



NINETEEN PEOPLE in four families vacationing at Ocean Isle Beach teamed up to build this miniature sand city—complete with a castle, sports complex and sewer system. The families involved in the five-hour effort were the Powers of St. Louis, Mo.; the Mohrs of Janesville, Wis.; the Curps of Memphis, Tenn.; and the Mileses of Greenwood, S.C. "Trump Properties" was the name of their creation, which was swept clean by the tide around noon.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Human Tide Floods Brunswick Beaches

BY DOUG RUTTER

A human tide flooded the South Brunswick Islands beaches over the weekend, as vacationers arrived from near and far to enjoy the coast and celebrate the Fourth of July.

An estimated 30,000 people renting dwellings at the three local beaches and thousands of other day visitors survived a sweltering weekend to kick off the Independence Day week.

Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady recorded high temperatures of 96 degrees at his home Saturday and Sunday. Temperatures were more bearable Monday and Tuesday after a violent storm moved through Brunswick County Sunday night.

Real estate companies at Sunset, Ocean Isle and Holden beaches reported rental units are booked solid for the week. Merchants that cater to tourists also reported good business over the first few days of what is typically the busiest week of the

summer. "There is a head on every pillow on every bed in every house," Al Odom of the Odom Company at Sunset Beach said Monday. "It's not just that we don't have any houses left, we don't have any pillows left."

Odom estimated this week's crowd at 6,000 people, based on 750 rental units on Sunset Beach and eight people per house. Odom said his rental units are booked for the next six weeks.

Bookings are up 25 percent this year over last year, Odom said, thanks in part to Hurricane Hugo. The storm that caused millions of dollars in property damage along the South Carolina beaches last fall has sent a lot of "Grand Strand refugees" to Sunset Beach this summer, he said.

Debbie Fox of Sloane Realty at Ocean Isle Beach estimated that there are between 15,000 and (See HUMAN, Page 2-A)

Preparation And Timing Called Keys To Wendy Williams' Success

BY SUSAN USHER

Congratulatory signs at several local businesses and a huge sign on the door of her family's home on Long Leaf Drive in Leland brought smiles and a few tears to Wendy Williams' face on her return from the Miss North Carolina Pageant Sunday.

"I knew the people in the community were supporting me," she said. "It was great!"

Miss Williams was named first runner-up to Miss North Carolina, Scarlet Morgan, who was representing Forsyth County, in Saturday's pageant at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh.

She is the first Miss Brunswick County to be named a finalist in the state pageant and to win a preliminary event. She won her swimsuit preliminary Wednesday night, confidently wearing the same suit she took to Raleigh two years ago as a first-time contestant with butterflies in her stomach.

Two previous county title-holders have earned recognition at the state pageant. Miss Brunswick County 1976, Diane King of Winnabow, was Miss Congeniality. Her successor, Wanda Little of Wilmington, was named Most Talented Non-Finalist in 1977.

"Pageants are a lot like politics: timing and preparation are everything," said her manager, county attorney David Clegg. He is president of The Miss Brunswick County

"Just to see her up there, as far as I was concerned she had won."

—David Clegg, Manager Miss Brunswick County

Scholarship Pageant Inc., which sponsors the local preliminary pageant.

Along with statewide recognition for herself and Brunswick County, Miss Williams returned with scholarship funds of \$4,400 to help defray the cost of earning her master's degree. She received a \$3,000 scholarship as first runner-up, \$250 for winning her swimsuit preliminary and \$150 as a pageant participant.

Initially shocked when named as a finalist, Miss Williams said her second reaction was "Gosh, I was so close."

But that may be as close as she will come to holding the title; Miss Williams said she has no plans to enter the pageant again. "I don't think I could ever top first runner-up," she said in a telephone interview Monday. "There would be so much pressure to win and I've seen too many contestants go back and not even make top 10."

But she is wishing the best for Miss North Carolina, Scarlet Morgan, in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City Labor Day weekend.

"We were really good friends. We became very close toward the end (of pageant week). I was really thrilled for her," said Miss Williams. "I think she'll have a good chance of winning." And should Miss Morgan win the national scholarship pageant, Miss Williams would relinquish her Miss Brunswick County title and assume that of Miss North Carolina.

Miss Williams is justly pleased with her performance in her second and last state pageant. "I was very proud of myself. It seemed like everything was just going for me this year. I did the best I could do and evidently it paid off."

She was pleased with her talent and her interview, an area she had prepared for diligently with the help of her manager.

Miss Williams said she was pleased when the judges chose to ask questions relating to her resume—such as health, physical education, sex education and college athletics—rather than regarding the national or international political scene.

But she had gone to Raleigh as groomed in all areas as was possible.

"Preparation was our ace in the hole," Clegg said. "When we arrived (June 30), we both knew we had done everything we could do."

"She was confident. It wasn't like she went on stage wishing she had rehearsed her talent more or exercised more. She was satisfied with



MISS BRUNSWICK COUNTY (right) hugs Miss North Carolina 1989 Kelly Dawn Fletcher after being named first runner-up in the state pageant Saturday night.

PHOTO TAKEN FROM WECT, TV-6 BROADCAST

her talent, her mental attitude, her physical fitness, her interview. She was just going to compete and be satisfied with whatever happened."

The pageant did have its nervous moments for the Brunswick County contingent, however. On Thursday Miss Williams' throat became scratchy and her voice began getting hoarse, possibly from allergies. Clegg had Miss Williams move all the flowers from her room into the hall and then stocked up on over-the-counter remedies, lemon and hot tea.

