

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 2003

P14/C5  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
110 W ACADEMY ST  
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

Womanless beauty pageant

Page 4

Fire departments get grants

Page 4

Lady Pirates fall in FRC

Page 7

# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

October 15, 2003

Vol. 71, No. 42 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

35 cents

## Isabel spawns fish kills

Low dissolved oxygen levels in significant portions of the Chowan, Roanoke, Cashie, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Scuppernon rivers and other river systems in northeastern North Carolina following Hurricane Isabel have caused devastating fish kills affecting a number of species, including large-mouth bass, sunfish, catfish, gizzard shad and suckers.

"We found widespread areas of hypoxic waters and lots of dead fish," said Chad Thomas, fisheries biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "The impacts to game and non-game fish communities in northeastern North Carolina are disastrous."

Oxygen levels plummeted shortly after Hurricane Isabel blew through the state on Sept. 18. Heavy rains flooded swamplands adjacent to rivers and streams, and high winds helped stir the water and organic matter such as decaying plants, leaves and branches.

"During decomposition of this organic matter, bacteria consume dissolved oxygen and, therefore, these wetlands typically contain water that is low in dissolved oxygen," Thomas said. "Quick drainage of the wetlands lowered oxygen levels in the receiving waters, and decomposition of organic matter further depleted oxygen levels."

Depending on species, fish generally require dissolved oxygen levels near 3 parts per million to survive, and levels near 5 parts per million to thrive.

Continued on page 10

## Hurricane crashes trees, but can't break true love

### Couple finds way to marry in storm's aftermath

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It has been said that little girls begin planning their weddings when they're tots.

They dream of the day they'll wear that beautiful white gown and marry the handsome, smiling man at the altar.

Once a wedding is imminent, months of planning and fittings and decisions follow.

But Camille Hulko's dream wedding could have turned into a nightmare thanks to Hurricane Isabel. She and her fiance, Jeffrey Maier, however, bent to the winds of the powerful storm, but did not let its aftermath break their resolve to marry. They tied the knot in a most memorable ceremony, according to the groom's mother, Ellen Maier.

It all actually started in December 2000 when Dick and Ellen Maier moved to Hertford. The New Jersey couple fell in love with the area when Mr. Maier was consulting with a firm in Bertie County.

They soon decided to make Hertford their home.

They found a home on Front Street overlooking the Perquimans River.

Their children, too, became quite fond of the lifestyle here.

Their daughter moved here, and son Jeffrey and his fiance, Camille, have also looked at houses in Hertford.

Because Jeffrey and



Jeffrey and Camille Maier make their way down Hertford's tree-littered streets on their wedding day, the Saturday after Hurricane Isabel hit. The storm caused great changes in the couple's outdoor wedding plans, but it could not stop the Maiers from tying the knot.

Camille were so fond of Perquimans, and the Maiers had such a lovely lawn overlooking the river, they decided to get married there.

The wedding date was set for Sept. 20, and the couple began planning a year in advance for the big day.

The lawn would be decorated, there would be a carriage for the couple and there would be a formal dinner on the lawn under a big tent.

The immediate families — 14 people in all — came to Hertford during the week to help get the lawn ready for the nuptials.

The women brought their gowns and the men's tuxes were picked up on Wednesday.

"We were equipped with

clothing," Ellen Maier said.

Hurricane Isabel was predicted to hit by that time, and the families thought they'd probably spend Friday picking up limbs in the yard before they could decorate for the wedding.

Even until the storm was in its mid-stages, Ellen Maier said everyone thought the wedding would go off as planned.

But Isabel hit Hertford with a vengeance, and was especially hard on the rivershore. Waves crashed on the Maier's property, damaging the foundation of their home and eroding much of the front yard.

High winds and the water sent their gas tank on a voyage and their shed made its way up the street. Three

trees were down in the yard, although none hit the house.

It soon became obvious that there would be no wedding on the Maier's lawn on Saturday.

But that doesn't mean the wedding was also blown away by Hurricane Isabel.

"We just kept finding ways to get it to work," Ellen Maier said. "They really handled it well."

On Friday, the guests were called and told that the area had been hit hard by the storm, and that the guests would not be able to stay in the hotel and bed and breakfast rooms they had booked for the wedding. There was no electricity and some roads were impassable.

Continued on page 10

## Storm makes rivers dangerous

Half-sunken logs and other hurricane debris should give coastal North Carolina boaters pause.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, which is responsible for enforcing boater-safety laws, advises boaters in hurricane-slammed coastal and inland waters to throttle down and watch for hazards.

"The most abundant problem is tree limbs and wood debris," said Enforcement Capt. Jay Rivenbark, who is stationed in Edenton. "Sometimes they're high in the water, and you can see them. But after a few weeks, they get waterlogged and start to drop just under the surface."

Also littering the rain-swollen rivers and sounds are whole or broken steps, decks and piers. Even propane tanks await unwary boaters.

"We've seen quite a few of them," Rivenbark said of waterborne propane tanks, "from the small ones to the 100- or 200-gallon tanks."

Wildlife officers are clearing navigation hazards as they spot them. To date, officers have not worked any Hurricane Isabel-related boating accidents.

Water traffic was expected to pick up this week, especially around the Albemarle Sound, when striped bass season opened Oct. 11.

"We don't want to say that folks don't need to be out in a boat," Rivenbark said, "but they do need to be cautious, slow it down and keep a sharp eye out."

A group of citizens in Perquimans County is very concerned about the damage done to local waterways during Hurricane Isabel.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the boat docks behind the Hertford Municipal Building on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 9 a.m. Those who can are asked to bring boats and trucks to help with clean-up efforts.

For more information or to report an area of concern, contact Chris Lane at 426-5711, 426-5169 or col@inteliport.com.

## LIGHTING PROJECT



Employees of Lee Construction Company are lowered in a steel safety cage over the side of the S-bridge, where they complete part of the work necessary to install the period lighting on the historic landmark. The bridge will be closed at least until Friday as the work continues.

## Bee Sure about your real estate needs

SUSAN R. HARRIS

You can Bee-Sure you're getting hometown service when you call Teresa "Terry" White Ben-Dov for your real estate needs.

The Woodville native opened Bee Sure Real Estate on Courthouse Square in late August, and a grand opening on Nov. 3, complete with a ribbon cutting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Ben-Dov has been in real estate almost three years, although she's always had an interest in it.

She first got in the business by answering an advertisement for an office manager in a real estate office. She found she liked it so much, she decided to get her broker's license. Then she decided to open her own office.

Her husband, Ron, assists in the business and is now working on earning his real estate license.

She chose Perquimans County because it's close to her heart.

"It's my home," Ben-Dov said. "It's my hometown. I



The Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting marking the grand opening of Bee Sure Real Estate in Hertford recently.

grew up in Perquimans County."

Besides, she sees the area as a real estate market with plenty of potential.

"It's a great place to live and to own a business," she said. "The wonderful community spirit is a big draw."

She had begun to see traffic in her office before Hurricane Isabel hit, and now there is some move-

ment in the market again, she said. She got her first listing this weekend.

Bee-Sure is a member of the Multiple Listing Service, which means she can find a home to suit any taste even if she doesn't have it listed.

Those she does list also appear on the MLS and can be shown by other agents in the area.

Continued on page 10

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 73  
LOW: 53  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 73  
LOW: 55  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 68  
LOW: 45  
FEW SHOWERS