

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Warriors aim to "arrest" cancer with fundraiser

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Hertford Police seek One-Stop robber  
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35 cents

"News from Next Door"

APRIL 8 - APRIL 14, 2009

## County gains exposure through articles, visitors

by Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Local tourist attractions have received a burst of exposure this spring ranging from bus tours to full page articles in state-wide magazines.

Perquimans County was featured in the March edition of the *North Carolina Friends Historical Society*, a monthly newsletter of Quakers based in Greensboro.

Four and a half pages of the newsletter were dedicated to the author's pilgrimage through Perquimans, beginning at the Visitor's Center and the downtown Hertford

area and continuing on to Belvidere and the Newbold-White House. The newsletter article, which includes photos of the historic Quaker homestead and the periauger, was written by Bill Eagles and tells about his journey throughout the county.

The Quaker newsletter isn't the only publication interested in the history of this area.

*Carolina Currents*, the Boating and Waterfront Magazine, did a two-page spread on the periauger in its March-April issue, promoting the historic wooden boat's scheduled appearance in the Oriental Boat

Show April 17-19 in Oriental.

Written by Geoff Bowlin, the article describes much of the boat's history as well as how the periauger became a sailing history lesson that not only attracts tourists to Perquimans County, but to whatever port the boat may sail. The article is dotted with pictures that include locals sailing the waters as well as the periauger's inaugural launch at the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

*Carolina Currents* is a free magazine distributed bi-monthly at more than 700 marinas, boat clubs, stores, visitors centers, restaurants and

waterfront locations across North Carolina including the Perquimans County Visitors Center in Hertford.

Then, this month, *Carolina Country*, a publication of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, named Hertford in its 2009 Touchstone Energy Travel Guide offering readers 15 historical, recreational or fun places to visit throughout the state.

The article, written by Renee Gannon, takes the reader on a walking tour of the river-side historic town complete with lunch at Woodard's soda fountain and pictures of historic homes on Church

Street.

*Carolina Country* is read monthly in over 650,000 homes in North Carolina.

In addition to hosting writers from around the state penning tourism articles about the local area, the Visitor's Center has also helped with two tours this year bringing in groups of people enjoying the historical attractions and the down-home flavor of historic Hertford.

Mayor Sid Eley and Sarah Weeks, heritage tourism officer for the North Carolina Department of Commerce based at the Newbold-White House, dressed in period garb

and hosted a bus of retired learners from Old Dominion University recently.

Forty-five guests started the day with a sausage biscuit breakfast at Layden's Country Store in Belvidere, then toured that area including the grave site and home of the legendary Wolfman Jack.

The tour also stopped at Piney Woods Friends Meeting where locals, dressed in Colonial Quaker costumes, met them at the door and invited them inside the church as Quakers did many years ago: men in one door and women

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## Fishing trip turns into dolphin-watching expedition

Father, daughter boat with fishy friends in Sound

by Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

A recent day of striper fishing in the Albemarle Sound turned into a dolphin watching expedition for a local dad and daughter duo.

Ed Sanford and his daughter, Rachel, were trying to striper fish in the sound about a nautical mile from the Yeopim River Saturday morning when a pod of dolphins surfaced near them, including two that circled their 24-foot boat.

"We were off to a great afternoon of fishing," wrote Sanford of his fishing trip. "As we sped southeasterly, we observed a strange phenomenon.

Periodically, we saw pointed black objects protruding from the water and then rapidly disappearing. These 'things' were on the port side about a quarter of a mile in the distance.

"Then, we observed the unmistakable rainbow leap of a good-sized fish," he continued. "I slowed the boat, and Rachel grabbed the binoculars from the dash. Instantly, there were protruding fins and jumping fish all around us. I couldn't believe it. There were dolphins all over the place...In the four years that I've fished the sound, I never experienced anything like this."

Sanford said two dolphins began circling the boat, swimming close enough to allow his daughter to photograph them.

"We counted three pair right near us," Sanford added. "They trailed the boat and swam around us for about 10 minutes. At one point, a pair was within three feet of the boat while we were going slow."

Sanford said he was shocked to see the dolphins in that area, and was mesmerized by their beauty.

"I was not afraid in any way because I knew that dolphins are very friendly to humans," he stated. "They are also very comfortable around boats and engines. So...there was no concern of danger."

He said the Dolphins swam west toward the sound bridge while the Sanfords continued to their destination at Bulls Bay.

"After fishing for about an hour without a single strike, the school of dolphins re-emerged," Sanford added.

