

# County, Islands Prepare For Storm's Anticipated Approach

BY RAHN ADAMS

Even though storm trackers' best guess Tuesday was that Hurricane Hugo would hit the East Coast somewhere between the Outer Banks and Florida late this week, local emergency officials and residents of the South Brunswick Islands braced for the worst. "The only thing we can hope for is for (the storm)

to die down," Brunswick County Emergency Management Director Cecil Logan said Tuesday afternoon. He added that a staff member at the National Hurricane Center near Miami, Fla., told him earlier in the day that Brunswick County had "as good a chance as anybody" to be hit by the storm. As of Tuesday afternoon, the center of Hugo was

located approximately 170 miles east of Grand Turk Island at the southeast end of the Bahamas, according to the National Weather Service. With maximum sustained winds of 105 mph, the storm was expected to continue a northwesterly course at least through Wednesday afternoon. "It's definitely a threat to the United States main-

land," Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday morning. "The question is where it will be a threat late this week... We just have to be cautious that there's a hurricane moving in our direction."

Canady noted that forecasters probably wouldn't be able to accurately predict the hurricane's course (See COUNTY, Page 2-A)

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY  
12/31/99  
PO BOX 162  
SPRINGPORT MI 49284

Twenty-seventh Year, Number 46 ©1989 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON Shallotte, North Carolina, Thursday, September 21, 1989 25¢ Per Copy 34 Pages, 3 Sections, Plus Insert

## 3 Die In Separate Wrecks Near Bolivia, Shallotte

A pedestrian, a motorist and a bicycle rider died from injuries suffered in three separate traffic accidents since Saturday in the Bolivia and Shallotte areas.

Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley identified the victims as Charlie C. Bernard, 57, of Route 1, Bolivia; Terry Wayne Rogers, 31, of Shallotte; and Kevin Dale Furr, 12, of Concord.

Ms. Oakley said the three fatalities raised this year's highway death toll in Brunswick County to 12. Thirteen traffic deaths were recorded through the end of September 1988.

The most recent of the three accidents happened Monday at 7:45 p.m., 5.1 miles southeast of Bolivia on Midway Road.

Bernard was walking in the roadway with his back to traffic when he stepped in front of a 1979 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Zack R. Smith, 64, of Route 1, Bolivia, according to Trooper C.E. Ward.

Witnesses stated that Smith "did everything he could" to attempt to avoid hitting Bernard, Ward said. He added that Bernard apparently had been drinking prior to the accident. Also, the victim was wearing dark-colored clothing.

Brunswick County Coroner Greg White said Bernard died Monday at 10:13 p.m., at The Brunswick Hospital, Supply.

Ward said no charges were filed in connection with the accident.

Sunday at 1:30 a.m., Rogers was killed and an Ash man was seriously injured in a one-vehicle crash 2.2 miles south of Shallotte on Ocean Isle Beach Road.

Ms. Oakley noted that Rogers' 1984 Chevrolet truck was headed west at an estimated 110 mph, when it ran off the left shoulder, veered back across the road, then ran off the right shoulder and overturned.

Rogers, who was dead on the scene, was thrown 59 feet from where the vehicle came to rest. A passenger—Ronald Babson, 41, of Ash—suffered incapacitating injuries and was taken to The Brunswick Hospital for treatment.

Trooper W.H. Thompson investigated the accident and estimated damage to the truck at \$3,500. His report indicated that the wreck was alcohol-related.

The other fatal accident happened Saturday at 4:50 p.m., 5.7 miles east of Shallotte on Kirby Road.

According to a report filed by Thompson, Furr was struck and killed when he rode his bicycle from a private driveway into the path of a 1988 Nissan pickup truck driven by Michael Norman McKinney, 19, of Shallotte. The truck was headed east on Kirby Road.

The child was thrown 106 feet from the point of impact, Ms. Oakley said. McKinney was not injured. Damage to his vehicle was estimated at \$1,800. Charges were pending Tuesday in the case.

