

Red Cross Presence In Brunswick Taking On New Look As Of July 1

BY SUSAN USHER

The American Red Cross should become more visible and more active in Brunswick County in coming months, says Joann Frazier, manager of the Cape Fear Chapter in Wilmington.

As of July 1, by action of the national Red Cross board of governors, Brunswick and Pender counties have been merged into the Cape Fear Chapter, which previously included only Wilmington and New Hanover County. That means the agency's service area will be the same as that of its major (50 percent) funding source, the Cape Fear Area United Way.

Until July 1, Brunswick County had its own, though inactive, Red Cross charter. Cape Fear Chapter provided limited services here, primarily disaster relief, blood services and service to mil-

itary personnel and their families.

That will change. The county is now eligible for full services and full involvement in the chapter.

An active effort is under way to recruit and train local Red Cross volunteer leadership, to establish a satellite chapter office here and to give Brunswick County residents a voice in chapter decision-making and support.

"We want to build a cadre of Brunswick County volunteers so they will feel like this is their chapter," said Mrs. Frazier, including board members and other leaders. "We don't want families here to feel like someone else is making decisions for them."

Cecil Logan of Seaside, Brunswick County emergency management coordinator, and Ralph Parker of Southport, a UNC-Wilmington administrator, were appointed to the Cape Fear Chapter board in July. Two more county residents, most likely including a representative of a county hospital, will be appointed in the near future.



FRAZIER



STAFF PHOTO BY TONIA TREST

Fire Destroys Home

A tree limb hit by lightning started this Aug. 6 fire at the home of Dick and Milly Rider, 508 Salsaire Square N., Calabash. Mrs. Rider said she was at home eating lunch when Jim Mawhinney, her neighbor and a Calabash volunteer firefighter, called and reported the fallen limb. Calabash, Sunset and North Myrtle Beach Fire Departments responded. The home was a total loss, according to Brunswick County Fire Marshal Cecil Logan (above center).

Depending on the outcome of its fall campaign, the United Way anticipates opening a satellite office in Brunswick County. The office hopes to provide administrative space for full United Way agencies located in the county, including the Red Cross, said Mrs. Frazier.

Also dependent on the outcome of the campaign is the Cape Fear Chapter's hope of hiring a staff person to work in Brunswick County four days a week and Pender County one day a week. Until then, staff will commute as needed.

Meanwhile, Cape Fear Chapter plans to install an incoming WATS line so that calls to its Wilmington office will be toll-free from anywhere in Brunswick County. Calls are answered and responded to 24 hours a day.

Classes in health and safety can be formed with as few as six students, either by an instructor or on public demand. Topics include disaster relief, CPR, lifesaving and a one-on-one program for parents called infant on monitor.

Mrs. Frazier said provision of service in Brunswick County has increased steadily in recent years. For instance, in 1986 300 health and safety classes were provided, primarily to industries. This past year, nearly 600 classes were held and more than 5,000 certificates issued.

In 1986-87 the Red Cross Blood Service provided 499 units to Brunswick County's two hospitals, compared to 800 to 900 this past year, though collections have fallen off recently.

Red Cross staff or volunteers responded to 25 single-family fires and provided firefighters at three forest

fires with refreshments. They responded to a tornado that touched down in Leland. Lillie King of Leland, the Red Cross' disaster relief coordinator for the county, had worked with Logan and was prepared to respond if Hurricane Lily threatened.

The agency provided \$14,235 in disaster relief financial assistance last year, buying changes of clothing and providing temporary shelter and rent advances for burned-out families and others.

Also the agency provided 485 service men or women or their families with \$4,105 in financial assistance last year. This frequently took the form of providing transportation funds.

During hurricanes the Red Cross operates nine shelters in the county, working with the Brunswick County Department of Social Services. In the past the National Red Cross picked up the tab, since Brunswick County was not part of an active chapter.

Recently groups from two county churches have completed an "introduction to disaster" course and have responded to local emergencies. These include a apartment fire at Calabash that put 18 people out of their homes.

