

Salisbury Post



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INSIDE TODAY: 10 American soldiers killed in Iraq, page 2A

BATS, MAN



JON K. LAKEY/SALISBURY POST

John Deal, with Animal Capture and Exclusion Services, shows one of several different breeds of bats that have been living in a Spencer home for at least 30 years.

Bats force family to flee

Spencer house infested with hundreds of the flying mammals

By JESSIE BURCHETTE
Salisbury Post

SPENCER — Six months after buying a house in Spencer, Tracee Scheve and her three children have been evicted.

It's an eviction no one could imagine.

She's been forced out by bats — hundreds of bats.

To be precise, it's more than 30 years of bat feces that has forced her out.

It's everywhere in the house — on clothes, upholstery and woodwork.

When a train passes on the tracks a short distance from her Eighth Street home, a fine dust falls from the ceiling and walls.

The dust covers everything and sparkles in the light.

The "sparkle" is wings from thousands — perhaps millions — of undigested bug wings mixed with the feces.

An expert in bats said the family is living in a bat toilet. E. coli is on every surface.

"We're homeless," said Scheve, who said she never imagined her move to the small town would put her in a house of horrors.

Scheve and her children are living with her mother, Carolyn Rigo on nearby Fourth Street. She's facing a cost of more than \$20,000 to get rid of the bats, repair and bat-proof the house.

A federally protected species, bats can be excluded, but not trapped, moved or killed.

Once rid of the bats, the family faces a massive cleanup operation.

The family plans to undergo testing immediately for Histoplasmosis, a disease that affects the lungs and can be



DANGEROUS SITUATION: A sign warns visitors of the dangers of E. coli coming from years of bat guano that have been piling up in the ceiling and walls of the house.



NASTY NUISANCE: John Deal shows a small amount of bat excrement that is filling the walls of the house.



HEALTH HAZARD: Homeowner Tracee Scheve, wearing a particle mask to protect her from the dangers of bat feces, has been keeping a record of events since she found bats living in the attic and walls of her house in Spencer.

fatal. It's caused by Histoplasmosis capsulatum, which grows in material contaminated by bird droppings. Breathing the airborne spores causes the infection. Children and the elderly are most susceptible.

The house is now vacant. A homemade sign on the front porch warns people not to enter.

A borrowed commercial breathing apparatus allowed Scheve to enter her home and

retrieve clothes and a few personal items — all set to undergo washing and cleaning.

Scheve, who moved from Waxhaw in November, has

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Record-setting cold has local farmers worried about crops

By STEVE HUFFMAN
Salisbury Post

Give him credit, despite staying awake most of Friday and Saturday nights trying to save his 100,000 strawberry plants from a killer freeze, Doug Carrigan maintained his sense of humor.

"My only comment is, 'Where's global warming when you need it?'" asked Carrigan, the owner of Carrigan Farm on N.C. 152 outside Mooresville.

Carrigan said he and his workers irrigated their strawberries Friday and Saturday nights in an effort to protect them.

The irrigation coats the fruit with ice. The constantly freezing water releases heat, maintaining the temperature around the fruit at about 32 degrees.

It's a risky maneuver, but when the thermometer drops to 21 degrees like it did early Sunday, it's about all that growers can do.

Carrigan said he and his workers were fairly successful, though he estimated he still lost between 20 and 25 percent of his strawberry crop. Most plants died Friday night or early Saturday, he said, when the

wind was gusting. High winds render ineffective efforts to save crops through irrigation.

The 21-degree mark that was recorded early Sunday broke by 9 degrees a record that had stood since 1961. According to the National Weather Service, that 21 degrees is also the coldest reading ever for this part of North Carolina.

Frigid blast
Cold weather, snow makes its way across much of country, page 12A

The previous record low for April was 24 degrees, recorded way back on April 1, 1923.

"We experienced an extremely bitter cold air mass," said Doug Outlaw a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "Obviously, it's very rare for this late in the season."

Outlaw said this morning's low was expected to drop to 24 or 25 degrees, which might set yet another record.

The good news is that for the remainder of the week, conditions should gradually improve. Outlaw said that by

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Research Campus group gathers scientists from around globe for nutrition conference

By MARK WINEKA
Salisbury Post

The university network making up the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis has invited scientists and researchers from around the world to a three-day conference next week on metabolomics and genomics.

The conference, titled "Who We Are & What We Eat: The Role of Metabolomics and Nutrigenomics in Creating Healthful Foods and Healthier Lives," already is full and registration has been closed.

"It's our first start at letting people know that we exist and we're looking," said Dr. Steve Zeisel, director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Nutrition Research Institute in Kannapolis.

"There will be people from around the world experts in nutrition, healthier plants and food processing. Some will be interested in working here."

Most of the conference will be held at the James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte campus.

The conference also will include a lunch and tour of the North Carolina Research Campus site on Monday, April 16.

Metabolomics is the simultaneous measure-

Symposium this week

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ment of thousands of chemicals in blood or urine that more completely describe metabolism.

Nutrigenomics is the study of how nutrition changes how genes work and how genes change a person's nutrient requirements.

Hosts for the conference will include Duke University, N.C. State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, N.C. Central University, N.C. A&T State University and UNC-Greensboro.

Those universities will be playing major roles in future research at the campus.

"They will dedicate their efforts at the Kannapolis campus, now under construction, to the use of genomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics and systems biology to enhance nutritional quality of plants and foods."

"It is in partnership with all of the universities at NCR that the idea for this conference was conceived and made reality," says the Web site for the Nutrition Research Institute.

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WEATHER

Mostly sunny

High: 55 Low: 28

Complete forecast/12A

LIFESTYLE

Relay for Life raffle offers big-ticket items

— A7

SPORTS

Johnson wins Masters — 12B



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