## Three Brunswick Men Plead Guilty To Cocaine Charges

Three local men who were among 13 defendants indicted in June by a Brunswick County investigative grand jury pleaded guilty last week to cocaine trafficking charges.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, the trio included Christopher Verlie Parham, 28, of Seaside; Allison Leland Reaves, 31, of Shallotte; and Kenneth Leon Thorne, 29, of Calabash.

In court appearances on Sept. 11

and 12, all three pleaded guilty as charged. Judge Giles R. Clark continued their sentences until the current Sept. 18 term of Brunswick County Superior Criminal Court.

Parham will be sentenced on charges of conspiracy to traffic in more than 28 grams of cocaine, six counts of trafficking in more than 28 grams of cocaine, conspiracy to traffic in more than 400 grams of

(See 3 PLEAD, Page 2-A)



THIS SHOT of the United Carolina Bank robber was taken by a security camera.

## Calabash UCB Robber May Have Struck Security Branch

The man who robbed the United Carolina Bank branch in Calabash last Monday may be the same man who robbed the Security Savings & Loan branch there in July.

FBI Special Agent Paul Cox said the robbers in both cases wore a white fishing hat with a round rim and dark sunglasses. Also, tellers' descriptions of the robbers matched closely and the same method of operation was used in both cases.

The armed robbery at United Carolina Bank occurred last Monday at about 5 p.m. when a white man carrying an automatic handgun entered the branch on N.C. 179 and stole an undisclosed sum of money. The armed robbery at Security Savings & Loan occurred July 18 in much the same manner.

The UCB robber was described as a 40- to 45-year-old man about 5 feet, six inches tall. He was wearing a long-sleeved sweatshirt that may have been gray and carrying a beige camera bag with dark brown trim.

Authorities said the man who robbed the Security S&L branch in Calabash about two months ago was about 40 years old and between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 9 inches in height. He used what appeared to be a .45-caliber handgun and carried a black bag.

Cox said several people in Calabash told authorities they saw the UCB robber outside the bank last Monday before he committed the crime. He added that at least two people in the community have said they could identify the man if they saw him again.

The man was last seen after the robbery heading toward the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway on foot, said Cox.

The N.C. Bankers Association is offering a reward of up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the UCB robber.

The N.C. League of Savings Institutions is offering a similar cash reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the man who committed the July 18 robbery.

Anyone with information on either of the robberies can contact the FBI office in Wilmington, 762-9389, or the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, 253-4321.

## BEMC Crew Opts For Union On 45-16 Vote

BY SUSAN USHER

Eligible employees of Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. voted 2-1 Tuesday for union representation in quiet balloting at the cooperative's three offices in Brunswick and Columbus counties.

All but one of the 62 employees eligible to vote cast ballots, 45 for affiliation with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and 16 against, far exceeding the 51 percent vote required for approval.

With the election, affected employees gain the authority to negotiate wages and employment benefits. Also, BEMC becomes the second unionized electric co-operative of the 28 in North Carolina. The other is Tri-County EMC in Goldsboro.

In an interview prior to a tallying of the vote Tuesday evening, BEMC General Manager David Batten said he "saw no reason whatsoever" for a union, and said he was optimistic that BEMC employees would choose not to unionize. Directors of the co-op also opposed the unionization effort.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, Batten said he expected smooth relations. "We've got real good employees. Just because we have a difference of opinion on something we shouldn't be divided. We have a job to do, a good organization and sound service."

While wages and other benefits will now be subject to negotiation, Batten said BEMC has been adjusting its wage scales in all job classifications over the past three years in an effort to bring them up to the statewide co-op average. "We should reach that this year, regardless," said Batten.

He pointed out that all four counties in BEMC's service area are identified by the N.C. Department of Labor as "economically depressed"—Brunswick, Bladen, Colum-

bus and Robeson.

Ruff said BEMC employees sought out the union because they wanted the right of collective bargaining. "The employees at that co-op really did not feel they were a part of it," he said.

Barring an appeal of the election's outcome—which is not expected—once the union is formally certified, an employee committee will be named. This committee will use data provided by management to develop a proposal to take to the bargaining table.

