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Perquimans falls to Currituck, 6

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

50 cents

## Helicopter crash kills four

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Four people were killed Friday when a Duke Hospital helicopter crashed and burned in a field in Belvidere.

As of Saturday not all of the bodies had been recovered.

Sheriff Shelby White said he expects some of the wreckage would be moved Saturday but some of the equipment needed may not arrive until late Saturday or Sunday. The Perquimans Weekly was operating under an early deadline because of Hurricane Irma so updated information was not available.

One person who made it to the scene called the crash site "pretty much just a blackened pile of rubble."

He asked that his name not be used.

"The only thing left of the helicopter was the rotor blades and part of the tail."

The area around the crash site was covered in tall switch grass. He saw one body.

"The assumption is the others were under the rubble or in the switch grass."

A county press release issued Saturday said the Na-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Top, an aerial photo shows the wreckage of a Duke Hospital helicopter that crashed Friday.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Jarvis Winslow drives a rescue ATV down a dirt path towards the crash site of a helicopter Friday afternoon off Swamp Road. The Duke helicopter apparently fell from the sky near where the stand of trees are. In the foreground is the substation for the Amazon Wind Farms East project.



See CRASH, 2

## Local test scores improve

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Next week we'll look into what local schools did to improve their grades.)

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

In public schools, you get an "A" you're the best. You get an "F" and you failed.

In between you can earn a B, C or a D from better to worst.

Two years ago, the state graded two Perquimans schools as a "C" and one as a "D" on that scale. Perquimans Central is not graded because students in K-2 don't take the standardized tests.

Two years ago, Perquimans County High School and Hertford Grammar School earned Cs. Perquimans County Middle School earned a D.

A year ago, Hertford Grammar School went from a C to a B and PCMS went from a D to a C.

Last week the N.C. Department of Public Instruction released the new scores showing Perquimans County High School rose from a C to a D, and the middle and grammar schools held their ground.

The quick turnaround boils down to having good teachers in place and having the right methods in place, said Perquimans County

See SCORES, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Lions Club member Laraine Dupree from Wingate (left) pins the new N.C. Lion's Club pin on Helen Hunter at a ceremony last week in Hertford.

## State Lions Club honors Hunter

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

For 70 years, the North Carolina Lions Club has created a commemorative pin in honor of something.

It could be a mammal, sports team or a landmark. Last year it was the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

On Thursday in Hertford, Lions leaders unveiled a pin that honors a person.

Jim "Catfish" Hunter. Hunter a member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, and Perquimans County native, is the first person to be honored on the North Carolina Lion pin.

The pins are given from one person to another, traded and treasured, said Dale Dupree, a Lion from Wingate



The newest pin in the North Carolina Lion's club series features a picture of Jim "Catfish" Hunter and an outline of the state.

near Charlotte.

When the decision was made to dedicate the pin for a person, not a thing, the Lions started looking at people who were born and raised in

North Carolina who achieved some great thing. When nominations came in more and more people picked "Catfish." Being a "Lion" wasn't a criteria, but Hunter was.

Even though he died in 1999 after being diagnosed with ALS, "Jimmy" rose to the top, Dupree said.

The pin shows an outline of the state, and a cartoon lion leaning on a picture of Hunter wearing his "A's" uniform.

Hunter was signed straight out of Perquimans County High School to play for what then was the Kansas City Athletic's major league baseball team. The team eventually moved to Oakland, Calif. He also played with the

See HUNTER, 2

## Large housing development takes another step forward

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

What could be a \$40 million housing development took another step forward last week when the Perqui-

mans County Commission approved a preliminary plat for the 108-unit housing development in New Hope.

A Conditional Use Permit for The Moorings of the Albemarle was originally

approved in 2010 but the project required additional permits.

Tuesday's decision by the county commission will allow some site development, but full-scale construction

will require the final plat. Developer Bruce Exum Sr. admits the project has taken longer than he thought, but he thinks the project will move forward.

"We would have had a

hard time five years ago." Based on the 2010 Conditional Use Permit, the project will require an on-site sewer treatment plant. It took two years and 22 test wells to prove the soil in the

area could handle a drip irrigation field large enough to handle 108 homes.

Exum said his company, Atlantic Marine Construc-

See HOUSING, 3

## Principal earns national recognition

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Hertford Grammar School Principal Jason Griffin has another award for his wall.

Earlier this month Griffin was selected as North Carolina's 2017 National Distinguished Principal.

In May Griffin was named North Carolina's Principal



GRIFFIN

of the Year. As such, Griffin has a seat at the table at meetings of the NC Board of Education. He was doing that

last week.

The National Association of Elementary School Principals established the distinguished principal's program in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who

set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, climate for the students, families, and staffs in their learning communities.

Griffin said he had to prepare a portfolio to submit similar to the portfolio he submitted to earn the NC Teacher of the Year honor.

His latest award puts him in the company of only 54 principals from across the country. Along with the black tie affair, he'll attend a special pinning ceremony and get a tour of the White House.

"Hertford Grammar School is getting national attention now," Griffin said.

Education Matters, a national research group, is doing a case study to show how quickly a lot performing school can turn around.

As N.C. Principal of the Year, Griffin has been invited to visit other schools in the state to share his ideas on how to improve things.

Griffin said getting great teachers is a key thing. "I offered five tips, but the most important factor

See GRIFFIN, 2

## NEW POST OFFICE ARRIVES



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A crane lifts up a new post office for the Winfall from a truck Friday and places it on-site. The new post office will be on the same site on Main Street as the old one which closed in 2015 because of the poor condition of the building. It's unclear when the new facility will be open to customers.



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Junior Women's Club of Perquimans County's  
**STRIDES FOR SCHOLARS 5K**  
Saturday, September 16th | Perquimans County Rec Center



8:00 - 8:45am Registration/Check-In  
8:45am Kids Fun Run  
9:00am 5K Run/Walk

Register @ facebook.com/JWCPC