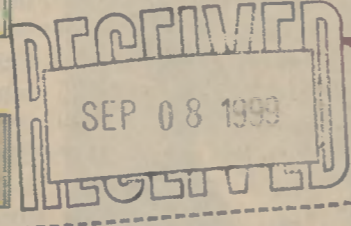


See our  
Indian Summer  
and  
Hearth and Harvest  
Festivals insert  
this week!

September 9, 1999

Vol. 67, No. 35 Hertford, North Carolina 27944



# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Festival day nears

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Saturday will bring two treats to Perquimans — the 18th annual Indian Summer Festival and the 3rd annual Hearth and Harvest Festival.

The day will kick off with a performance by crowd-pleasers, the PCHS Marching Pirates at 9 a.m. downtown. Entertainment and vendors follow at that venue until 5 p.m., then get a second wind with a street dance at 8 p.m.

The Newbold-White House will be the site of the Heart and Harvest Festival, beginning with a program on the evolution of the American flag at 11 a.m. Entertainment, demonstrations and interactive 18th century activities are scheduled until 4 p.m.

Admission to Indian Summer is free. Hearth and Harvest is \$5 per carload or \$1 per person. Shuttles will run between the two venues.

For schedules, information and festival specials by local businesses, see the festival book in today's issue of The Perquimans Weekly.

## Public meetings

From Staff Reports

An update on the Perquimans County Heritage Tourism Project will be given at a town meeting set for Thursday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at the county courthouse.

Hertford was selected by the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development last November as one of two heritage tourism pilot communities. Since then, the Perquimans County Heritage Tourism Development Council, a group of committed local citizens chaired by Chris Lane, has met regularly to strategize on how to best develop and implement a heritage tourism plan for the community.

Tourism professionals from across the country are hearing about Hertford's efforts. That's because Daniel Kidd, heritage tourism manager with the N.C. Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, is spreading the word about Hertford's efforts to expand its tourism industry.

Kidd described Hertford as a quentessentially all-American town with a Southern accent at the National Conference on Tourism Development in Philadelphia in July. He said that development in Hertford should take into consideration anything likely to compromise the town's small-town atmosphere and Perquimans County's largely agricultural makeup.

"After all, that's what's going to continue drawing heritage tourists there in the first place," Kidd said. He added that heritage tourists will shun a place that has "lost its soul."

Please see TOURISM, page 8

## Dennis storms back

Hurricane blows through, leaves, then comes back

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The county's famed Southern hospitality grew less hospitable over the last week as Hurricane Dennis overstayed his welcome.

The storm took a northeast track last Monday, breezing through with drenching rains and some winds, but not enough to cause any evacuations or reportable damage, according to Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Cullipher.

The clouds hadn't blown by when Dennis reversed his path and came back, with little let-up in the typical tropical storm weather he brought.

The downpours stopped long enough Friday evening to allow Perquimans and Edenton to play football at Memorial Stadium, but Saturday was blustery and wet. Weather forecasters warned that conditions were right for tornadoes and suggested that people stay in their homes rather than venture out.

Sunday brought more rain, but the winds died down. Again on Monday, it was wet, but relatively calm. Both days saw intermittent sunshine.

The wind and rain played havoc with the river, alternately blowing it away from its banks to the sound, then back in to flood low-lying areas.

Cullipher was out of town on Tuesday and could not be reached at press time for information on any damages that may have been reported over the weekend.