Tuesday's election was conducted by representatives of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at BEMC's Oak Island office, 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. at the Shallotte headquarters, and 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Whiteville office.

Efforts to unionize the co-op began earlier when IBEW Local 495 in Wilmington filed a petition with the NLRB in Winston-Salem after receiving authorization cards from 30 percent of the employees it thought eligible for the union.

Following a subpoena hearing in Southport that was not locally advertised, the NLRB approved plans for the election and determined which employees would be eligible to vote and to hold union membership. Where the IBEW had identified 46 individuals, the NLRB expanded the list to include 62 people. Second largest co-op in the state, BEMC employs 151 people and has approximately 37,000 members.

Those allowed to vote and hold membership include: right-of-way operators, groundmen, apprentice linemen, first class and second class linemen, heavy equipment operators, electronic technicians, warehousemen, assistant warehousemen, servicemen, lighting technicians, (See BEMC, Page 2-A)

## EMC Adopts Management Plan For Lower Lockwood Folly River

BY DOUG RUTTER

State officials and local commercial fishing community leaders agree that a water quality management plan adopted last week and effective next Jan. 1 should help correct pollution problems in Lockwood Folly River.

But they're not sure how long it will take to reverse the trend toward degradation or whether polluted shellfish waters will be reopened to harvesting in the future.

The lower section of Lockwood Folly River, north of the inland waterway to a line from Genoes Point to Mullet Creek, was one of eight coastal waters in the state nominated as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW).

The N.C. Environmental Management Commission (EMC) last Thursday denied ORW status for Lockwood Folly, but adopted a management plan carrying many of the same limits on development. Each of the other seven bodies of water nominated were approved as ORWs.

To qualify as an ORW, a body of water had to have excellent water quality and an exceptional ecological or recreational resource value.

While recognizing the lower section of the river as one of the best shellfishing areas in North Carolina, the state did not recommend Lockwood Folly River for the status because of a continuing problem in the river with pollution over the past decade.

From 1985 to 1987, the state estimates that more than 40 percent of Brunswick County's shellfish came from Lockwood Folly River. But at different times over the past year, all or most of the river has been closed to oyster and clam harvesting due to high bacteria levels.

In adopting the management plan last week, the EMC made a commitment to do all it can to protect the river from pollution. If water quality improves, the lower portion of Lockwood Folly may be reclassified as an ORW at a later date.

Annie Smigiel of Varnamtown, president of Save Our Shellfish, said she believes any limits imposed on development will help reduce pollution in the river. She

and others in the group have not given up on the ORW status they have pushed for since forming last fall.

"At this stage, we'll take anything we can get. Every little bit helps," she said. "Anything that they can do to help that river is an improvement."

Lockwood Folly's management plan was adopted with the hope of improving water quality and reopening shellfish beds now shut down due to pollution. "Hopefully, we can get it cleaned up and get it designated as an ORW," added Mrs. Smigiel.

Alan Klimek, assistant chief of water quality planning for the state Division of Environmental Management, said, "I think that if the recommendations in this plan are implemented there will be improvements in water quality."

Other state officials agreed. But they refused to offer any guess as to how long it may be before water quality in the river improves to the point that oyster and clam beds can reopen. "No one can say for sure how long it will take," said Klimek. "We'll just have to wait and see."

