

# CLEVELAND POST

50 Cents

Growing Community, Growing Newspaper

Thursday, September 23, 1999

## Inside...



CMS Rams improve record to 3-0 with 22-6 domination of Princeton; face unbeaten North Johnston today in Kenly for JCAC lead.

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## Circling Cleveland Country

## Deadline for golf tourney is Friday

The Johnston County Community Foundation Cocktail Buffet and Golf Classic will be held Thurs. and Fri., Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Johnston County Country Club in Smithfield.

Funds raised from both events will go to the Johnston County Community Foundation Unrestricted Endowment Fund. Since 1993 grants have been awarded to various organizations throughout the county. This past year over \$12,000 in grants was awarded.

The cocktail buffet is Thurs., Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. During the annual gala, two Midway Airline tickets for two to anywhere in the continental United States will be given away as the grand door prize. A silent auction will also be held where guests can bid on antiques, art, jewelry and novelty items. Tickets for the banquet are \$50 per person.

The golf classic will be held Fri., Oct. 1 at noon at the Johnston County Country Club. The format of the tournament is Super Ball and a shotgun start will begin play. Teams will be pre-flighted based on handicaps. The deadline for registration is Friday.

Tickets for both events are available from foundation chairperson Ramona Cash at 553-7244 or Vickie McGranahan at 989-3200.

## Mt. Zion holding its homecoming

Mount Zion United Methodist Church will celebrate homecoming on Sunday.

The Rev. Dan Meadows will deliver the sermon at the 11 a.m. service.

A covered-dish lunch will be served on the church grounds after the service.

For more information, call the church at 772-8415.

Mt. Zion is located on Hwy. 50, approximately 1/4 mile south of the Hwy. 42 and Hwy. 50 intersection.

## Fall Festival postponed

The Greater Cleveland Fall Festival scheduled for Oct. 1 has been postponed until next spring, the Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday.

Organizational problems due to Hurricane Floyd were cited for the delay.

# Cleveland survives Floyd's assault

## Damage is light, but businesses lose estimated \$117K in sales

By John Cate  
Editor

The wind and rain from Hurricane Floyd may have not done much material damage to the cluster of businesses at the 40/42 interchange, but it had a huge financial impact on the Cleveland area nonetheless.

Floyd knocked out power to the entire 40/42 area and most of the surrounding area during the night of Sept. 15-16, and it remained off until about 3 p.m. in the afternoon. During that time, the entire business district of Cleveland was shut down, with the exception of a very few businesses that used electrical generators to stay in operation.

The lost day cost Cleveland area merchants a minimum of \$117,400 and possibly as much as \$150,000, according to Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce president Deirdre Jersey.

"By the time they were able to get the power back on, most stores had lost seven to 10 hours of operating time," Jersey said. "It had a huge impact financially on Cleveland businesses."

Many businesses who operate on "traditional" 9-to-5 hours remained closed for the rest of the day, but the restaurants and convenience stores that dot the landscape were mostly back up and running within an hour of the power restoration. Food Lion, which has a generator, operated throughout the day.

The impact was even more severe in light of the many travelers who came up Interstate 40 throughout the weekend, after being detoured off the flooded Interstate 95 at Benson. Because I-95 was flooded between Kenly and Enfield, in Halifax County 80 miles to the north, travelers were diverted to US 1 in Raleigh via I-40 and then up to I-85 in Henderson. From there, they could travel north to Richmond and rejoin I-95 or travel through southern Virginia back to I-95.

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This bridge over Swift Creek at Barber Mill Road in south Cleveland barely avoided meeting its demise in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd on the night of Sept. 15. By Thursday morning, the waters had risen to within three feet of the bottom of the bridge.

CP photo by John Cate

## Two die in flood accident on Cornwallis Road

By John Cate  
Editor

The widespread flooding that came in the wake of Hurricane Floyd claimed the lives of two people in the Cleveland community Thursday evening.

