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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Dennis dances off Outer Banks

Hurricane may turn to sea or may return to slam Carolina

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans was lucky once more as Hurricane Dennis just danced past bringing rain and wind, but little more to the area.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Cullipher said the only damage reported to him was a tree limb that fell across a power line.

Weather forecasters said Dennis could continue in its northeasterly direction and head out to sea, avoiding damaging contact with the Carolina coast. Or, the storm could pick up strength over the ocean then slam back into shore. Cullipher said models from the National Weather Service Tuesday indicated that if the storm does turn back, it will probably hit the Virginia coast.

While it appears that Perquimans has, once again, been fortunate not to be hit with the full force of a hurricane, Cullipher said residents should continue to monitor Dennis, as well as other storms that may brew in the Atlantic through the end of hurricane season in November. Cullipher said the most active time in



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Hurricane Dennis whispered past Perquimans Monday and Tuesday, but some forecasters say the storm could come roaring back after picking up speed over the Atlantic Ocean. Some business boarded up windows, but this area is October.

Preparation can be the key to surviving a full-blown hurricane, Cullipher said. Residents should have supplies on hand during hurricane season and not wait until the last minute to go to the store. Storm staples like batteries and canned foods go quickly once a storm is forecast. In a central location in the home, residents should

keep flashlights, battery-operated radios, non-perishable foods, medications and other necessities. Water may be purchased or may be stored in pots and other containers from the tap at home.

If a storm is predicted to hit the county, Cullipher said that those living in unprotected areas along the rivers and sound and in mobile homes are

fortunately, the county sustained no major reported damages early in the week. Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Cullipher advises residents to monitor Dennis and other storms that may be brewing.

most vulnerable. Those residents should go to shelters if a hurricane is coming. Most others in Perquimans can probably ride out a storm in their homes just as well as in shelters, Cullipher said.

Any time residents suffer property damage from a storm it should be reported, Cullipher said. He is required to send documentation to

Raleigh for every storm, he said. Sometimes, residents can get financial assistance for damages even if the area is not declared a disaster area. Residents should document the damages and report them to Cullipher by calling the Perquimans Communications Department at 426-5751 and leaving a message for Cullipher.

Authors to sign books at Newbold-White

The Newbold-White House is the first stop on a booksigning and lecture tour for the authors of the new publication, *North Carolina Women Making History*. The free lecture is Thursday, Sept. 9 at 7 p.m.

Margaret Supplee Smith and Emily Herring Wilson will present a lecture based on their new book, *North Carolina Women Making History*. Published by the University of North Carolina Press, the book traces how Tar Heel women have live in, worked for, and contributed to home, state, and national history from pre-history through World War II.

North Carolina Women had its origin over a decade ago in a state-funded project resulting in an exhibition of North Carolina women's history at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. The exhibit is now traveling across the state.

Margaret Supplee Smith has taught art and architectural history at Wake Forest University since 1979, where she was instrumental in creating the Women's Studies Program. Beginning in 1987 she coordinated the North Carolina Women's History Project for the North Carolina Museum of History and curated the exhibition which opened the museum's new building in 1994. Emily Herring Wilson is author of *Hope and Dignity: Older Black Women of the South*. She has taught at Wake Forest University, Salem College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Cornell University.

This 400+-page book is highly illustrated with over 300 color and black and white photos. Cover price is \$29.95 hardcover. The book will be offered at a 20 percent discount at the Sept. 9 booksigning.

The booksigning and lecture is sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association, the Museum of the Albemarle, the Perquimans County Library, the Albemarle Literary Center, and made possible through a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council. For more information call (252) 426-7567.

Vaughan wants prayer at school

Minister, parent seeks volunteers for new program

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

You don't have to be a runner to be on Keith Vaughan's new TRAC team.

Vaughan, pastor of The Hertford Baptist Church, wants Christians in the community to team up and walk prayer onto school grounds. He is seeking adults to show up at each of the county's four schools every Monday at 7:30 a.m. for a 15-minute prayer session. Vaughan said there will be no evangelizing or proselytizing, just simple prayers lifted up for the safety and support of the teachers, administrators, staff and students.