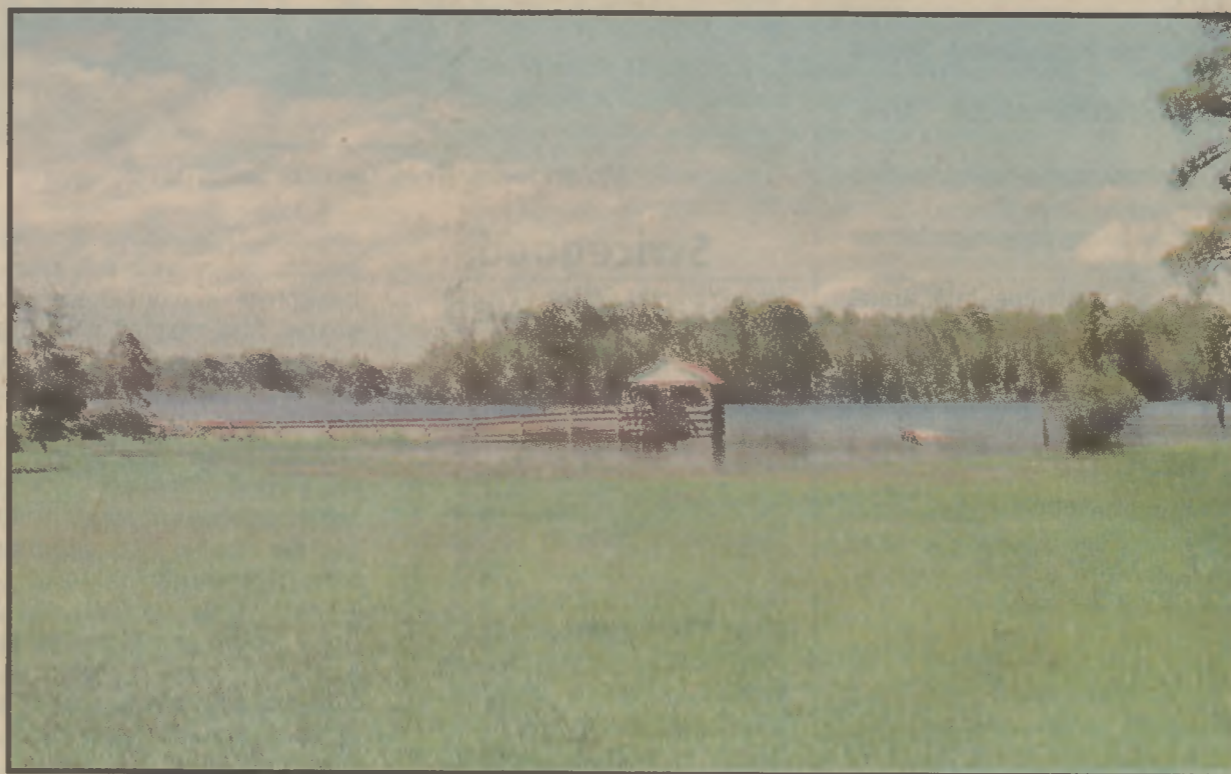


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Indecisive Hurricane Dennis couldn't decide whether to leave the North Carolina coast or stay a while. For about a week, Dennis moved up then back down the coast bringing wind and rain, alternating between blowing the river away from its banks toward the Albemarle Sound (above) and flooding the area with pouring rains on already saturated land (below). It appears as if Dennis has finally gone away for good, but hurricane season doesn't end until November, so another storm could come along to take its place.



## Boone cleared on assault charge

Prosecutor: Judge didn't feel assault intentional

JEREMY DESPOSITO  
The Daily Advance

A district court judge found a Hertford police officer on trial in Perquimans County for misdemeanor simple assault Wednesday not guilty of the charge.

Richard Williams Jr. had filed a complaint against patrolman Charles Nathan Boone Jr. alleging that Boone attacked him on Jan. 19.

Williams 22, had alleged that Boone grabbed him and rammed his head into a car window, slammed him to the ground, and then rammed his back to the street.

Boone, 25, was the second officer to respond to a domestic violence call on the day of the incident. At that time, the woman, Boone's sister, had to be transported to Albemarle Hospital. A court record stated that Williams assaulted and struck the woman by pushing and tossing her around inside Hertford's Food Lion supermarket.

Presiding Judge Claude W. Allen Jr., of Franklin County, entered a verdict of not guilty. The trial in Perquimans County District Court took three hours.

"My client was very pleased that the judge acquitted him on the assault charge. The judge felt that my client's actions did not warrant a charge of an assault," said Boone's attorney, D. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City.

Prosecuting attorney Sonia Privette said Judge Allen did not believe Boone's fight with Williams had been intentional.

"The judge made some comments after the trial that he did not find beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant intentionally assaulted Mr. Williams."

The assault charge was Boone's second brush with the law.

In August 1998, a complaint was filed against Boone, then an Elizabeth City police officer, for pointing a gun at another person with criminal intent. Those charges were dismissed.

## Grant funds Welfare-to-Work program

From Staff Reports

Perquimans County has received a \$61,529 grant to provide employment training to welfare recipients.

With the funds, The Perquimans County Department of Social Services has added a new program, Welfare-to-Work. Welfare-to-Work will offer support and assistance to those who have not yet succeeded in obtaining or keeping a job to support their families. In conjunction with Work First Family Assistance, these funds will provide intensive assistance leading to employment opportunities for those not yet making it in the work force. Joan Harrell, Human Resource Placement Specialist/Retention Placement Specialist, will be working with the new program.

The Welfare-to-Work grant came through the Mid East Workforce Development Board as part of a \$3 billion 1997 Congressional allotment administered through the Department of Labor.

For information or to enroll in the program, call Harrell at 426-7373.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Dennis made Friday's grand reopening of R.P.'s Auto Sales soggy. Owners R.P. and Diane White welcomed customers and well-wishers with free hot dogs following a ribbon cutting (above) sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce.

## R.P.'s Auto holds grand reopening Friday

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The menace that was Dennis didn't stop R.P. and Diane White from celebrating the grand reopening of R.P.'s Auto Sales Friday.

The used car dealership moved from its spot on Church Street Extended to a new build-

ing on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass. The move gave the Whites more room on the lot and extra office space, as well as greater visibility.

In addition to offering used cars and trucks for sale, R.P.'s operates a 24-hour wrecker/towing service and a paint and body shop in Belvidere. When he opened his auto sales business, R.P. White said he wanted

to offer used vehicles that working people could afford to buy.

The couple marked the grand reopening with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce and free hot dogs for lunch.

Stop by the lot or call 426-1609 or 297-2633 to talk to the Whites or their staff.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 70s  
Low: 60s  
Mostly Cloudy

FRIDAY  
High: 80s  
Low: 70s  
Mostly Cloudy

SATURDAY  
High: 80s  
Low: 70s  
Mostly Cloudy