Six deaths were reported in Johnston County due to flooding, including two incidents of drowning deaths when people went off the road while attempting to cross washed-out bridges Thursday night while the waters will still rising.

At 8:37 p.m. that night, Paul Wesley Mobley, 31, and his daughter Emily, 5, saw their 1987 Acura become submerged while attempting to cross a

flooded out portion of southbound Cornwallis Road, N.C. Highway Patrol reports stated.

"Apparently, the driver (Paul Mobley) thought the water was not too deep and tried to drive on across," said a spokeswoman for the highway patrol. "By the time they realized that it was, the car was under water."

Thursday night, some 24 hours after Floyd first began pelting heavy rains on Johnston County, proved to be the worst for fatalities around the state, as drivers often misjudged high water and tried to cross flooded roads.

Just 17 minutes before the Mobleys' accident,

another Johnston County driver met the same fate along Rural Paved Road 2339 near Micro. Eusebio Maldonado, 30, went off the road and drowned as his car fell into deep water.

Sheriff's deputies and highway patrolmen kept a close watch on water levels throughout the county as the waters continued to rise through the weekend. The worse flooding took place in the northern part of the county, near Kenly, but other parts of the county also suffered some damage.

A total of 32 Floyd-related deaths, from drowning and otherwise, were reported in North Carolina through Monday.



Surprisingly, downed trees and power lines were few and far between in the Cleveland area. This tree was downed at the intersection of Barber Mill and Cleveland roads.

CP photo by John Cate

## Johnston schools shelter 2,100 in wake of Floyd

By Amanda B. Smith  
Staff Writer

Six Johnston County schools were used as American Red Cross shelters for victims of Hurricane Floyd.

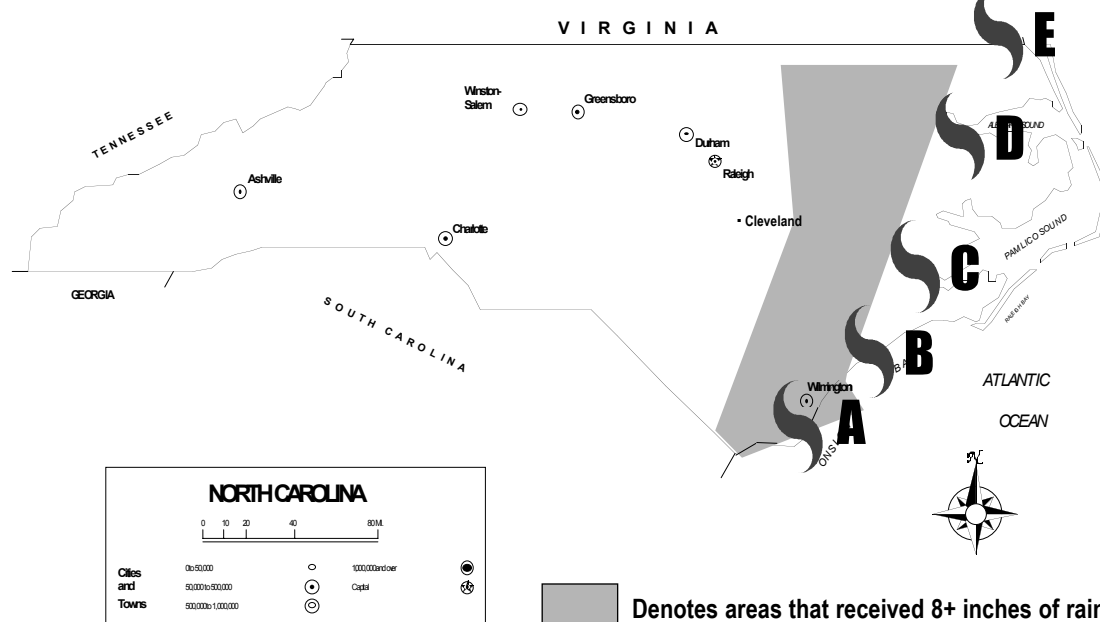
McGee's Crossroads Elementary, Clayton Middle, Four Oaks Elementary and Smithfield-Selma High schools were closed by last Thursday, while Princeton School was open until Friday morning. Smithfield Middle School was open until Saturday morning to accommodate flood victims.

