

**Military news**

**John C. Ritter**  
Navy Airman John C. Ritter, son of Cyndy and Jimmie D. Ritter Jr. of Hertford recently visited western Australia after leaving the Arabian Gulf on a six-month deployment aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

Ritter was one of more than 5,000 sailors and marines aboard the ship who enjoyed the hospitality of the Australians on a four-day visit to Perth and Fremantle. It was their first port visit to a place outside the Arabian Gulf.

During the visit, Ritter and crew members entertained patients at a local hospital by performing acts dressed as clowns.

Ritter's ship spent a record 131 days in the Arabian Gulf to support Operation Southern Watch, helping to enforce U.N. mandates levied against Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War.

Carriers, like USS John C. Stennis, are forward deployed around the world to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors and, if deterrence fails, offer the most versatile and powerful weapons available.

The 1996 graduate of Perquimans High School joined the Navy in January 1997.

**James E. McAloon**

Navy Cmdr. James E. McAloon, whose wife, Stacy, is the daughter of James H. and Rosemarie Sherrod of Hertford, recently participated in the commissioning ceremonies of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, the USS Harry S. Truman.

McAloon was one of 25,000 people who attended the commissioning at Naval Base, Norfolk, Va. President Clinton was the principal speaker, the first president to attend a ship's commissioning in 23 years.

McAloon's ship is 1,096 feet long, rises 20 stories above the waterline and is powered by two nuclear reactors weighing 50 tons each. McAloon will be one of 5,000 sailors assigned to the navy's newest warship, which will also carry more than 80 aircraft. McAloon's ship is scheduled to make its maiden deployment in 2000.

Carriers, like USS Truman, are forward deployed around the world to maintain a U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors and, if deterrence fails, offer the most versatile and powerful weapons available, including Tomahawk cruise missiles, tactical aircraft and combat-ready marines.

**Camera sees overall health through eyes**

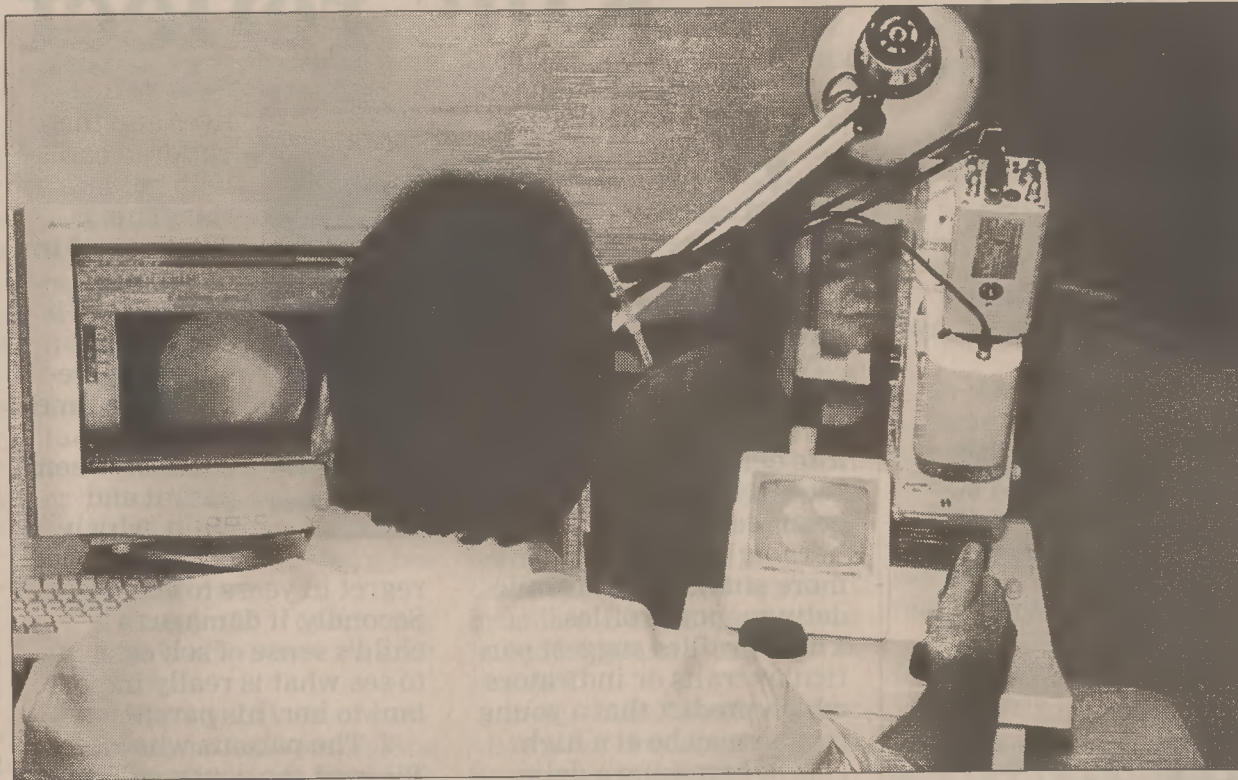
**Retinal camera sees more than eye disease**

Imagine a piece of equipment that detects not only eye diseases, but a patient's general health as well.