"They moved in toward the shore and headed for the Scuppernon River. We counted 20 fins swimming and jumping in a northeasterly direction. We didn't catch a single striper, but the experience of seeing these interesting mammals made



ED SANFORD

Dolphins romp in the Albemarle Sound about a mile from the Yeopim River. Perquimans County resident Ed Sanford and his daughter, Rachel, were striper fishing recently when several dolphins put on a fishing exhibition around their boat. Several swam close enough to allow Rachel a chance to snap a few Dolphin photos.



it a fantastic afternoon!"

While local boaters and fisherman may be surprised to see bottle-nose dolphins swimming the local waters, Kathy Rawls, a biologist supervisor with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, says it has become pretty normal for dolphins to fish around these parts as well.

The dry conditions this area has experienced over time has caused the salinity levels of the river and sound waters to fluctuate. The brackish warm water attracts the dolphins as does the trout population.

"You might see them in the sound, usually near the mouths of the rivers," Rawls said. "But you could see them even further down in the river. I've even seen them in the Little River."

"If they are here, they're usually here for a reason," she added.

Some dolphins get lost, or if they are sick, they might wander.

"If they are traveling in a pod, then they are probably perfectly healthy," Rawls said. "They could very easily be from the Pamlico Sound."

While dolphins are usually very docile and will swim near boats in an effort to ride in the boat's wake, Rawls points out that they are still wild animals, and should be respected as such.

"Just leave them alone," she said. "They are pretty to sit back and watch, but remember to be cautious. Things can happen."

"You don't want to feed them or cause them to change their behavior, and you don't want the boat or motor to hit them."

Last summer, there was a call received at *The Perquimans Weekly* office that dolphin had been spotted in the river by a car crossing the U.S. 17 Bypass bridge.

Staff stopped at several spots along the river, and saw them just off the county's commerce centre, but could not get good photographs at that time.

## New S-bridge schedule proposed

by Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

The United States Coast Guard wants to change its regulations on boat traffic under the historic S-bridge in Hertford.

The proposed change would require a two hour advance notice in order to open the bridge for boat traffic.

Currently, the draw bridge opens for boat traffic on signal from 8 a.m.—midnight April 1 through Sept. 30, and from 10 a.m.—10 p.m. the rest of the year.

The new regulation would allow the draw bridge to open on signal with a two-hour advance notice from 8 a.m.—10 p.m. May 1—Sept. 30, and from 10 a.m.—8 p.m. the rest of the year.

According to the proposal detailed on the federal register, the request to require advance notice and cutting back on the hours is sought by the North Carolina Department of Transportation due to the decreased number of bridge openings annually.

According to NCDOT figures on the registry, the draw bridge opened 363 times in 2006, 451 times in 2007, and only 266 times in 2008. The draw bridge itself was forced to close for at least two weeks last year for repairs.

According to the registry, changing the regulation would allow for more efficient use of the bridge during months of infrequent transit.

The Coast Guard does not plan to hold a public hearing on the regulation change, but

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### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 66 LOW: 51  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 68 LOW: 54  
SCATTERED T-STORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 67 LOW: 49  
PARTLY CLOUDY



## Police seek store robber

by Susan Harris  
Editor

A lone gunman robbed a downtown Hertford convenience store last Tuesday night, but no arrests have been made in the case.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said last week that two store clerks said a white male brandishing a handgun entered One Stop Convenience Store at the corner of Church and Grubb streets just before 8:20 p.m.

The clerks reported that the robber entered the store, went straight to the counter and demanded that the cash register be opened.

He then reached over the counter and grabbed about

\$50 in cash and ran from the store.

The robber may have left the crime scene in a light gray Dodge pick-up truck, Amos said.

No customers were in the store at the time of the incident.

The store employees called 911 and Hertford Police officers and Perquimans County Sheriffs deputies responded. Amos said the officers immediately searched the area and began interviewing the clerks.

They also reviewed the incident on the store's security cameras.

The suspect is described as a white male approximately 5 foot 7 inches to 5 foot 10 inch-

es tall, weighing around 140 pounds. He has a small thin mustache, a mole next to his nose and light brown hair. He was wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

Amos said the video from the store's camera is being sent to the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation crime lab for image enhancement and to have photos of the suspect extracted.

Amos said the department continues to follow up on leads, but no single suspect has emerged.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Hertford Police Department at 252-426-5587.

All callers can remain anonymous.

## In her Easter bonnet



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

In her Easter bonnet...Kathy Jones is all smiles as she models a spring hat ready for Easter morning, or a spring wedding during Saturday's Spring Fashion Show held by Nickalena's and White's Dress Shop.