

The Perquimans Weekly

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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Floods kill fish in area rivers

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

A rainy summer and two hurricanes have flooded local waterways with stagnant swamp waters causing scattered fish kills in area rivers.

Kills have been reported in the upper areas of the Chowan, Cashie and Pasquotank rivers, the Scuppernon and Perquimans rivers, and areas of the Currituck Sound.

State scientists predict the kills will continue until dry, cool weather moves into the area.

"There's no way to predict the severity right now, we're just trying to map it right now," said Al Hodge, an environmental engineer with the Division of Water Quality office in Washington. "In all likelihood it's going to be worse before it improves."

The kills are caused by stagnant swamp water draining into local rivers and creeks, dropping oxygen levels. Local

swamps are flooded from a rainy summer coupled with hurricanes Bertha and Fran.

"We have some areas with five feet of water backed up and the winds have kept the water high," said Sara Winslow, a supervisor with the Division of Marine Fisheries office in Elizabeth City. Decomposing debris swept into waterways by the hurricanes is also depleting oxygen, she said.

Winds continue blowing west up the Albemarle Sound, preventing stagnant waters from circulating out of the estuarine system. The winds need to shift and cooler dry weather needs to settle into the area to reoxygenate the water.

The first local kill was reported last Monday in Columbia, Winslow said.

"We're seeing up to hundreds (of fish). The one in Perquimans is the largest and it's definitely the upper hundreds," Winslow said.

Biologists are seeing bass, catfish, flounder, crabs, sunfish, eels and other species in the kills.

The fish kills' impact on local fisherman is unclear at this time, Winslow said.

"It could have some impact but there's nothing we can do about it. It's such a big thing, it's Mother Nature," she said.

"Those fish are moving to good water and right now I don't know where that is," Hodge said.

State officials and local fisherman are waiting to see if the fish kills will extend to the Albemarle Sound. So far, no kills have been seen in the sound, but as the oxygen depleted rivers and creeks drain into its waters, the sound's oxygen levels will also drop.

Tom Aurand, sales manager at the Boat Doc in Edenton Marina, said he saw dozens of fish swimming with their mouths above the surface, trying to get oxygen Friday.



Hundreds of dead fish were spotted floating in an inlet off the Perquimans River last weekend. State officials blame low oxygen content in the water for this fish kill as well as for others in the state's coastal areas. The greenish tint on the fish comes from a nearby fluorescent light.

PHOTO BY MARK E. JOHNSON, THE DAILY ADVANCE

USDA food will be distributed Wednesday

Perquimans County will receive USDA donated commodities for distribution on Sept. 25. The Hertford Lions Club will begin distribution at 9 a.m. at the ice plant on Grubb Street.

All households who will not be able to pick up their commodities may use a representative for this purpose. The commodities card or application must be signed in the correct places for this to be acceptable. No household will be allowed to pick up food for more than themselves and one other household as representative. There will be no exceptions.

There will be two lines at the distribution site. The second line will be for the physically handicapped and/or disabled who are present at the distribution to pick up their food. A doctor's note stating the disability or proof of handicapped license plates for their vehicle must be provided. Those persons using the handicapped line may pick up food for their own household only. Again, there will be no exceptions.

Cars may not be driven into the distribution area. Please remember to park only in authorized parking areas as the Hertford Police Department will be patrolling the area.

Applications may be obtained from the Department of Social Services, Health Department, Economic Improvement Council and Senior Citizens Center.

The Commodities Distribution Program is based on income. It is available to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, handicap or political beliefs. Information about regulations against discrimination and how to file a complaint may be secured from the N.C. Division of Social Services, 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, N.C. or from the Perquimans County Department of Social Services.

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Indian Summer Festival 1996 will kick Friday evening with a pork barbecue dinner at Perquimans High School, 4:40-7 p.m. Eat-in and take-out plates are available. Tickets are \$5 and are still available from the Chamber of Commerce office and The Perquimans Weekly.

The second Miss Indian Summer Festival pageant will get underway in the high school auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Perquimans County teens will vie for the title of festival queen. Contestants will be judged on talent, beauty, poise, and appearance. Contestants will perform downtown throughout the day Saturday.

Saturday will get started bright and early with the annual Chowan Hospital Fun Run/Walk at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Perquimans County Schools Administration Building. There will also be a 9 a.m. Family Walk for Life beginning at Hertford Baptist Church.

Entertainment will get underway on the courthouse lawn at 9:30 a.m. with Perquimans County's own Harbour Lites Square Dancers. A variety of solo acts and groups will sing and dance their way through the day until 7 p.m.

Vendors will line Church Street from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. offering food, crafts, information and other products.

FESTIVAL '96

FESTIVAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Street/Parking Lot closings

- Church Street will be closed from Grubb Street to Ned's BP
- Market Street will be closed from Church Street to Barrows Alley (beside Dianne's Hairstyling)
- Punch Alley will be closed from Church Street to Grubb Street
 - Missing Mill Park parking lots will be closed.
 - The municipal boat ramps will be closed.
- The parking lot behind the Hertford Town offices will be closed until 7 p.m.
- The former Exxon station at the corner of Church and Grubb streets will be closed.