Pat Lacarter, public information official for Johnston County, estimates that around 2100 people used the shelters during and after the hurricane.

"We only had eight people in the shelters not from Johnston County," Lacarter said, noting that those eight are believed to have come from Wayne County.

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## The assault of Hurricane Floyd



**A:** Floyd makes landfall at 3 a.m. near Bald Head Island in New Hanover County, just south of Wilmington. Wind speeds were about 110 mph, and the hurricane was moving to the NNE at 20 mph.

**B:** Still hugging the coastline two hours later, Floyd hits Surf City in Onslow County with winds of 105 mph. It continued to move to the NNE, at 23 mph.

**C:** At 5 a.m., the eye of Floyd passes over New Bern, in Pamlico County, swirling at 100 mph. The movement continued NNE, at 24 mph.

**D:** Around 9 a.m., Floyd battered Plymouth and Edenton on opposite sides of Albemarle Sound, at 90 mph. The NNE movement has increased to 25 mph.

**E:** Floyd exits North Carolina near Norfolk, Va., at 24 mph to the northeast, with wind speeds of up to 80 mph, around 11 a.m.

CP graphic by John Cate

## County, Salvation Army team up for Floyd relief

To help victims of Hurricane Floyd's wind and flood damage, Johnston County Emergency Management has set up several drop-off sites around the county and will be collecting items through Sunday, Sept. 26 (Friday, Sept. 23 for offices open only on weekdays).

The Salvation Army has set up a tractor-trailer unit from the Johnston Community College truck driving school at Wal-Mart in Smithfield. Johnston County Emergency Management will pick up items on Monday to distribute within Johnston County and to flood victims east of Johnston County. The Salvation Army will also distribute goods on Monday.

Items that can be dropped off include nonperishable food, diapers,

See Page 2 for a full list of collection sites.

baby food, deodorant, soap, shampoo, hair rinse, toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet tissue, cleaning supplies, disinfectants, buckets, mops and blankets. However, please do not bring clothing to these collection sites. Questions go to Emergency Management at 989-5400.

Monetary donations can be made to these three agencies: The Johnston Co. Emergency Fund (P.O. Box 1049, Smithfield, NC 27577); the Salvation Army (P.O. Box 805, Smithfield, NC 27577); or the American Red Cross' Hurricane Floyd Fund (200 Fareway Drive, Smithfield, NC 27577).

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CP photo by John Cate

Fallen trees line up in a row along the countryside in the southern part of the Cleveland community.

## Road conditions improving steadily

By John Cate  
Editor

The beginning of the week found road conditions in Johnston County improving rapidly as flood waters began to recede in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

Even the remnants of a tropical storm, which dumped up to an inch of rain on parts of the area Monday and Tuesday, did not prevent most Johnston County roads from either re-opening or staying open as the one-week anniversary of Floyd's arrival drew near.

"Three to five inches of rain, at this point, wouldn't bother us because of the recent flooding," N.C. State Trooper Sgt. Sam Hardy said Monday. "Johnston County is actually looking good as far as roads being open, although people should be warned that just because a road may be open doesn't mean it is water-free."

"Individual dikes and dams have to be opened up occasionally to keep them from busting dams, and when that happens, a road may temporarily be flooded again. Drivers still need to be cautious of secondary roads."

As of Tuesday night, a total of 16 Johnston County roads remained closed or partially closed, resulting in detours for drivers who normally use them and serious

disruptions in the Johnston County school schedule which have the county scrambling to develop alternate bus routes.