In that incident the Red Cross has already provided more than \$9,000 in assistance, including temporary housing, rent advances, clothing and food vouchers.

Want to get involved? Prospective Red Cross volunteers should call Mrs. Frazier at 919-762-2683. Those interested in courses should call Pam Thompson, director of health and safety, at the same Wilmington number.

Civietown Wreck Injures Six Sunday

Six people were injured Sunday evening in an accident on N.C. 130 at Civietown.

Gloria White Brown, 23, of Shallotte, was traveling east on N.C. 130 about 2.6 miles east of Shallotte when she attempted to make a left turn onto Civietown Road (S.R. 1132), Trooper T.W. Caulder of the N.C. Highway Patrol reported.

Ms. Brown's 1982 Ford pulled into the path of a 1990 Toyota driven by Becky Elaine Reaves, 18, of Supply, Caulder said. Ms. Reaves was traveling west on N.C. 130.

Caulder charged Ms. Brown with an unsafe movement violation. Ms. Brown received minor injuries along with three passengers in her car, Louise Clemmons, 60, of Supply; Gloria Formyduval, 13; and Jessica Brown, 7.

A fourth passenger in the Brown vehicle, Christy Formyduval, 12, and Ms. Reaves each received class B injuries, which are serious but not incapacitating.

The injured were taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply following the 5:55 p.m. accident.

Damage was listed at \$1,200 to the Brown vehicle and \$1,900 to the Reaves vehicle.

Car Overtakes

An Ash man was charged with exceeding a safe speed early Sunday after his car ran off the road and overturned about 8.7 miles north of Shallotte.

Timothy Conard Marlowe, 27, was driving on Big Neck Road (S.R. 1335) at a high rate of speed when his 1988 Chevrolet ran off the

right shoulder, crossed the highway, struck a ditchbank and rolled over, said State Trooper B.L. Wilkes.

Marlowe received class B injuries and was taken to The Brunswick Hospital following the 4 a.m. accident.

Damage was listed at \$3,500.

No Injuries

In another accident early Sunday, a driver escaped injury when his car ran off of U.S. 17 about 2.2 miles west of Calabash.

Edward Eugene Hulsey, 21, of Jackson Springs, was traveling north when his 1989 Mitsubishi ran off the shoulder, traveled out of control and struck a ditchbank, reported Trooper B.D. Barnhardt.

Hulsey was charged with careless and reckless operation in the 4:15 a.m. accident, Barnhardt reported. Damage was listed at \$3,000.

NCSU Scientists Study Ailing Oyster Colonies

BY PAM SMITH

NCSU Information Services
Where have all the oysters gone? Researchers in the N.C. State University College of Veterinary Medicine are taking an interdisciplinary approach to confront the complex causes of the state's roller-coasting oyster harvests.

The state Division of Marine Fisheries reported a 52,271-bushel harvest for 1990—in contrast to average yearly harvests of more than 90,000 bushels between 1980 and 1989.

Epidemiologist Dr. Jay F. Levine will examine whether seasonal changes in water temperature alter the prevalence of disease-causing organisms; electron microscopist Dr. Michael J. Dykstra is studying the physiology of oysters; and immunologist Dr. Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf will study whether changes in water salinity alter oyster defense mechanisms.

From the standpoint of the oyster industry, Levine said the prospective economic benefit of the research is obvious, since a major goal will be to boost the oyster population.

The scientists say their research will be enhanced by the completion later this year of a 1,550-square-foot facility on the College of Veterinary Medicine campus.

Funded by the N.C. Biotechnology Center and the veterinary college, the building will feature six self-contained, closed-circulation systems.

These systems will enable the research team members to maintain oyster populations under controlled conditions over extended periods of time.

