

P3/C2*****CAR RT LOT**C-001
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306
RECEIVED
SEP 03 2008

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

September 3, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 36 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

911 cell calls can go to different county

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Suppose you're driving along Church Street and see someone lying in the ditch.

You grab your cell phone and dial 911 to call for help, thinking your call will immediately go to the Perquimans County 911 dispatch center.

But, the emergency phone call emitting from your wireless phone may end up going to another county depending on which cell phone service you use.

Local call center manager Homeria Jennette said your cell phone 911 call will hit the nearest tower used by your cell phone provider. As a result, your call asking for help on Church Street may end up being answered in Pasquotank, Chowan, or another county. If you don't tell the dispatcher where you are calling from, rescue might be sent to Church Street in Elizabeth City, Hertford or Edenton.

According to the Federal Communication Commission, the number of 911 calls placed on cell phones has doubled since 1995 to over 50 million a year. Just in this county alone, Jennette says cell phone 911 calls have tripled since 1994.

"The majority of calls coming in are from cell phones," she said. "If there's an accident on Highway 17, every line lights up. Every Good Samaritan driving by calls it in on their cell phone."

911 calls coming in from land phone lines (home phones) cause the caller's address and phone number to appear on the dispatcher's computer screen, so the operator automatically knows where the emergency is located. You should always tell the dispatcher what kind of emergency you're calling in.

With cell phones, however, the caller must give the dispatcher the location of the emergency as well, including in which city or county it is located, and

CONTINUED on page 11

ATTIC ATTACK



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

THE LAWN OF THE Historic Newbold-White House was littered with people and collectibles Saturday, as individuals and charitable groups participated in the first-ever Attic Attack sale. The event was one of many scheduled by Perquimans County Restoration Association, owners and operators of the historic site, to raise much-needed funds for upkeep of the house, and to bring people to the local treasure.

Newbold-White hungry for funds

Repairs needed, upstairs closed due to damaged beam

The historic Newbold-White House is undergoing repairs to its roof with additional preservation and maintenance work planned for the next two years.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association (PCRA), which owns and operates the circa 1730 Quaker homestead, recently began roof and electrical repairs.

The handmade cypress shingles, which have deteriorated over time and with help from Hurricane Isabel in 2003, are being replaced. Over 200 shingles will be restored at a cost of \$5-\$8 each. Electrical repairs are estimated to be an additional \$400.

"PCRA is paying for these critical repairs out of its own meager operating budget. We can barely afford to do it, but it has to be done," said PCRA Treasurer Dee Ponte.

PCRA operates the Newbold-White House, the Visitors Center, the site manager cottage/office and the grounds at a cost of over \$100,000 a year, said Sarah Weeks, Heritage Tourism Development officer. While \$11,000 comes from county coffers, most of PCRA's efforts are funded from memberships, private donations, trust fund, farm lease and fund-raisers.

Fund raisers supporting the PCRA this year include the Biennial Gala, three wine events, the Attic Attack sale, and the Haunted Evening. Next year, they hope to revive the Hearth and Harvest Festival there as well, Weeks added.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

JIM HERBA REPLACES DAMAGED cypress shingles on the roof of the historic 1730 Newbold-White House. There are many repairs needed in the state's oldest brick house. To find out how to help, call 426-7567, or log onto newboldwhitehouse.org.

Additional repairs in the future will be undertaken provided funding is available from grants, fund-raisers and other means of private funding that PCRA is currently looking into.

"We truly can only afford to repair the most critical work at this time. All conservation and maintenance work is anticipated to be completed over the next two years as funding becomes available," added Ann Jones, interim-site manager.

On PCRA's future repair list is a beam in the parlor that sustained termite damage several years ago.

According to PCRA President Lynwood Winslow, the termites were

eradicated long ago and a plan set in place to prevent future infestations. "Due to a lack of funds, we just have not been able to make the necessary repairs," he said. Earlier this year the upstairs was closed to visitors for fear of further damage to the beam. Last week officials installed a temporary support based on advice given by visiting preservation experts who were there to estimate the cost of the beam's repair.

"One look at the conspicuous temporary support says volumes about what PCRA has been trying to tell the public for years" said Winslow. "We need help."

Other needed work includes repairing damage to an upstairs stained glass window that occurred during a spring storm. The window will be removed while the roof repair is going on and then neatly boarded up until funding can be found to repair the window. Once the window is repaired, it will be reinstalled and then one by one each window will have to be removed for recaming and sealing as recommended by a recent site report from the state preservation office.

Additionally, moisture problems still exist with the 18-inch thick brick walls and plaster interior even after the 2006 plaster restoration. This problem is not uncommon for homes of the period. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, built 1734 and located in Bath, has had similar issues, PCRA officials say.

"I understand that they have seen success in dealing with their moisture concerns," said Weeks. "I hope to talk with officials there soon to see if we can apply lessons learned there to our property."

The Newbold-White House is the oldest brick house in the state. The 1820 David Newby house is also located at the historic site. This cottage serves as the business office and the site manager's home. The site is also home to the periauger, a one-of-a-kind reproduction of a typical Colonial work boat. The homestead also contains a newly established vineyard, a kitchen garden, a gift shop and visitor's center.

According to PCRA, over 10,000 people visit the site per year.

For more information on how you can help with preservation efforts or volunteer with PCRA, call 426-7567 or visit their website at newboldwhitehouse.org

Tourism dollars increase

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Tourism dollars generated in Perquimans County last year rose for the sixth straight year.

According to figures provided by the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Tourism, Film and Sports, tourism impacted Perquimans County \$8.23 million in 2007, up 1.72 percent from 2006. Even so, Perquimans still ranks 93rd in travel impact among the state's 100 counties.

Local tourism impact

2000	\$7.01 million
2001	\$6.71 million
2002	\$7.04 million
2003	\$7.15 million
2004	\$7.44 million
2005	\$7.83 million
2006	\$8.09 million
2007	\$8.23 million

Tourism here generated a \$1.04 million payroll last year and provided \$1.31 million in state and local tax revenues.

"That's good news," commented Sarah Weeks, the department's local Heritage Tourism Development officer.

More than 40 jobs in Perquimans County were directly attributed to travel and tourism, visiting such local attractions as the Newbold-White House and Historic Hertford.

The county's highest percentage growth occurred in 1995, when the local economy was impacted to the tune of \$6.22 million, up 8.17 percent from the previous year.

Man flips vehicle on New Hope Road

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A Hertford man is charged with reckless driving and giving a false report to a law enforcement officer after flipping his vehicle into a field Aug. 25.

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Nicholas A. Cianciolo of 153 Webb Street, was the only person in a 2003 Toyota when the vehicle ran off the left side of New Hope Road in a curve around 10 p.m. The vehicle struck an embankment and utility pole, overturned and came to rest in an adjacent field.

Police said Cianciolo denied being the driver of the vehicle and told law enforcement he jumped from the vehicle after it was taken at gunpoint. Police charged the local man after physical evidence supported Cianciolo being the driver of the vehicle at the time of the collision.

Damage to the vehicle was estimated at \$6,000. The wreck was investigated by Trooper K.R. Briggs.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 81 LOW: 70
THUNDER SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 82 LOW: 68
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 84 LOW: 68
SCATTERED T'STORMS

