



This Week + TV Week
 Music, movies, events, Sudoku puzzle and TV Week are found in This Week magazine inside this edition.

Burton meets crew at Beaufort facility

Custom yacht built at Jarrett Bay for NASCAR driver

BY MARK HIBBS
 NEWS-TIMES

BEAUFORT — Veteran NASCAR driver Jeff Burton paid a visit to the county on Wednesday to personally thank the workers at Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park who had a hand in his recently completed sportfishing boat.

Jarrett Bay completed in record time the 46-foot boat for Mr. Burton, a competitor in racing's

top stock car series, the Sprint Cup. Begun in January 2010, the company unveiled the boat at the 2011 Miami International Boat Show held Feb. 17-21.

Mr. Burton signed autographs

and spoke with the nearly 130 employees of various companies at the park who turned out for the barbecue lunch, meet-and-greet

See Burton / Page 5A

Jarrett Bay CEO Randy Ramsey, left, Danny Meadows of Bausch American Towers and NASCAR driver Jeff Burton speak to employees at Jarrett Bay Marine Industrial Park who completed Mr. Burton's custom yacht. (Mark Hibbs photo)



From left, Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter worker Herta Henderson, Raleigh cameraman Jay Spain and Hope Swinimer, founder of Hope for Wildlife Society in Nova Scotia, observe Ralph the pelican in her new pen at OWLS on Wednesday. (Cheryl Burke photo)

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, ACTION

Film crew follows off-course pelican from Canada to Newport shelter

BY CHERYL BURKE
 NEWS-TIMES

NEWPORT — A Florida-based brown pelican blown off course last year in a hurricane arrived in a new home Wednesday at a wildlife shelter here after spending six months in Canada.

Transported in a van accom-

panied by a film crew that has been documenting the rehabilitation of the bird, which has captured media attention in Canada and the United States, the pelican was greeted at the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter (OWLS) off Highway 24.

Named Ralph, after the adult entertainment business on

whose roof the pelican landed in Nova Scotia, shelter workers' examination here yielded a discovery — Ralph is a 2-year-old female.

Herta Henderson, wildlife rehabilitator with OWLS, said the sex of a bird sometimes doesn't become evident until it matures. Since Ralph was res-

cued six months ago, and was at a Canadian facility, which rarely sees pelicans, the bird's sex wasn't evident to Canadian shelter workers.

Now, Ralph will remain at the shelter until she's released into the wild.

See Pelican / Page 5A

Town panel tables plan for market

Similar businesses raise red flag

BY BEN HOGWOOD
 NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — Call it a farmers' market or a Saturday market. If it were operated on town property, would it be creating an unfair market for similar businesses?

That's the debate councilmen heard Tuesday, during their regular meeting, when they held an informal public hearing on a proposal for a market to be held during the summer months on town property. About 35 people attended the meeting, in the

Municipal Chambers on South 8th Street.

After hearing comments, which favored those against, the council decided to table the request until next month.

Richard Farrell, owner of Art Studio 500 in downtown Morehead City, is spearheading the effort to create a Saturday Market using two town parks: Katherine Davis Park and Jaycee Park. Katherine Davis would be the primary location,

See Market / Page 4A

DMF offices to close; other cuts proposed

BY MIKE SHUTAK
 NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — Gov. Beverly Perdue's proposed budget may make it harder for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to conserve oysters and shellfish, as well as put more licensing burden on the Morehead City DMF office.

The DMF announced Wednesday that its Washington, N.C., license sales office would close April 4 for an indefinite

period. This closure is caused by a recent retirement as well as the governor's budget, which calls for the license clerk position at the office not to be refilled.

Don Hesselman, DMF License and Statistics Section chief, said this closure would probably increase business for the Morehead City license office marginally. He said the DMF's Columbia license office is closer

See DMF / Page 4A

Spring forward Sunday

BY MARK HIBBS
 NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — It's that time of year again — time to move the clock forward for daylight saving time.