The technology does exist as it was unveiled recently during an evaluation project at Chowan Hospital's Diabetes Clinic. Technicians from the East Carolina University School of Medicine spent two days screening patients with diabetes and hospital staff on the Non-Mydriatic Digital Retinal Camera.

The retinal camera, which is attached to a computer and printer, transmits color images of the arteries and veins in the back of the retina. The images are transformed into photographs immediately, and can be very useful as an early diagnostic tool in detecting eye diseases in diabetes and sickle cell patients as well as other abnormalities such as untreated high blood pressure or a blocked carotid artery.

The procedure, which takes only a few minutes, does not require patients to have their eyes dilated. The only sensation is a momentary flash of light, like the flash of a personal camera.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A technician from the East Carolina University School of Medicine screens a patient's retina using the Non-Mydriatic Digital Retinal Camera. The retinal camera is an early detection tool for eye diseases. The technology will be available at Chowan Hospital's Telemedicine Clinic.

The camera serves as an enhancement to the traditional ophthalmoscope used in an ophthalmologist's office, and does not replace a full eye examination. According to Gloria Jones, Telemedicine Program Coordinator at the ECU School of Medicine, "One of the major advantages of retinal photography is to collect documentation data that can

be forwarded to a specialist if that patient requires additional treatment." When the screening is done in a clinic or primary care physician's office, it cuts down on the number of specialists' office visits for patients.

With sickle cell and diabetes patients, the screening is especially advantageous for preventing blindness. Sickle cell patients are usually examined every 3 to 6 months; however,

loss of vision can occur overnight, thus the importance of the retinal camera screenings. There are an estimated 11 million patients diagnosed with diabetes in the United States and another 3 million who are undiagnosed. Sooner or later, somewhere around 85 percent of these will develop retinal vascular disease.

The ECU School of Medicine has offered retinal photography for the past year, mostly in clinics in Eastern North Carolina. Chowan Hospital will have the retinal photography screening available in its Telemedicine Clinic in the future. For additional information about retinal photography screenings, call Chowan Hospital at 482-6227.

**Obituaries**

**Scott J. Ratliff**

Scott Joseph "Scotty" Ratliff, infant son of Scott Joseph and Margaret Sue Talmadge Ratliff, of Longview Estates, Hertford, died Friday, September 11, 1998 at Albemarle Hospital.

Besides his parents, Scotty is survived by two sisters, Holly Ann and Tiffani A. Ratliff. Maternal grandparents are Eleanor and Dean Amundsen of Hertford; paternal grandparents are Virginia Hewitt of Hertford and John Ratliff of Suffolk, Va.; and great-grandparents are Carma Ratliff of Max Meadows, Va. and Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Clementi of Greenville, Ky.

A graveside service was conducted on Sunday, Sept. 13 in the Cedar Wood Cemetery in Hertford.

Twiford's Memorial chapel, Elizabeth City was in charge of arrangements.

Notice: All obituary information should be mailed or faxed to The Perquimans Weekly from a funeral home.

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Sign Up Now For A Lot Of Fun  
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**(919)**

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**( 2 5 2 )**

**IF YOU'RE IN ANY OF THESE EXCHANGES, YOU'LL BE EXCHANGING 919 FOR 252.**

205	243	321	348	430	444	456	482	526	559	617	725	791	827	937
206	244	322	353	431	445	457	491	527	561	619	726	792	830	939
209	245	323	354	432	446	458	492	531	566	633	727	793	883	943
213	246	324	355	433	447	459	504	532	568	634	728	794	885	944
221	247	328	356	434	448	463	514	533	569	635	729	795	903	946
222	249	329	357	435	449	464	519	534	574	636	741	796	904	947
223	255	330	358	436	450	465	520	535	578	637	744	797	907	948
224	256	331	393	437	451	466	521	536	583	638	745	798	908	964
225	257	332	395	438	452	473	522	537	585	641	746	799	916	972
230	261	333	396	439	453	475	523	538	586	670	747	802	917	973
232	264	334	398	441	454	478	524	539	587	671	749	808	921	974
234	290	335	399	442	455	480	525	551	589	672	752	809	923	975
235	291	336	407	443				593		706	753	813	924	977
236	292	337	412							707	754	814	925	984
237	293	338	413							714	756	816	926	985
238	294	339	421							717	757	823	927	986
239	297	344	423							720	758	824	928	987
240	308	345	426							723	766	825	931	995
241	320	346	429							724	771	826	935	996

Due to the explosion of demand for new phone numbers to handle fax machines, pagers, cellular phones, second phone lines, and modems, North Carolina has three new area codes. Part of the 910 area code is now the 336 area code. And a portion of the 704 area code is now using 828.

On March 22, 1998, customers in the Northeast portion of the 919 area switched to the 252 area code. Beginning September 22, 1998, callers who dial the 919 area code in error will be intercepted by a recording and instructed to redial using the 919 area code.

This change will in no way affect your rates, your local calling area or your current seven-digit telephone number. Although you may have to make minor adjustments during the transition period, Sprint is dedicated to making this process as easy as possible for you. We can assure you that the new area codes will make it possible for us to serve you better in the future as North Carolina continues to grow.

**HOME SHOW '98**

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**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**  
2:00 - 8:00 pm  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

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