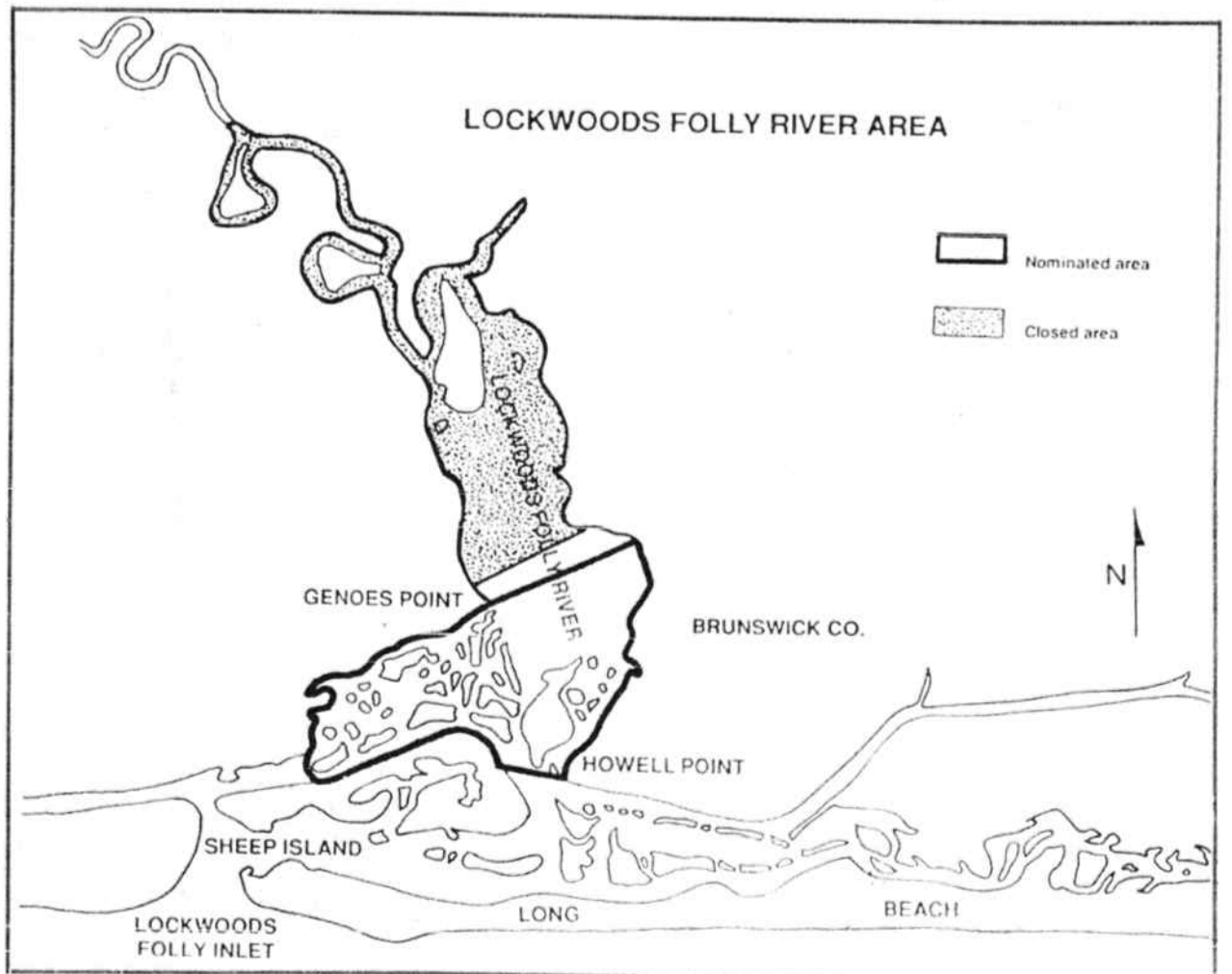
Under the management plan, new development within 575 feet of the shoreline that requires a sedimentation erosion control plan or a major CAMA permit will be limited. The "low density" option prohibits builders from covering more than 25 percent of a lot with impervious surfaces such as rooftops or driveways.

Also, all new or expanded marinas in the area will have to be located in upland basin areas. A marina proposed at the Lockwood Folly golf community on the western shore of the river will have to meet the special requirements, according to Jim Herstine, regional manager of the state Division of Coastal Management.

However, he said developers have always planned to put the marina in an upland basin area and meet the low density requirement. "I don't think there's anything they will have to change because of the vote yesterday," Herstine said Friday.

The management plan, which applies to about 420 acres of the river, also prohibits dredge and fill activi-

(See MANAGEMENT, Page 2-A)



APPROXIMATELY 420 ACRES in lower Lockwood Folly River, outlined in black, will receive special protection under a water quality management plan approved last week by the state Environmental Management Commission.