By Friday she wasn't feeling well at all. But with medication and a few extra hours of sleep gained Fri-

day evening, Miss Williams was much better Saturday. Her voice was a little husky, but Clegg thought that added a sexier, jazzier edge to her vocal, "The Gypsy In My Soul."

Clegg was ecstatic over his protégé's success in Raleigh.

"I'm not over it. I don't think I will be for six or seven months," he said Monday. "I'm going to enjoy it."

When Miss Williams was named a finalist Saturday night, Clegg said, "at that point whether she was going to win wasn't an issue. Just to see her up there, as far as I was concerned she had won."

Kaufhold Settles With School Board

BY SUSAN USHER

Under the terms of an out-of-court settlement reached June 27, former Superintendent of Schools John A. Kaufhold will receive \$30,000 from the Brunswick County Board of Education, but may have to pay part of it back later after an audit of expense accounts.

In addition to repaying the system any money he may owe it, Kaufhold agreed to voluntarily drop a \$412,000 lawsuit he had filed following the board's split decision in April not to renew his legally flawed contract.

In a separate vote, the board agreed to hire the public accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand to audit cash advances, travel and expense reimbursements and telephone charges made by the superintendent, other school system administrators and board of education members from July 1, 1987, to the present.

The board found some "irregularities" in expense accounts, said Robert Slockett, who moved that the audit be conducted. "We found a few things that we feel are very minor in amounts but are gross in nature. We suspect if we go back to 1987 there may be a lot more."

Kaufhold had filed suit against the board as a whole and members Slockett, Dorothy Worth and Donna Baxter individually.

Both the board and Kaufhold will pay their own attorney fees under (See KAUFHOLD, Page 2-A)

HOLDEN GETS WATER PROJECT APPROVED

County Budget Calls For 9-Cent Tax-Rate Hike

BY BOB HORNE

Gene Pinkerton, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners called it a "realistic" budget.

But Commissioner Grace Beasley disagreed, calling it "not a Cadillac but a Rolls Royce of a budget."

Commissioner Kelly Holden addressed it as "something that has never happened before. For once this board is addressing needs that have been put on the back burner by prior boards. I don't like a tax increase, either, but the people have mandated."

The "it" was a 1990-91 budget the county Board of Commissioners adopted Friday, at literally the 11th hour. The deadline for adoption of the budget, which went into effect Sunday, was midnight Saturday.

The budget adoption, which calls for a tax-rate increase of 9 cents per 100 valuation of personal property, from 59 1/2 cents to 68 1/2 cents, came after six budget sessions spread over more than a week.

In the end, it was adopted by the commission's three Republicans—Chairman Gene Pinkerton, Kelly Holden and Frankie Rabon—after Democrat Benny Ludlum refused to attend the final session. Democrat Grace Beasley cast the lone dissenting vote. By law, because the Friday session was a continuation of a re-

Water Project Would Reroute Proposed Line

BY BOB HORNE

Water improvements approved by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners just minutes before the board adopted the 1990-91 would provide sufficient water to the southern part of the county, says Commissioner Kelly Holden.

The motion made by Holden would reroute a proposed 24-inch water line out Shalotte from the Old Shalotte Road to U.S. 17 to Grissetown, Holden said. That stretch would need the approval of the Department of Transportation, he said.

From Grissetown, a 20-inch line would run down N.C. 904 to the Georgetown Road (State Road 1163), where it would become a 12-inch line to Seaside, where it would end.

Holden amended his original motion to eliminate a proposed 12-inch line down the Georgetown Road to Calabash, after Commissioner Frankie Rabon expressed concern about that part of the proposal.

That line would include a 2-million-gallon ground storage tank and 9,000-gallon-per-minute booster pump station about halfway between Shalotte and Grissetown, a 1-million-gallon elevated tank at

Georgetown Road, where the line size would change from 20 inches to 12 inches, and a 2,200-gallon-per-minute booster station at Seaside.

The other part of the motion would provide county water to Shalotte Point, Holden said, by extending the line on Village Point Road to Shalotte and looping it out by the Bay-Piggott Road back to the main water line.

Holden said Monday that he plans to propose that a line be run less than one-fourth of a mile to Union Primary School.

According to Holden, who said he checked with both county Public Works Director Jerry Webb and County Engineer Robert Tucker, the line to Seaside would provide sufficient water for any SADs (Special Assessment Districts) needed toward the Calabash area.

Holden's motion was to apply \$600,000 toward the water improvements, so the county can borrow \$6 million and construct the improvements. He earlier successfully passed a motion to earmark \$235,000 for the design of the water system. Holden says he hopes to get the design completed this fall and begin construction early in 1991.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Competition Was Wet And Wild

Concentration and control paid off for Civietown volunteer firefighters in the barrel push competition at the Brunswick County Firefighters Freedom Competition Sunday afternoon in Southport. Six county fire departments competed in six events, with Tri-Beach winning the overall competition. Civietown members above are, from the hose nozzle back, Kenny Smith, Mike Hewett, Wayne Lovett and Jackie Griffin, with Al Nord coaching from the side. More photos and a story are inside, on Page 8-A.

vision near Leland. Holden originally proposed \$700,000, which he said would have given the board \$7 million worth of borrowing power, which was estimated to approximately the amount needed to complete the project. But he agreed to eliminate a water line down State

Road 1163 (Georgetown Road) to Calabash and amended his proposal to \$600,000. The proposal passed unanimously just before the commissioners adopted the budget.

Without first settling the water issue, Holden said later, he would not (See COUNTY, Page 2-A)