Appropriately enough for the millions of Americans who already feel sleep-deprived, this year DST, which begins at 2 a.m. Sunday and runs through the first Sunday in November, comes at the end of



Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to set the clock ahead one hour. (Dylan Ray photo illustration)

See DST / Page 6A

Churches start Lenten season with ashes

BY CHERYL BURKE
 NEWS-TIMES

NEWPORT — Dipping his finger in a small container of ashes, the Rev. Dave Linka of All Saints Anglican Church placed a small cross on the forehead of Carol Wray of Newport.

She was one of hundreds of county residents to attend Ash Wednesday services. In the western church, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40-day celebration of Lent, which leads up to Easter.

Ashes are placed on the foreheads of Christians as an outward sign of their sorrow for their sins. The practice, which dates from the early Middle Ages, is common among Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Episcopalians and many

Lutherans. Some Methodists and Presbyterian churches have also adopted the practice since the mid-1980s.

It's a time for personal reflection, with many spending time fasting, praying and doing acts of service for the poor, said the Rev. John Grayson of All Saints, who also officiated at the Ash Wednesday service.

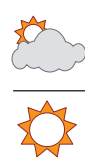
"It's a solemn remembrance of our mortality and sinful nature," he said. "We come humbling ourselves before the majesty of God. The focus is forgiveness from God and prepares our hearts for Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who alone paid the price for our sins."

See Lent / Page 6A



The Rev. David Linka of All Saints Anglican Church in Newport places ashes on Carol Wray of Newport during an Ash Wednesday service Wednesday. She was among hundreds of county residents to observe Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. (Cheryl Burke photo)

Forecast



Friday High: 56
 Partly cloudy Low: 34
Saturday High: 63
 Clear Low: 47

Inside

Editorials 10-11A
 Sports 7-9A
 Coastal Living 1-3B
 Puzzles 3B
 Public Notices 4-6B
 Classified Ads 7-9B
 Church Page 10B

Tides

Eastern Standard Time at Beaufort Bar

	Fri., March 11	Sat., March 12	Sun., March 13
Low	5:23 a.m. 5:07 p.m.	6:19 a.m. 6:01 p.m.	8:22 a.m. 8:05 p.m.
High	11:07 a.m. 11:47 p.m.	12:01 p.m. -----	12:46 a.m. 2:04 p.m.

Deaths

Doris Meadows, Mill Creek
 Kenneth Howland, Beaufort
 Waylon Bissette, Newport
 David Willis, Beaufort
 Frank Osborne Jr., Morehead City

(Obituaries on Page 3A)

Burton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

event dubbed the "Jeff Burton Splash Bash."

He said Jarrett Bay was the "obvious choice" when he began considering a \$1.68 million custom sportfishing yacht, named *Persistence*.

"You can look at the boat and see that you guys care about what you do," he said to the group, which included employees of Jarrett Bay Boatworks, Bausch American Towers, Gregory Poole Marine Power, Crystal Coast Interiors and the other artisans and craftsmen who worked on the project, which was completed in about half the normal time for a similar-sized yacht.

Mr. Burton told the *News-Times* he was introduced to Jarrett Bay CEO Randy Ramsey by a mutual friend and knew already he wanted to deal with a North Carolina company.

"It was a pretty obvious choice. Randy's confidence in his people, his confidence in his product all showed through," Mr. Burton said.

It also didn't hurt that Gregory Pool Marine Power, the company that supplied the power train for the boat, is based at the park and is an authorized dealer of Caterpillar engines, the primary sponsor of Mr. Burton's race team.

The project is Jarrett Bay's first pod drive-powered custom build featuring the 575-horsepower Cat C-9 Zeus Pods.

Such systems encapsulate the motor in watertight pods, which are suspended from the stern and rotate to provide directional thrust and steering.

The system makes the boat easy to handle with its joystick operation, a real selling point for Mr. Burton.

"I was going to put Cat power on the boat regardless, so the security of the pod-drive thing was the final straw that pushed me into doing it," he said.

Mr. Burton said he will homeport the boat at Kiawah Island, S.C., but added he may visit the Crystal Coast for fishing excursions.

"When you want to go fishing, this is such a convenient area," he said.

The yacht's overall dimensions are 46 feet, 4 inches long, 15-foot beam with a 4-foot, 4-inch draft. Fuel capacity is 620 gallons with a total weight displacement of 47,500 pounds. The cockpit is 108 square feet.

