

Spotting scope would be nice addition for turkey season

It's not even June yet and I already know what I want Santa to bring me in December. The idea came to me while I was peering through my 10 by 50 binoculars, trying to see the beard on a wild turkey. The birds were at least 700 yards away, it was painfully obvious that I needed more magnification.

Scouting for turkeys, looking at turkeys, researching turkey hunting in other states, practicing my turkey calling and just about anything wild turkey related is what I'm all about this time of the year. Get there before daylight and listen for gobbling and then back out and use the binos to finish the job of scouting is one of the best ways to find out where to be on opening day. Turkeys can be funny, sometimes you can kill a tom one day and then call in his buddy the very next day in the very same spot. But other times a very

small amount of human activity can send the flock to parts unknown. A few years back on one of the farms I hunt, the farmer started planting corn on the Thursday before opening day and for some reason, known only to the turkeys, ran the birds out. I shouldn't complain because if not for farmers letting us hunt their land there wouldn't be much hunting opportunity. Just an example of what can happen and another reason we call it hunting instead of killing. If done stealthily, scouting can be done without the birds even knowing we were there.

The run up to turkey season is always busy. My vest still needs cleaning out and rearranging and my camo clothes need to be sprayed with permethrin to ward off

Do It Outdoors



Wade Betts

ticks and other creepy crawly things. I'm hearing that Lyme disease is more prevalent than ever and there is also a relatively new tick borne illness that causes an allergy to red meat. For someone like me that enjoys a good ribeye as much as he does deer backstrap, any talk of red meat allergies is not good. DEET and permethrin are a turkey hunter's friends. Before opening day I need to scuff up my pot and peg calls and chalk up my boxes. I'd say that most of us could use some calling practice. I always like to shoot my turkey gun just to make sure the pattern is hitting where I'm looking. After that the Mossberg gets a thorough cleaning.

Always remember to think safety in the

turkey woods. The N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Home from the Hunt campaign reminds hunters not to stalk turkeys. Stalking is the least effective and most dangerous way to hunt wild turkeys. Also, never where red, white, blue or black, this will reduce your chances of being mistaken for a turkey. If you see another hunter approaching say "stop" in a loud voice. Never use animal sounds to try to alert someone. Be careful with decoys and harvested birds, wrapping them in blaze orange is the best practice. The big day is April 14th.

If I had me a spotting scope I could really do some long range turkey scouting. A spotting scope would easily triple or even quadruple the magnification of my Nikons. A high speed, low drag optic would also be an asset at the shooting range. Maybe if I continue to be a good boy I can stay on the nice list.

HOUSE

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White House, which was built around 1730, but it is not within the town limits of Hertford.

Their new home in Hertford was built at a time when Congress adopted the current American flag with 20 stars for each state. Andrew Jackson was fighting Indians in Florida, which was still owned by Spain.

The builder, Isaac Hall, was a craftsman and chair maker. In 1822 he sold it to Daniel Rogerson and in 1834 Dr. Robert Gordon bought it. He was the first to make an addition to the house. Since it was built it's been bought and sold more than a half dozen times.

In 1856 Thomas White bought it, and it stayed in the White family until 1973. Mattie White was the last White to occupy the house, Miller said.

Perhaps the most well known resident was Clinton White Toms. He was born in

the house in 1868.

After graduation from UNC Chapel Hill in 1889 he started a private school in Plymouth. While there he married Mary Newby of Hertford and they had seven children. Five years later he was appointed superintendent of the Durham public schools. He entered the tobacco business in 1897 and shortly after that he moved the family to New York City. Mary died in 1925. In 1928 he was made president of the Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company, where he remained until he died in 1936.

Miller said the house was originally built as a Federal-style two-story building with a side hall plan. The rear parlor and upstairs bedroom were added around 1835, as well as the single story shed-roof porch. That porch was changed as it appears today by Thomas White around 1856 or 1857. The chimneys were also converted to interior ones sometime after that.

As part of the rear ell enlargement in 1835, the stairs were relocated to the location they

remain today. The house now stands as a center hall Federal style house with Greek Revival enlargements.

Painters are already in the process of scraping the old paint away. Some exterior boards will need to be replaced, but most are in good condition. The electric system has already been upgraded and the plumbing is good.

Miller said the main thing is the roof and floors are solid.

Once the home is complete Miller isn't sure if he and his wife Pat will move in or rent it out.

The home was on the market briefly in 2016, but the listing was quickly pulled. When it went back on the market last year, it was only a matter of months before the Miller family bought it.

For now, Miller has not been short on company while he supervises the renovations.

"Almost everybody on the block has stopped by and they can all tell me a little bit about the house."

Relay for Life planning events

From Staff Reports

The Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life will hold a series of events in the coming weeks.

A Captain's Meeting will be April 17 at 6 p.m. in the classrooms at Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton. Call Smith for more information.

tion.

The seventh annual Team Lesley four-person Superball golf tournament is on April 27 at The Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation.

Registration starts at noon and the shotgun start is at 1 p.m.

The cost for a team is \$300 and lunch is provided.

Contact Lynn Knapp at 252-331-3151 for more information.