On Monday, Interstate 95 from the Virginia state line to Benson was declared open in both directions by the Highway Patrol. The highway was fully closed following Floyd's arrival on Thursday, and remained closed throughout the weekend. The southbound lanes reopened, albeit unofficially, on Sunday, with the rest of the highway following suit the next day. State Highway 17 remains closed, however, in some areas of the county.

"We're doing a lot of detouring in the southern part of the county and in Wayne County around Goldsboro," Hardy said. "There are a lot of roads still closed down there, but we have detours set up."

Hardy felt the floodwaters would continue to recede and things would soon get back to normal in the county.

"US 70 coming to Smithfield is open again, and it had been closed since the beginning," he said. "I think that is a good sign the water is receding."

For a complete list of roads closed due to flooding in eastern North Carolina, check out the World Wide Web at <http://www.dot.state.nc.us/news/floydDefault.html>.

## Ebenezer Church holding BBQ sale Oct. 8

Ebenezer United Methodist Church at 6020 Rock Quarry Road

### Johnson Church to hold sing on Sunday

Johnson Memorial Church will host a Fall Gospel Sing on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Special guests include: "Canaanland" of Princeton, "GloryBound Way" of Friendship Baptist Church, "In His Name" from Benson Grove Baptist Church and the "Crossroads Quartet" from McGee's Crossroads.

Johnson Memorial Church is located at 8280 Hwy. 50, 2 miles south of McGee's Crossroads and 8 miles north of Benson.

For more information call the church at 919-894-3688.

in the Cleveland area will hold its first annual barbecue by the pound sale on Friday, Oct. 8. The cost is \$5 per pound.

This will be a barbecue sale only, and no plates will be served. A barbecue plate event will be held by the church during the month of November.

Advance orders are now being taken at the church office. Orders

should be placed by Friday to assure that you will be able to receive barbecue.

On the day of the sale, a drive-thru will be set up from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. for pickup of orders.

For more information or to place and order, contact Martha Driver at the church office at 661-0624 or by fax at 661-2619.

## Shelter Continued from Page 1

According to American Red Cross health and safety instructor Wayne Bass, who served as shelter manager at McGee's Crossroads Elementary, 349 area residents used that shelter. The Red Cross provided food and blankets for people using the shelters.

According to Jim Causby, superintendent of Johnston County Schools, emergency preparedness workers cleaned the schools of any mess left after the schools were used as shelters, and the schools suffered less than \$5000 worth of damages from the storm.

"Our buildings came through in great shape," Causby said.

According to Causby, there was a small amount of damage to the roofs at Smithfield Elementary and Middle schools.

Some schools lost food stored in cafeteria refrigerators and a few trees blew down. There was mini-

mal flooding.

"The worst flooding was at Selma Elementary," Causby said. "There were a few other areas where rain had been blown under the doors, but that has been taken care of. A few trees blew down but those have all been cleared out of the way."

The main concern, according to Causby, with restarting school is road conditions in Johnston County. The Department of Transportation has been checking the bridges on flooded roads.

"If the bridges are not safe we will have to reroute the busses in those areas," Causby said. "The biggest thing is getting the kids in safely."

By press time, a decision had been made to suspend classes through Wednesday. The school board was scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday to decide whether to resume school on Thursday.

## Both local vets now offer SNIP discount

The Cleveland Community Veterinary Hospital on Shiloh Road will participate in the Spay and Neuter Improves Pets (SNIP) program for the month of September, Dr. Sharon Mastafiak announced last week.

## Business Continued from Page 1

The 40/42 area has long been a popular stopoff for travelers, due to its wide selection of fueling stations and places to eat. During the power outage, thousands of dollars in sales

were lost.

"Any time a business is closed for any length of time, it means you are losing operating income," said Jersey. "This outage could not have come at a worse time."

On the other hand, Jersey said Cleveland businesses could consider themselves lucky compared to the last hurricane to come through.

"We were much better prepared this time than we were in 1996, with Hurricane Fran," she said. "We were lucky that this storm kept going further and further east. With Fran, we had three days of rain beforehand, and then the storm went right over top of us."

