky Proctor of Ocean Isle Beach, where between 175 and 200 volunteers collected about 2,000 pounds of garbage.

Plastic and paper products, fishing line, aluminum containers, rusty lawn chairs, fishing nets and six-pack rings were bagged by volunteers and logged on cards that will be used to compile statewide data.

Besides cleaning trash from beaches, lakes and streams, Big Sweep's goal is to educate people about the negative effects litter has on shore birds and marine animals.

Cigarette butts, which have plastic filters that can be hazardous to wildlife, seemed to be the most common find on area beaches, just as they were last year.

"We still have our butts. They're still the leader," said Sunset Beach Coordinator Minnie Hunt. The 13 "teams" that worked the Sunset beachfront logged at least 9,563 cigarette butts.

Holden Beach Coordinator Gay

Atkins said between 25 and 30 volunteers participated in this year's Big Sweep.

"It went real well," she said. "Even though it rained, a lot of them had picked up their bags early and knew where their area was and could do the cleanup on their own. Some people cleaned up their area on Friday."

Atkins said volunteers filled the town's dump truck halfway to the top with trash bags full of plastics, paper, fishing line and nets, bait bags and "a ton" of cigarette butts.

She said much of the litter at Holden appears to be coming from boats. "I think the public has been real good this year on the beach putting their debris in containers," Atkins said.

"It has to be the boaters. We need to make the boaters to realize when they throw it overboard it's going to come to shore."

Atkins also said the public parking lot under the bridge was covered with small piles of cigarette butts and ashes. "If we could get the boaters and drivers to stop dumping we'd probably be in fairly decent shape."

Atkins said volunteers cleaned some of the island's marsh areas. The town's beautification committee plans to pick up litter on the north side of the island along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway later this year.

Among the more unusual finds at Holden Beach Saturday were a brown toupee and fake dog dropping made of plastic.

"The two people who found it were like, 'Oh my gosh.' Before they decided who was going to pick it up they realized it was fake," Atkins said.

At Sunset Beach, 22 teams comprised of approximately 90 volunteers swept not only the beachfront but also the causeway and walkways. The group included a local Girl Scout troop.

"It was a relatively clean beach to begin with, in my opinion," said Hunt, who coordinated this year's event with Sue Weddle.

Volunteers found debris from a recent shipwreck on the beach, including lumber and pieces of plastic foam. Other finds included almost 500 food wrappers, 49 balloons, assorted metal caps and beverage cans, and at least two golf balls.

Even with intermittent rainfall, Hunt said teams assigned to the causeway and the area from 40th Street to Madd Inlet worked until after 12:30 p.m., showing "dedication beyond the call of duty."

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is planning a canoe sweep this Saturday on Rice's Creek and Town Creek. People will pick up trash as they ride.

Oak Island Coast Guard Station Investigates Two Local Fatalities

An autopsy has revealed that an unidentified man found dead aboard a commercial fishing boat off Fryling Pan Shoals Monday died of natural causes arising from a severe case of cirrhosis of the liver, a spokesman from the U.S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island said Tuesday.

The station also took part in a search for a Wilmington man who drowned in the Cape Fear River Saturday after his 12-foot johnboat was capsized by waves from a passing barge. The man's body was found Monday morning.

The man who died aboard the 42-foot scallop fishing vessel *Still Crazy VI* may have been a Canadian, Coast Guard Petty Officer Norman MacLeod said Tuesday. Known only as "Mike," the man boarded the boat at Murrells Inlet, S.C., after asking to work in exchange for food.

Crew members said the man, who appeared to be in his mid-30s, had worked all day Sunday and lay down after complaining that he was sick. He was found dead the next day at about 9:30, MacLeod said. Witnesses said they heard the man vomiting during the night.

The body was brought to the American Fish Co. dock in Southport at about 5 p.m. and sent to Jacksonville for an autopsy.

The *Still Crazy VI* is owned by Agency Fisheries Inc. of Murrells Inlet.

■Saturday at around noon, the Oak Island Station received a call from the tugboat "Dave" reporting a capsized johnboat approximately 200 feet south of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge with three persons in the water,

station chief BMSC J.D. Arndt said Tuesday.

With only two of the people aboard accounted for, the station launched its 21-foot to assist in a search for the missing man along with the Wilmington fire boat, the Ogden Rescue Squad, the U.S. Marine helicopter "Pedro," the Maine Safety Office in Wilmington, a N.C. Wildlife boat and a small boat from the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Diligence.

The search for Mack Lynwood Brown, 27, of Wilmington was called off that night and resumed the next day. His body was found Sunday morning at about 9:30 near where the boat capsized, Arndt said.

■Later that day, the station responded to a report of an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) transmitting a distress signal from Coquina Harbor. A search of the area found the beacon aboard the vessel Builder's Choice, which was not in distress.

