

GRAY, Bernie

Gray reaches Titusville

By Bill Hunt

The Intelligencer

Bernie Gray just keeps going and going.

The Belleville man who is kayaking to the Florida keys was in Titusville, Fla. Thursday, waiting out yet another hurricane when he was contacted by The Intelligencer for an update on his adventure.

Gray was in North Carolina when Hurricane Fran was wreaking havoc along the U.S. coast and he says he's now awaiting the passage of Hurricane Lilly, currently threatening Miami, before moving further south.

Gray, 56, left his job at Quinte Broadcasting in June to kayak through the U.S. intercoastal waterway.

"I've only a couple hundred miles to go and I'm feeling very good about it," said Gray. His muscles are a little sore from bat-

ting strong winds and he joked he is on his fourth bottle of Absorbine Junior, but he is otherwise in good spirits.

On an earlier leg of his journey Gray had a close encounter with an alligator when one chased after his kayak, and although he's seen plenty since, he's had no more close calls.

"I have a very healthy respect for them," he quipped.

Some of the sites he's taken in include the historic city of St. Augustine, which he described as "gorgeous."

"It reminds you of one of those pirate movies."

Gray has also been surprised at how much more tropical Florida appears from its waterways than from the roadways. Once in the Florida Keys Gray may relax for a couple weeks there before deciding what to do next.

"I'm very pleased I've managed to come this far," he said.



Belleville's Bernie Gray.

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Bel - Biog (collector)