Festival Bus Stops (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

- Hertford Town Park by tennis courts
- Intersection of Barrows Alley and Market St. (next to former office of Dr. Lane)
- Perquimans County High School (intersection of Jimmy Hunter Dr. and Ainsley Dr.)
- Dobbs Street at former Texaco station

Festival information booth at Chamber of Commerce booth at corner of Church and Grubb streets.

Yard Waste Pickup Schedule Change

All residents and businesses in the downtown area should have yard waste to be collected by town crows on the street ready for removal by noon Friday. Waste put on the streets after that time will not be collected until next week.

HAVE A GREAT DAY AT THE FESTIVAL!

Behind the Chamber Office in Hertford's park overlooking the Perquimans River, the young and young at heart will find games, food and entertainment suited to the younger set. The Waterfront Pavilion will open at 10 a.m. and will include a petting zoo, clowns, magic, storytime, balloons and

more.

The day will end with the traditional street dance at Missing Mill Park from 8-11 p.m. featuring Bill Deal and Ammon Tharp.

For festival information and business specials, see the special festival insert in this edition of The Perquimans Weekly.

Clean-up to sweep through county

The Perquimans, Yeopim and Little rivers and adjoining creek are some of the most beautiful in the state. They provide recreational opportunities like boating and fishing. They are a welcome addition to picnics and park gathering. We can also enjoy observing the numerous types of plants and wildlife living in and around our waterways.

But, unfortunately, our streams and rivers can become the recipients of careless littering if we improperly handle and dispose of our trash. When this happens, we no longer enjoy the appearance of our waterways. The wildlife inhabiting these areas become

threatened.

Everyone will have an opportunity to be a part of a water pollution solution on Saturday, Sept. 28 when First Citizens Bank Big Sweep comes to Perquimans County from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Held throughout the state, Big Sweep will take place in most communities this weekend. However, the Perquimans County event has been moved because of the Indian Summer Festival.

In 1995, North Carolinians collected 359,356 pounds of trash along 1,357 miles of waterways. The 1995 North Carolina finds included such diverse items as answering

machines, mattresses, men's briefs, a bed pan, a steering wheel, cellular phone, car engine, furnace, loaded BB gun, and a concrete shower along with the usual papers, cigarette butts, cans and bottles.

Big Sweep is coordinated in Perquimans County by Marjorie Rayburn. Collection bags, data cards and other items will be provided to volunteers. Participants can purchase Big Sweep T-shirts at a discounted rate.

To get involved in the local clean-up effort, call Rayburn at 482-8431 (work) or 426-5097 (home). Volunteers of all ages are needed.

ALL OF US project launched in county

Group forms to strengthen the community

Community organizations, ministers, businesses, local governing bodies and Perquimans County Schools have joined an effort to help strengthen the community.

Dedicated to all children everywhere, ALL OF US is a young and innovative new program whose purpose is to help fight violence, crime and societal breakdown by re-weaving and strengthening the fabric of society, neighborhoods and communities.

ALL OF US is based on the theory of Marshall McLuen which states that society is suffering from the powerful negative impact of television and other media programming. Simply stated, ALL OF US creates an antidote for this by transforming public media into a positive community values reminder system. This system utilizes media outlets and technologies to reach everyone with repeated and reinforced habit-forming reminders about practicing good values.

One simple reminder about living a healthy and meaningful life is promoted each month. The monthly themes can be tied into the on-going projects of existing organizations and coordinated with public school programming. This linkage creates a heightened atmosphere of harmony and warmth among the diverse elements of

a community.

The monthly themes for ALL OF US are:

- September—Do Your Best
- October—Have Patience
- November—Have a Positive Attitude
- December—Celebrate Community, Family and Friends
- January—Lend a Hand
- February—You County! Build Your Self-Esteem
- March—Resolve Conflicts
- April—Value and Enjoy Our Environment
- May—Be Appreciative
- June—Improve Yourself
- July—Be Involved in Our Community
- August—What Do You Value?

The major advantage of ALL OF US is that the community-unity and empowerment effect is consistent and sustainable. It can be continued throughout the year—year after year.

ALL OF US proclamations have been signed by the Perquimans County Commissioners and Town Councils in Winfall and Hertford. The proclamations state, in part, "...we do hereby encourage ALL OF US to help bring the spirit of 'people to people' relationships, kindness and goodwill to new heights in our community."

If you are interested in volunteering your creative energies into building this character education program, contact Dr. Randall L. Henion at the Perquimans County Schools administrative offices, 426-5471.

Outside

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | |
| High: 80s Low: 50s FAIR, DRY | High: 80s Low: 50s FAIR, DRY | High: 80s Low: 50s FAIR, DRY |