



## Bullet pierces 86-year-old woman's bedroom

Shots fired two straight nights

By **RITCHIE STARNES AND REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff writers

An 86-year-old woman remains shaken but not hurt after a bullet pierced her house and became lodged in her bedroom last Tuesday, marking the second straight night gunshots riddled an Edenton neighborhood.

Police are still looking for Skyler Holley, 27, a suspect in the shooting of Berry's home, according to police Chief Jay Fortenbery. Holley is also wanted for a parole violation in Pasquotank County. He was paroled in January after serving more than five years for assault

with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and two other shootings in 2007 and 2008.

Sarah Berry called 911 after a bullet struck her 406 North Oakum Street residence around 9:30 p.m. She was home at the time of the shooting, but not in the bedroom where police later recovered the bullet believed to have been shot from a handgun, Fortenbery said.

"The bullet went right over her bed," Fortenbery said. "If she had been in bed it might have hit her."

About 10:30 p.m. Monday night a bullet struck the driver's side of a 1996 Grand Cherokee belonging to Latonya Cofield of 408 North Oakum Street and Berry's next door neighbor. A resident there for the past five years, Cofield said she and her 12-year-old child had just gotten home prior to the shooting.

Her other children, ages 6, 11, and 17 were not home at the time.

Cofield has no doubt who is responsible.

"It's gang related, it's not people from the neighborhood. They (gang members) just hang out here (on North Oakum Street), and it's getting worse," Cofield said.

In addition to confirming Monday night's shooting, Fortenbery said Cofield may be right about those responsible.

"It possibly could be," he said. "I can't rule that out. We found a lot of bullets shot into the ground."

Meanwhile, police have beefed up patrols of the neighborhood and walking door-to-door to talk with residents.

"Due to the shots fired calls, we

See **SHOOTING, 6A**



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

An Edenton police officer keeps watch on North Oakum Street activities on Sunday afternoon. Greater police presence has been beefed up in the neighborhood following two shootings last week.

## Town birthday differs by decade

By **REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

A proposed 300th anniversary celebration for the town of Edenton has hit a mathematical snag - or a difference of a decade.

As Councilman Bob Quinn prepared to explain proposed activities for the planned yearlong celebration at Monday night's committee meeting, fellow Councilman Sambo Dixon pointed out that a 250-year anniversary celebration had taken place in 1972 based on the year that the town was officially incorporated.

That year, 1722, is the one that appears on the town seal.

Quinn said that the idea for the celebration had been based on the year the town was actually established, 1712.

Dixon said he thought the town ought to follow the incorporation date since it had done so in planning other celebrations such as the 250th anniversary.

"I just think it's wrong, it (date) needs to be accurate," Dixon said. "Whatever we do, it needs to be accurate."

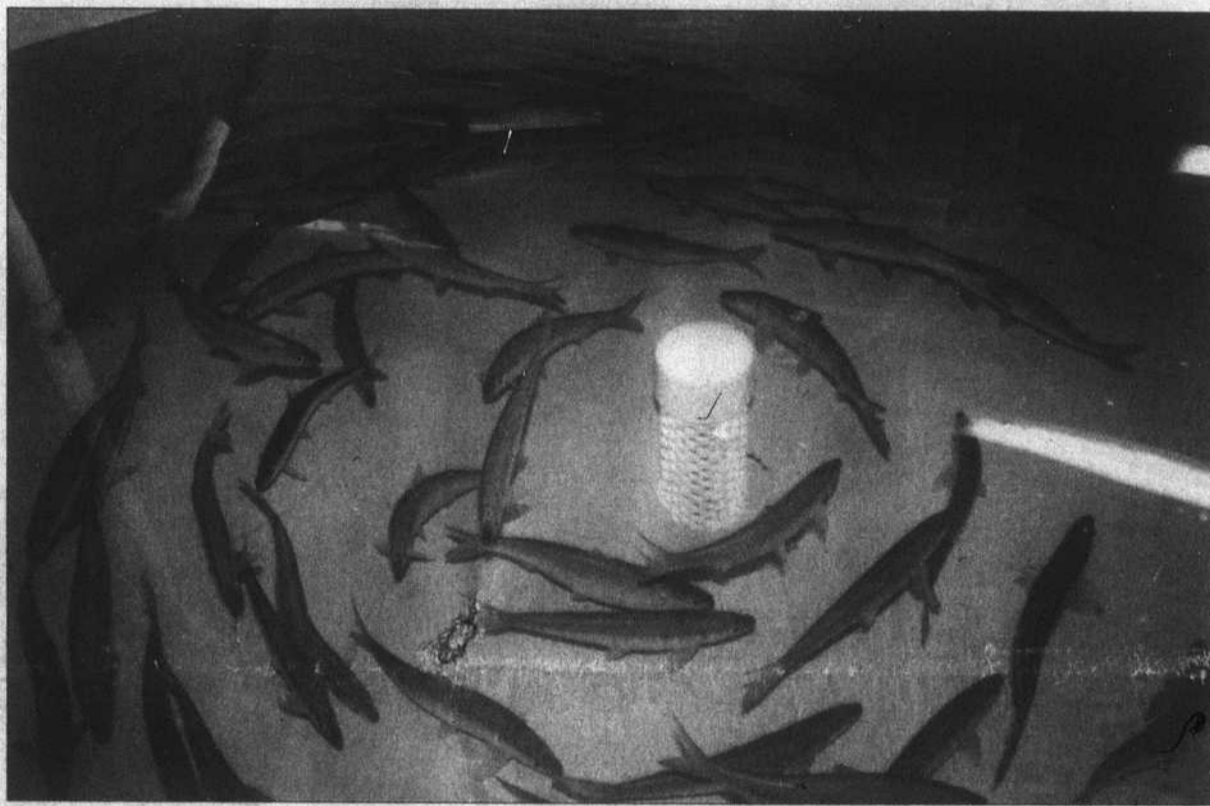
In the end, administrative committee chairman Steve Biggs decided to send the matter to the full Town Council for more discussion at its April 10 regularly scheduled meeting.