The 37,000-pound boat will cruise at a speed of 30.5 knots at 2,300 turns of the crank per minute, emptying the fuel tank at a



Above, the custom, 46-foot sportfishing yacht built by Jarrett Bay Boatworks, shown docked at the marine industrial park near Beaufort, features a new pod-drive propulsion system built by Mr. Burton's race sponsor Caterpillar. Right, NASCAR driver Mr. Burton, left, signs autographs and speaks to those who had a hand in building his yacht during a meet-and-greet event Wednesday. (Mark Hibbs photos)

rate of 50 gallons per hour.

Opening the throttle all the way moves *Persistence* along at 35.5 knots, burning 58 gallons per hour at 2,500 rpm.

Mr. Ramsey said the technology Mr. Burton's boat is equipped with is "already causing a stir in the industry."

"It was well received at the Miami Boat Show," Mr. Ramsey said.

And the project is getting media attention, as well. Mr. Burton's team website, jeffburton.com, includes on its front page a link to a page detailing the Jarrett Bay project.

Mr. Burton, a native of South Boston, Va., now living in Huntersville north of Charlotte, has achieved 21 Sprint Cup Series wins during his Cup career, which dates back to 1994.

Mr. Burton said his hectic schedule — 36 Sprint Cup races between February and November

— makes family time all the more valuable.

"The boating experience is something we all like to do together. I'm gone from home a lot but I like to spend time with my family. When we can, this is what we like to do," he said.

Boating also provides an escape from the high stress of competing against NASCAR's elite.

Despite winning one of the two qualifying races for starting position in the Daytona 500 in February, Mr. Burton, now in his 18th full season in the Cup Series, is currently ranked 32nd of 51 drivers in the points standing with an average finish of 27th, so far this season.

"Of course, we hate to run bad early in the year but we've had stuff bite us," he said. "I feel like we're going to be fine. We're not where we want to be, by any means, but we haven't dug ourselves a hole that we

can't get out of."

And his fans, including the handful who weren't employees at the Jarrett Bay park that turned out for the event Wednesday, say they'll remain loyal no matter how the season turns out.

Leslie Overby of the Seagate community is one example of that loyalty. A Burton fan for more than 10 years, Mrs. Overby said she was invited by a friend who works at the park and was thrilled to meet her favorite driver.

"It was awesome. He's such a nice guy," she said.

Her husband Dennis vouched for her loyalty.

"She's been talking about this for two months," he said.

And Gary Brunell, 13, and a student at Newport Middle School whose father works at the park, said he was happy school let out early on Wednesday so he could meet Mr. Burton.

"It was cool," he said.



Pelican

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Workers and volunteers from Hope For Wildlife Society in Seaforth, Nova Scotia, where Ralph has been staying, spent three days driving the bird in a van to her new home.

As well as Ralph's rescue and rehabilitation getting media attention, Hope Swinimer, founder of Hope for Wildlife, is already a celebrity in her own right and is featured on a wildlife TV series through the Canadian network, Oasis HD.

Ralph landed in Canada courtesy of Hurricane Earl, which traveled up the East Coast in late August and made landfall the first of September in Nova Scotia, a province on the east coast of Canada.

Ms. Henderson hopes the 7.2-pound pelican can be released within two months.

"It will really depend on her progress," she said.

The shelter workers have placed Ralph in an isolation pen to get used to her new surroundings, but hope to move her in a larger pen with six other pelicans at the shelter by the weekend.

"She hasn't been around other pelicans for six months so she needs to be re-acclimated to other pelicans," said Ms. Henderson. "Once she does that she will do fine."

Ralph's rescue started in September after Ms. Swinimer said she received a phone call from someone who saw the pelican on the roof of the Canadian business. After rescuing the bird, she brought Ralph to the wildlife center.

"It's very unusual for us to get pelicans," she said about the Canadian shelter. "I think we had one in 2001 and one in 2003, but none since then."

The brown pelican is the smallest of the eight species of pelicans and can get up to 12 pounds with an 8-foot wingspan. Its normal East Coast range in the United States is from Virginia to Florida.