The Relay for Life event will be held on May 18 from 6 p.m. until midnight at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. There will be a luncheon ceremony at 9:15 p.m. and a silent auction from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Garden show coming up on April 28

From Staff Reports

The eighth annual Albemarle Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Show, "Through a Garden Gate," will be held on April 28 at the Perquimans County Recreational Center, 310 Granby St., from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

This annual fundraising event to support the Mas-

ter Gardeners' scholarship fund will feature plant sales, gardening items plus locally made crafts from a variety of vendors, a children's corner, "Ask a Master Gardener Booth," homemade baked goods, educational speakers, 50/50 raffle drawing and more. Lunch will be available for purchase by Brew2Rescue Café and admission is free.

For more information, please contact Katy Shook, extension agent for Gates, Perquimans, and Chowan Counties at kgshook@ncsu.edu or call 482-6585. For additional information on vendors, exhibits, and speakers the website is <https://perquimans.ces.ncsu.edu/spring-garden>. The site includes directions to the event.

SURVEY

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Town Manager Brandon Shoaf estimated the annual cost at \$8,500, but said that cost was "sort of up in the air" in part because of the frequency of meetings.

Hertford holds one regular meeting a month and one workshop meeting. However the space inside town hall can't accommodate more than about 20 or 25 people comfortably. Earlier this year when the issue of utility bills and the fire department was on the agenda and the venue was moved to the old Perquimans County Courthouse, more than 100 people attended. Monday night about 15 people attended.

The town included a copy of the survey with each utility bill this month. It's also had a link to an on-line survey on the town web site, <http://townofhertfordnc.com/> for about the past three weeks.

Monday night the item was on the council's agenda. Shoaf said to get a good response, he'd suggest keeping the survey period open through the next billing cycle in April.

Councilman Frank Norman said some Hertford utility customers might not have even noticed the survey this month.

"When I look at my bill, I look at how much I owe," Norman said.

The survey was on a separate sheet of paper in the envelope the bills are mailed in.

Shoaf said while the cost of broadcasting meetings is important, it's important for the council to know just how many people would watch it.

The survey asks the questions:

■ Do you regularly at-

tend meetings of the Hertford Town Council?

■ Do you regularly read minutes from Hertford Town Council on the town's webpage?

■ If available, would you watch meetings of the Hertford Town Council on-line?

■ If available, would you watch meetings of the Hertford Town Council on a government programming channel through a local cable provider?

■ Do you have Internet access at home?

■ If you do not have Internet access at home, how do you access the Internet now if needed? Via Smart phone or device, at a public provider (ex. Library), or at work?

■ Are you a town citizen?

The on-line survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GX-HC7BL>

AGENCY

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then we would do everything we could," Heath said.

Perquimans County owns the current site at 512 S. Church St. and leases it to the Commission. The U.S.D.A Farm Service Agency also leases space in the building and has not announced plans to move.

About 17 members of the commission staff currently work in the agency's building on Church Street. Transportation planner Angela Welch, however, is still operating out of Perquimans County office space on Dobbs Street. The commission is also renting storage units in Elizabeth City and Hertford to house supplies and equipment.

The move to find a new

building is the commission's latest effort to consolidate its operations. When Davison was hired, the commission was operating its nutrition program out of a rented office on Ocean Highway South. The program has since been relocated back to the commission's building on Church Street. According to Davison, the Ocean Highway site was costing

the commission \$15,000 a year, and the money was coming out of the agency's reserve fund.

The commission's current building was built in 1977 with support from Perquimans County and funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The current lease for the Hertford office is about \$43,000.

CAMERAS

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The town has nine patrol vehicles. The problem is the grant cycle started in November and there is little money available, but Shoaf said there is some. If the town is unsuccessful this time, it can apply for grant money this November when the cycle restarts. Shoaf said.

Councilman Frank Nor-

man said it's critical the town gets the cameras.

"It's important, not just for the citizens but for the officers themselves," Norman said. While the idea of spending \$30,000 or more is a lot of money, he said the expense is not "frivolous."

Councilman Sid Eley agreed the cameras should be a high priority, but suggested spending money now when there is a chance of a 50/50 grant is unwise.

"If we can get these at

50 percent off, that's a big chunk of money," Eley said. He pointed the town's annual budget is just \$1 million.

Since it's likely the town will have a new police chief soon, Eley urged all the councilman to start with a clean slate.

"Let's start anew and let's move forward."

For his part, Shoaf said his priority would be to get car cameras that are compatible with the body cameras that officers wear.

ELECTION

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mission from the justice department by no means indicates that any change will not be challenged in the courts."

He cited examples in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Texas and North Carolina.

Hoffler is concerned about gerrymandering in the creation of any new voting districts.

"Gerrymandering the voting precincts of Perquimans County will result in expensive lawsuits to sort out the variety of constitutional violations created by gerrymandered Perquimans County's voting map."

He also said it could delay elections.

"That (gerrymandering) is the political sensitive 'hot potato' that Commissioner Jones skillfully avoided mentioning," Hoffler said.

"Any change that dilutes

the black vote will be challenged," Hoffler said. "My advice to my fellow commissioner is since the system for electing County

Commissioners in Perquimans County is not broken, don't try to fix it by gerrymandering the voting precincts."

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