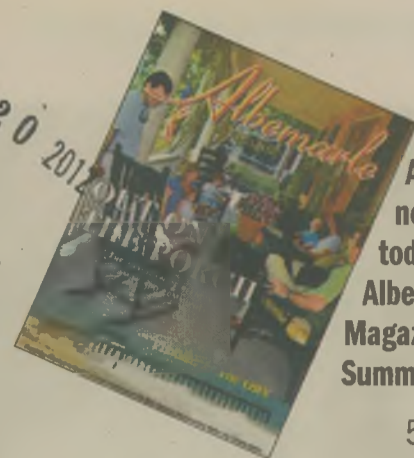


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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## New emergency services building opens

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

The new Emergency Services Building for Perquimans County is now home to the Communications, EMS and Emergency Management departments.



By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The new Perquimans County Emergency Services building now houses three county departments focusing on providing emergency services from one centralized location. The former Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation building on

Creek Drive in Winfall has been remodeled and converted into a spacious, updated, and modern home for the county's communications department, emergency management office, and emergency medical services fleet including Perquimans Rescue Squad. In addition to the normal workrooms and offices, the 12,000 sq.

ft. heated living space also offers a conference center, auditorium for meetings and training purposes, an additional 45x60 ft. bay for ambulances, and loads of storage space including large items like county vehicles.

It's been a project that began more than a year

See BUILDING, 4

## Free swimming lessons teach valuable life lessons

From staff reports

Kindergarten students at Perquimans Central School participated in swimming lessons at the YMCA May 22-June 1 with the assistance of funding from the Albemarle Hospital Foundation and the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

One hundred fifty kindergartners participated in the YMCA's All Kids Swim program held in partnership with the Albemarle Regional Health Services Child Fatality Prevention Team. Kindergarten classes were bused from their school in Winfall to the YMCA in Elizabeth City to take swimming lessons for two hours each day for two weeks.

"This swimming initiative promotes water safety awareness for students with classroom visits and actual swimming lessons in the pool," said Principal Melissa Fields. "In a community like Perquimans that is surrounded by water, this type of education is of critical importance to prevent future child fatalities—allowing our students to participate in the free swim lessons will provide many of them with life saving skills and strategies that they may not get otherwise. This is a great benefit not only to the students and families but also to the community at large."

According to Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter, this is the second consecutive year that the lessons have been offered to kindergarten students.

"I have applied for a grant through Albemarle Hospital Foundation for \$7,500 to sponsor this program and lessons for our kindergarten students next school year and have recently received notification that the grant has been approved for funding," she said. "I am pleased to help coordinate this event for our children. I believe in its value."

The Perquimans County Schools Foundation cosponsored this program this year with funding received from a grant from Albemarle Hospital Foundation to help pay for the swim lessons, cost of transportation, and to purchase swimsuits for needy students. Before students began lessons, YMCA staff traveled to the local schools to provide water safety lessons to all students.



PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS PHOTOS

Kindergarten students at Perquimans Central School learned that jumping into the pool can be done safely while also being fun during classes at the YMCA.



Instructors at the Albemarle Family YMCA in Elizabeth City taught students how to tread water.

## Forum tonight focuses on gangs

Awareness forum is for adults only

From staff reports

The Perquimans County Mentoring Focus Group will present a Community Gang Awareness forum on June 20 at 6 p.m. in the Perquimans County High School auditorium.

Guest speaker will be Danya Perry, director of Programs and Youth Development for Communities in Schools of North Carolina. The program is for adults only.

Perry has spearheaded statewide initiatives aimed at bullying, gang prevention, and intervention. He has co-authored several books and has served as a national consultant for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as well as the Gang and Violence Reduction Project.

He has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, North Carolina's Open NET and numerous radio outlets nationally.

For more information or to register, call 426-7697.

## Mail truck hits post office ... once more

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A tractor trailer delivering mail to the Hertford Post Office hit the corner of the building Sunday evening, knocking large chunks of concrete off the building onto the sidewalk below. The truck also knocked over the two outside mail boxes, damaged the retaining wall adjacent to the CenturyLink building next door, and tore down the railings on the Hertford Town Office steps located across the street.

The driver of the rig, Trezith Rashad Smart of Edenton, told Hertford Patrolman Kevin Worster that the 53-ft. trailer was too long to get into the post office driveway located on Grubb Street. Police reports state the drive panicked after first striking the building and then trying to back out several times, causing more damage.

The rig's owner is W & L Mail Services out of Keysville, VA.

## State denies homeowner's guard rail request

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has denied a request to install a guard rail along a curve on Route 37 to protect a home that has been damaged by vehicles running off the roadway several times.



Jason Davidson, traffic engineer for NCDOT's Division One which includes Perquimans County, notified John and Libby Wilburn of Belvidere that installation of a guard rail at that location is not war-

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The property of John and Libby Wilburn of Belvidere was damaged again Tuesday night when a vehicle ran off the road in the curve, knocked down several trees and fence posts and destroyed a telephone pole. The Wilburns have requested that NCDOT install a guardrail, but the state plans to take other measures.

ranted since only three accidents have occurred there during the last 10

years.

His letter was written and emailed on Thursday just hours after a vehicle missed the curve, again, and plowed through the Wilburns' yard. This time, however, the vehicle not only damaged the Wilburns' property, but knocked down a utility pole as well.

"This is so frustrating," said Libby Wilburn as she surveyed her trees, utility and the telephone utility pole destroyed early

See GUARD RAIL, 2

See POST OFFICE, 4



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