When rescued, Ms. Swinimer said Ralph was emaciated, dehydrated and was missing a few feathers, but otherwise appeared fine.

After re-hydrating and feeding the disoriented bird, she first attempted, but was unsuccessful in transporting the pelican to a wildlife center in Florida.

"The regulations have gotten so strict, that it took me two months just to find out that wasn't going to happen," she said of the complicated import/export regulations regarding wildlife. She added they are especially strict in Florida.

After more research, she found the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter. She e-mailed Ms. Henderson and explained the situation.

"She was such a help and explained who I needed to contact and what I needed to do," said Ms. Swinimer.

After four months of paperwork and phone calls, it was determined it would be easier to drive Ralph to her new home in North Carolina than to fly.

Ralph is a national celebrity in Canada with news stories on television, in newspapers and on radio broadcasts across the country. The film crew that accompanied Ralph plans to do a documentary about both Ralph's travels and Hope for Wildlife Society.

Transportation came courtesy of Garry Sowerby, a Halifax businessman and four-time Guinness world record holder for long-distance driving, who read about the bird in a Canadian newspaper article. He offered to drive Ralph to Newport in a van.

"I read about her trying to find a way to get the pelican to North Carolina. I'd never heard of them until two weeks ago," he said. "My initial thought was it could ruffle a few feathers trying to fly the bird."

Mr. Sowerby purchased and drove his feathery passenger in



Above, Ralph, a pelican that has spent the last six months in Nova Scotia, gets used to her new pen. Right, Garry Sowerby, a Halifax businessman, stands by the van he purchased and custom painted to drive Ralph from Nova Scotia to the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter. (Cheryl Burke photos)

a Chevrolet Express Flex-Fuel cargo van that is capable of running on E-85 ethanol fuel. He had the van, which he named the Ralph-Mobile, custom painted for the occasion.

Mr. Sowerby, a syndicated columnist for numerous publications, said he wanted to raise awareness on the work of Hope for Wildlife and Ms. Swinimer through his trip.

"I wanted this to be all about her and her efforts to help Ralph and other wildlife," he said.

Mr. Sowerby, Ms. Swinimer and her boyfriend departed Seaforth with Ralph at noon Sunday. The drive was about 1,500 miles, roughly followed Interstate 95 south and took three days.

Ms. Swinimer said she was impressed with the OWLS and



knew Ralph was in good hands.

"I'm so happy. This is a perfect place for Ralph. I have 100 percent faith in what they will do for her," she said. "I just wish I had found out about this place in the beginning."

She admitted she would miss her feathery friend.

"We try not to get attached, but we had to provide so much care to Ralph when we first got her that she actually got used to humans," she said.

Ms. Swinimer hopes to return for Ralph's release, if she can afford the trip.

"I may not be able to, but I'm sure they will let me know how it went," she said.

Ms. Swinimer made a donation to OWLS before heading to Raleigh Wednesday to catch a flight to Nova Scotia.

"I've been where they are and I know what it takes to do what they are doing," she said as she wrote a check to OWLS.

And the shelter could use more donations, as well as volunteers.

Trish Slape, executive director for OWLS, said on average it costs about \$200 a month just to feed one pelican. If medications and other care are required, that can easily climb to \$600.

With Ralph, the shelter now has seven pelicans to feed in addition to the other orphaned and injured wildlife they are caring for.

With the struggling economy, Ms. Slape said donations are down.

"Our budget is very low and we're looking at trying to get more volunteers because our

staff is very low," she said.

There are currently three part-time employees in addition to Ms. Slape, who is also part-time, working with OWLS. All others are volunteers.

With baby bird season arriving, there's plenty of work ahead.

To volunteer, go to owlsonline.org and fill out and submit the volunteer application.

To donate, mail checks to OWLS, 100 Wildlife Way, Newport, N.C. 28570.

For more information about Hope For Wildlife, go to: www.hopeforwildlife.net.

To see more about the Hope for Wildlife television series, do a web search for: Hope for Wildlife TV series.

For more information on Mr. Sowerby and his adventures, go to: www.adventuredrive.ca.

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