

# 'Bolton Posse' Marches In Bolivia To Protest Columbus Shooting Case

BY RAHN ADAMS

Calling themselves the "Bolton Posse," approximately 75 Bolton area residents marched Saturday afternoon in Bolivia to protest 13th District Attorney Mike Easley's handling of an investigation into the February shooting death of Bolton Mayor Sidney Bowen.

The 42-year-old Bowen was shot five times and killed Feb. 27 by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper A.E. Morris after Bowen allegedly resisted arrest and beat Morris with a flashlight during a suspected drunk-driving stop in front of the victim's Bolton home. A Columbus County grand jury last month cleared Morris of any wrongdoing.

Organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Saturday's march began at Rutland Chapel AME Church on Midway Road and proceeded to the Brunswick County Courthouse. After an hour-long rally in front of the courthouse, the group marched back to Rutland Chapel. The event lasted from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Department officers including Sheriff John C. Davis stopped traffic and escorted the marchers along the parade route. Marching three abreast in one lane of travel, members of the group waved green, black and red African National Congress flags and carried placards with slogans such as "SCLC Supports The Bolton Movement."

Other than slowing Easter weekend traffic on U.S. 17 from Midway Road to the county government center, the protesters attracted little outside attention during the rally at the courthouse, mainly due to the complex's isolated locale and because it was closed for the long holiday weekend. Davis said Monday that no problems—other than the traffic slowdown—occurred during the protest.

SCLC Crisis Control Manager Golden Frinks, a Tabor City native, said most of the individuals participating in the march and rally were Bolton area residents. He added that the group has marched in several other areas throughout the region and picked Bolivia "because Mr. Easley is here." The 13th District Attorney's office covers Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties.

Easley, who is running for the Democratic U.S.



THE "BOLTON POSSE" MARCHES on U.S. 17 in Bolivia Saturday to draw attention to a Columbus County controversy involving the Feb. 27 shooting death of Bolton Mayor Sidney Bowen.

STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

Senete nomination, could not be reached for a response Monday or Tuesday as he was making campaign appearances in the Piedmont and western sections of the state, according to his family and staff.

Last month, the district attorney presented the shooting case to the Columbus County grand jury for review. After its investigation, the grand jury decided March 15 not to indict Morris in connection with Bowen's death.

"We're trying to raise the issue that it be known that Mr. Easley and that the Highway Patrol and those did not use the justice and the investigative power that they had to investigate this thing," Frinks told the *Beacon*. He added that the case remains under investigation by

the U.S. Justice Department, American Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights organizations.

Local speakers at the rally included Jesse Bryant, president of the Cedar Grove chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "This is a sad day for me," Bryant said. "I have run and not grown weary. Now I'm ready to walk and not get tired."

In pledging the local NAACP's support, Bryant noted that he read a newspaper account last month about three Bladen County men who were "tried and convicted for night-riding and shooting deer at night. About seven days later I picked up the paper and I saw that Sidney Bowen was run down at night and shot, and

there wasn't a thing in the world said about it. How sad... We in the NAACP are in this fight to win."

Bowen's niece, Bolivia area resident Linda Hankins, also addressed the marchers. "I am for justice," Mrs. Hankins said. "I will not rest until I feel my uncle has gotten justice. No one deserves to die just because they got a can of beer."

She added that she felt racial issues influenced the authorities' handling of the case. Bowen was black; Morris is white. "I strongly believe that if it had been reversed that I believe the people would have pulled together and they would have done something," Mrs. Hankins said. "They're not going to stand up and let justice and let the system do that to people."

## Marina Decision Delayed Again

A decision on whether to allow construction of a controversial marina on the Lockwood Folly River—originally expected nearly two years ago—has been delayed again and is still at least a month away.

Plans for a marina at the Lockwood Folly golf community near Holden Beach submitted in February were incomplete and new plans and a permit application were submitted this week, said Jim Herstine, head of the state Division of Coastal Management's Wilmington office.

After receiving the plans in February, Herstine said a decision on whether to grant or deny the permit could be made before the end of April. But since that application was incomplete, Herstine said this week that a decision is still more than a month away.

Channel Side Corp. submitted its original major CAMA permit application in April 1988 with plans to build a private 50-slip marina and dry storage area near some of the richest shellfish beds in lower Lockwood Folly River.

Plans submitted about two months ago for the Genoa Point Boat Basin were scaled down in response to concern from local fishermen who harvest oysters and clams in Lockwood Folly River. They called for 26 slips, one boat ramp and no dry storage area.

Herstine said the application and plans received Monday are similar to the set of plans submitted two months ago and appear to be complete. He said a decision on the permit application, which will have to be reviewed by 14 state and federal agencies, will probably be made at the end of May or in early June.

## Visitors Center Operation Agreement 'Signing' Today

A state visitors center to be built on the U.S. 17 Shallotte bypass comes a step closer to reality today (Thursday), when State Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson and local tourism promoters are scheduled to sign a joint agreement regarding the facility.

Harrelson was expected to also unveil final design plans for the center during the 11 a.m. press conference at the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce office in Shallotte, chamber executive Susanne Sartelle said Tuesday, adding, "We don't really know a whole lot more."

Harrelson could not be reached for comment.