■On Sept. 15 at about 3:10 p.m., a call was received from a vessel reporting white smoke rising from the water in the vicinity of Ocean Isle Beach. The station launched its 41-foot patrol boat and notified the Brunswick County Emergency Operations (911) center.

A short time later, the Ocean Isle Beach Police reported that the smoke was caused by trash being burned at the west end of the beach.

■At about noon on Sept. 18, the station received a call from a man who said he had picked up a CB radio transmission from a vessel disabled off Bald Head Island. The station notified the Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel "25959," which was in the area and towed the boat ashore.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Ball Receives Awards From SilverStriders

Robert Ball of Ocean Isle Beach has joined the ranks of SilverStriders who have reached the 1,000-mile mark.

Ball walks for health, fitness and enjoyment in the statewide walking club. He has received eight awards and gifts since joining.

SilverStriders is North Carolina's statewide walking club for adults 50 and older; it is designed for people who are interested in an individualized walking program. Walking is known to reduce high blood pressure, reduce body fat, lower cholesterol levels, reduce stress and help people sleep better.

A free SilverStriders log book is available to record miles or minutes walked. It contains tips and helpful information about walking. Log books are available from senior centers, recreation departments, NationsBank branches and local Senior Games offices, or send a self-addressed envelope to N.C. Senior Games, P.O. Box 33514, Raleigh NC 27636.

SilverStriders is presented by N.C. Senior Games Inc., a nonprofit organization which provides year-round health promotion and education for people 55 and older.

Completes Basic

Navy Seaman George S. Kelley recently completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Kelley is the son of Theresa M. and George S. Kelley Sr. of Leland School Road, Leland.

During the cycle, recruits were taught general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 occupational fields.

Studies include seamanship, close

order drill, naval history and first aid.

Kelley is the 1991 graduate of North Brunswick High School.

Reports To Submarine

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Tony E. Williams recently reported for duty aboard the submarine USS Baton Rouge, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Williams is the son of Helen B. Hall of Route 2, Bolivia.

The 1976 graduate of Springfield Gardens High School of Jamaica, N.Y., joined the Navy in September 1980.

Airman Returns

Navy Airman Recruit Kareem M. Waddell, son of Debra Y. Waddell of Leland, recently returned from a six-month Mediterranean and Red Sea deployment with Strike Fighter Squadron 15, Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Fla., embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, the lead ship of its battle group.

The ship, with its 5,200-man crew and embarked air wing personnel as well as its Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force of 600 Marines, supported Operation Deny Flight, enforcing the U.N.-sanctioned "no-fly" zone over Bosnia Herzegovina. Aircraft from USS Roosevelt also supported Operation Provide Promise by monitoring humanitarian air drop missions into the troubled former Yugoslavia.

Additionally, the aircraft carrier demonstrated its value as a tool of foreign policy following a U.S. missile attack on Iraqi intelligence gathering facilities. The ship transited on short notice from the Adriatic into the Red Sea to assist in Operation Southern Watch, enforcing yet an-

other "no-fly" zone over Southern Iraq.

Waddell's squadron flies the F/A-18 Hornet strike fighter.

Since departing Norfolk in March, the carrier spent 165 of 183 days at sea. Waddell enjoyed port visits to Rhodes and Corfu, Greece, and Naples, Italy.

The 1990 graduate of North Brunswick High School joined the Navy in November 1990.

Back In San Diego

Navy Airman Apprentice James L. Barrier, a 1989 graduate of South Brunswick High School, recently returned aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* to San Diego.

The 31-year-old ship left its home port in 1990 for a three-year \$800 million overhaul at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard which extended its operational service life by 15 years.

Enroute to San Diego, Barrier participated in cooperative naval exercises with many South American countries and visited St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Port of Spain, Trinidad; and Acapulco, Mexico.

He joined the Navy in June 1992.

CFCC Honor Students

Several Brunswick County students were named to honor lists at Cape Fear Community College for the summer quarter. They include:

President's List (straight A's)—Sharon B. Creech, Leland; Warren D. Frink, Leland; Rebecca S. Milligan, Long Beach; and Monica S. Skimmiehorn, Leland.

Dean's List (grade point average of 3.5 or better with no grade lower than C) Fawn M. Byrd, Winnabow; Daniel X. Cook, Caswell Beach; Tannis T. Jenkins, Leland; Erich B.W. Vereen, Long Beach; and Robert R. Wiggins, Leland.

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DR. ROBIN LABOD

Mayor Betty Williamson draws the winning name for a free 8'x10' sunroom. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Winter of Shallotte!



Pictured left to right, front row: Eddie Dobyne, owner, Pat Lambors, Mayor Betty Williamson, Lee Dobyne, owner. Back row: Sidney Vanderslice, Van Hewett, Don Eaton.

10 runners-up will receive a \$500 gift certificate good toward the purchase of a sunroom.

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