In addition to oysters, other marine invertebrates such as shrimp, crab and lobsters could be maintained in the facility for other research

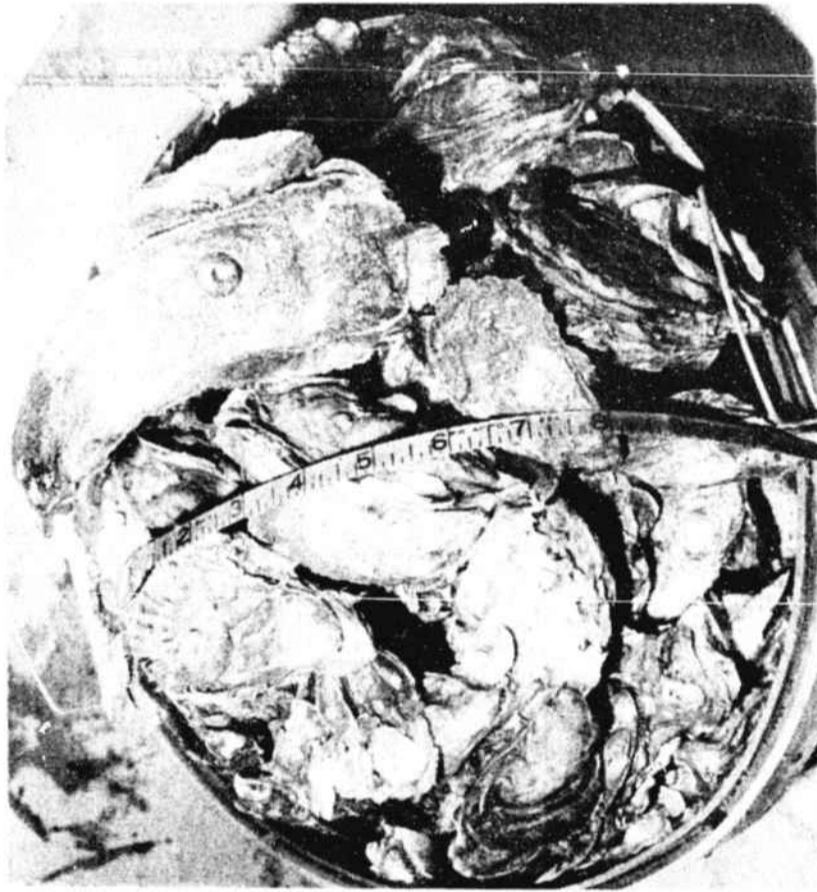


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NCSU researchers want to know learn what can be done to aid the ailing oyster and produce a more reliable Tar Heel harvest.

Kennedy-Stoskopf said veterinary research has historically addressed population problems in animals from the perspective of many disciplines, or specialty areas.

"With oysters, there is not a wealth of data to rely on," she said. Because of that, it is necessary for the researchers "to step back a pace" and look at the overall picture.

Levine said, "We are dealing with a complex problem, and one investigator may not be capable of understanding its full scope."

Michael D. Marshall, a marine biologist with Marine Fisheries, agrees that the scientists are dealing with a complex issue—one with broad economic and environmental implications.

"Different areas have been affected by the oyster diseases in the last three years," Marshall said. Disease-causing parasites kill oysters by their sheer numbers.

The current work of the NCSU research team is an extension of 1989 studies Levine conducted with Dykstra and other colleagues from the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

For that study, investigators surveyed 36 North Carolina coastal sites to determine the prevalence of two diseases that affect oysters only.

Both diseases—dermo and MSX—were associated with oyster deaths in the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, and were found in oysters from North Carolina's coastal sounds.

Levine says the answers to the ailing oyster population problem in North Carolina will come slowly.

"I see this as open-ended research, which we hope will lead toward a greater understanding of the factors associated with the decline in oyster abundance," he said.

Patron To Present UNC-W Major Gift

A "major" gift from a Brunswick County resident to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington was to be announced Wednesday at a 12:30 p.m. meeting of the University's Board of Trustees.

Mimi Cunningham, spokeswoman for UNC-W, said details of the presentation would not be available until Wednesday, after the *Beacon's* Tuesday publication deadline.

"However, I can tell you that it's a major gift," she said. "It is very important to us."

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