The center will be built by the N.C. Department of Transportation and furnished and operated by Southeastern Welcome Center Inc. The organization was formed by the South Brunswick Islands, Southport-Oak Island and Greater Wilmington Chambers of Commerce and the Cape Fear Convention & Visitors Bureau for the purpose of operating the welcome center. Its representatives are, respectively, Susanne Sartelle, Douglas

Kerr, Joseph Augustine and Jane Peterson.

In a campaign backed by the local chamber, Rep. E. David Redwine helped obtain state approval and funding for the center, which is to be built in conjunction with the bypass now under construction.

However, last year Redwine ran afoul of the N.C. Department of Transportation when he co-sponsored a bill that would have taken a portion of the profits from personal license tag sales for operation of this and two other planned regional visitors centers. Proceeds from the tags finance the state's popular roadside beautification fund. At one point the future of the centers appeared threatened; however, the transportation department and backers of the centers reached an agreement in which the former would build the centers and their local communities would operate them, as was the original intent when the centers were approved.

As planned the visitors' center will provide a rest area and information point for visitors entering the state from South Carolina and for those visiting the coastal area.

## Sunset Wants County And Towns Involved In Recycling Project

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach town officials and members of the Volunteers for Recycling organization spent 1 1/2 hours Tuesday evening looking at alternatives for operating the community's recycling center but reached no solutions.

However, the town council will discuss at its May 7 meeting a proposal by Councilman Ed Gore to seek a joint work session with county commissioners, to which other towns would be invited. "I don't want to lose the momentum of what we've got started here," he said, "but inevitably there is a point where the county has to do something." One possibility would be a collection or receiving center to handle recyclables collected in individual communities.

Both the town and volunteers are concerned about maintaining the quality of the site, and about gaining support for its operation from Brunswick County and adjacent communities.

Sited on town-owned property, the collection center is operated by volunteers and serves all of southwestern Brunswick County. Since its opening the facility has handled approximately 58 tons of household recyclables.

Areas are set aside at the former town maintenance shed for clear, green and brown glass, plastics, aluminum and steel beverage cans, and newspapers. Most items are unloaded directly into green boxes, while newspapers are stacked in the shed and then loaded and hauled by flatbed truck to a Florence, S.C., processing center.

Volunteers for Recycling Coordinator Chance Scramton told council members Tuesday that the recycler wants to switch to a closed trailer, to eliminate hauling the green boxes to and from Florence.

Both the town and volunteers don't like the idea, but say it appears to be a necessary move, at least until some other arrangements can be worked out. Councilman Bud Scramton recommended obtaining a second flatbed and additional green boxes, so as to eliminate the need for turn-around hauling of the empty boxes. The volunteers would also like to acquire an enclosed trailer for paper storage, and a compactor for reducing the volume of waste stored.

"We've got a super system—bet-

ter than anyone else around—and I don't want to lose it," he added.

The Scramtons and other Volunteers for Recycling workers are predicting that the recycler will quickly find that it will take more trips to and from Florence to empty an enclosed 40-foot than are now required to empty the green boxes. The center will be closed through May 7 to allow for emptying of the existing containers and for siting of the closed trailer.

Meanwhile, both the volunteers and the towns have other concerns about the recycling center, particularly the need for support, both financial and otherwise, from Brunswick County and surrounding communities whose residents use the facility, indicated Councilman Julia Thomas.

Presently, Sunset Beach is the only government that supports its operation.

"There's the question of money and there are people expressing the concern that they don't want Sunset Beach to become a dumping ground for the entire county," said Mayor Mason Barber. Scramton indicated questions are also being raised as to when the county is going to get involved in local recycling and other waste reduction efforts, as mandated by Senate Bill 111.

"The county hasn't even started talking about how they're going to handle it," said Barber. "But most of the towns are waiting to see what the county's going to do."

Since it is being operated on town property, the recycling center is expected to be turned over to the town shortly, though it will continue to operate with volunteers. Also, the town must obtain a state permit required of recycling centers.

Planning Board Chairman Richard Good said that he thought area residents would voluntarily support the cost of equipping the recycling center, in addition to or instead of any support from the county or area towns.

**Public Hearings Set**  
In a special meeting held immediately before the workshop, town council set public hearings for 7:30 p.m. May 7 on the proposed creation of a new mobile home residential zoning district and rezoning of a portion of Bonaparte's Retreat from MH-1 to the new zone, MH-2.

The board also approved preliminary and final plats of a subdivision

of Sea Trail Corp. property that will be the site of NCNB's new Sunset Beach area office. The 210-foot by 210-foot tract is located at the intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904 at Seaside, on the west side of N.C. 904 across from Seaside Plaza.

A large number of lots in Section F of Bonaparte's Retreat subdivision do not conform to town zoning regulations, according to Good. The zoning code amendments are designed to help minimize problems with the code. Good said they will permit property owners to make reasonable use of their property while protecting adjacent properties.

Eight lots, however, would remain nonconforming.

The new district would not allow commercial or industrial uses, but

would allow certain home occupations.

Double-wide mobile homes would be permitted, but none older than eight years from the date of manufacture. The minimum size for homes moved into the subdivision would be not less than 24 feet in width and 36 feet in length.

Accessory buildings will be allowed for residential-related uses. Such buildings, as well as patios and decks are to be allowed so long as they are "neatly constructed, maintained and fit into a plan to enhance the beauty and value of the premises on which they are placed."

The amendments also cover attached structures, underpinning and tie-downs, lot placement, corner visibility, off-street parking and signage.

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