Just as important as the prayer component of the TRAC (Touching and Reaching All our Children) team is becoming a buddy. Adults will be asked to give 30-60 minutes each week do be a lunch buddy or a reading buddy for a student or group of students.

Soul-searching, research and tragic events in other school systems led Vaughan to TRAC. He started to school when most teachers began the day with a devotion and the pledge of allegiance. Once the 1962 Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of school-sponsored religious activities began to be interpreted and ruled on in courtrooms, starting the school day with prayer stopped.

Society began changing in other ways around the same time, Vaughan remembers. Parents of

students in trouble began automatically assuming the teacher, not the student, had erred. That was a radical change from before, when students automatically got punished at home if parents found out there had been trouble at school. Where once there was a sense that parents and teachers were on the same team, a sense of distrust crept in.

Now, students in some school systems are afraid to go to school, afraid of being seriously injured or even killed by fellow students.

As a minister and parent, Vaughan said he has complained about the schools, including the absence of prayer, but has realized upon reflection that the church has not stepped forward to help support the schools with prayer.

"We (Christians) walked away from our responsibility," Vaughan said. He added that Christians holed up inside the church instead of reaching out to encourage and support others, especially in the schools.

Vaughan heard about a program like TRAC implemented by a church in a school in West Virginia. Discipline problems in the school declined, and the buddies even collect school supplies for children. It has been a beneficial partnership.

Superintendent Gregory Todd and all four school principals have approved of Vaughan's plan and said they would appreciate community support and encouragement for the schools.

A meeting to discuss the program is set for Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of The Hertford Baptist Church. It is open to anyone willing to give a few minutes a week to the community. Vaughan hopes to have teams on campuses on Sept. 27.

United Nations agency names storms

News reports indicate that Hurricane Dennis is tracking up the east coast heading for the United States. Says who? Who gives storms the names we all remember as Fran, Andrew and Hugo?

You may be surprised to learn that such weather systems are given specific names by a specialized agency of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Their headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland however they have six regional associations around the world. In our region North and Central America have established a hurricane committee that approves names and coordinates the operation for forecasts and warning of hurricanes and tropical storms in the western Atlantic and Caribbean. The regional center is the United States Hurricane Center in Miami.

They have a rotating system of names and this is the adopted list for this year - Arlene, Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Floyd, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lenny, Maria, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, and Wilma. The Greek alphabet (alpha, beta, etc.) will be used to name additional storms.

In other parts of the world hurricanes are called typhoons, cyclonic storms or tropical cyclones. They are devastating not only for their strong winds but also floods and storm surges and other secondary effects such as tornadoes and landslides. The most severe on record is a death toll of nearly 300,000 people in Bangladesh in 1970.

Inland residents need to pay at least as much attention to these weather systems as people on the coast. Statistics show that hurricanes cause more deaths inland than they do at the beach.

Historically such storms have been named for a variety of reasons. At one

time they were named for the Saints Day when they struck land, or in another case, on Australian forecaster even named tropical cyclones after political figures whom he disliked. Governments have also tried the standard alphabet soup of Abe - Baker - Charlie, etc. to identify storms. During World War II only female names were used, however this was later expanded to alternating male and female versions.

When the United Nations was formed after World War II the World Meteorological Association took up the important task of providing standard names for storms so that all would refer to the same weather system. One can imagine the confusion if different countries referred to the same storm with different names.

It is a common practice that when a hurricane attains notoriety, as Fran did, its name is taken off the list and replaced with another name of the same gender and beginning with the same letter. That was the case with Fran which has been replaced with Fay. We all hope that we don't have another one of those this year.

The WMO is just one of the many UN organizations which affect every day life around the world. Another is the World Health Organization which has successfully worked to eliminate smallpox from the earth and is trying to do the same with polio. While the UN has its critics the public deserves to know their positive accomplishments in peace, public health and international cooperative programs.

(Information on the United Nations Association can be obtained by calling 919/542-0319. More information on WMO can be obtained from their web site www.wmo.ch) (David R. Work is a State Vice President of the United Nations Association)

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 70s
Low: 60s
Mostly Cloudy

FRIDAY
High: 80s
Low: 70s
Mostly Cloudy

SATURDAY
High: 80s
Low: 70s
Mostly Cloudy