Quinn said Tuesday morning that while there might be disagreement over the date that should be celebrated, he still felt the idea had merit and could be marketed as a Colonial History Days celebration.

"I don't think we should lose this opportunity to tell Edenton's story, to let people know who we are," Quinn said.

Quinn's proposal includes everything from an art show where students would win awards for the best drawings of historic sites to a Colonial Ball at the 1767 Chowan Courthouse.

## BIRTHING HERRING



STAFF PHOTOS BY RITCHIE STARNES

Blueback herring collected from Chowan River tributaries swim in a holding tank at the Edenton National Fish Hatchery for a spring spawn as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's pilot program to bolster their population.

## Hatchery assists spring spawn

Population not rebounding

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

For the last week U.S. Fish and Wildlife officers at the Edenton National Fish Hatchery have been doing what the law prohibits area anglers - fishing for herring.

Part of a first-time pilot program aimed at bolstering the population of the blueback herring, Hatchery officials have been busy fishing Indian Creek and Bennett's Creek, tributaries of the Chowan River and where herring spawn every spring. They've been catching the herring by electro shock, which stuns the fish and keeps them still for a few seconds for easy capture or what seasoned anglers might find akin to fishing in a barrel.



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Stephen Jackson, project leader U.S. Fish and Wildlife, ensures that the holding tanks contain the proper water balance to keep the captive fish healthy and relaxed for optimum spawning.

"We're having trouble finding the females. They appear to stay in deep water until ready

to spawn whereas the males just hangout and wait in shallow

See **HATCHERY, 3A**

## Crews lay cable for 'middle mile'

From staff reports

Crews laying fiber optic cable for MCNC in Raleigh have been highly visible in the community in recent days.

That cable will bring broadband access to Chowan and 20 other counties in northeastern North Carolina.

The system will serve over 8,500 miles and more than 146,500 households. This "middle mile" fiber optic connectivity will lead to important connections between hospitals, libraries, schools, government offices and other public access points to local homes.

"That is an extremely important part of this," said Bob Quinn, who is a board member of the Edenton Chowan Partnership.

The Partnership is actively involved in bringing broadband access to as much of the county as possible. Eventually, Quinn said, 90 percent of the county will have access.

"There is so much that we will be able to do with this," Quinn said. "The possibilities are endless." Quinn said, for example, that heart patients who need monitoring would one day be able to have the hospital do that while they remain at home.

"Just think how wonderful that would be," he said.

The "middle mile" part of the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

## Albemarle region's jobless rate up in January

Pasquotank, Chowan rates over 11 percent

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**  
Assistant News Editor

Eight hundred forty-eight workers in the five-county Albemarle region joined the ranks of the unemployed in January, pushing the area jobless rate up a whole percentage point to 10.9 percent.

According to the N.C. Division of Employment Security, monthly unemployment rates were up from December in Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Camden and Currituck counties, as a total of 5,049 workers reported being out of work. The total labor force in the five-county region in January was 46,223.

Pasquotank and Chowan counties showed the biggest jumps in joblessness, 1.3 percent and 1.1

percent, respectively.

Pasquotank's unemployment rate rose from 10.4 percent in December to 11.7 percent in January, while Chowan's jumped from 10.7 percent to 11.8 percent.

"I'm disappointed, I'm not surprised," said Wayne Harris, executive director of the Albemarle Economic Development Commission, Pasquotank County's industry-recruiting and business-development agency.

Harris said he was not aware of any recent large layoffs. But the decline in seasonal employment following the December holiday season could have been a factor in the jump in the jobless rate, he said.

Pasquotank County Manager Randy Keaton said he, too, wasn't aware of any recent significant layoffs.

See **JOBLESS, 2A**

©2009 The Chowan Herald  
All Rights Reserved

**ROCKY HOCK Opry** FRIDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 PM E.A. SWAIN AUDITORIUM  
Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhock opry@live.com  
Tickets \$10.00 SATURDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, 7:30 PM EDENTON, NC