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Scrimmage starts gridiron action

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Swindell participates in pageant

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Aging with Gusto planned

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Power outage burns up AC unit at school office

Many in county without power Monday afternoon

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

Perquimans County Schools central office personnel cleared their offices Monday afternoon when smoke filled the building.

Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter said

firefighters were called just after 4 p.m. Monday and arrived to find the building filled with smoke. Firefighters used vans to vent the building.

A search of the building after the smoke was cleared determined that the motor on an air conditioning unit in the building's attic had burned up, causing the intense smoke to fill the building.

Lassiter said officials believe the problem was caused by power surges that rippled through town when a North Carolina Power jumper burned up. The school board

office, like most of the town of Hertford and some areas of the county, experienced a brief power outage. The brief power outage, coupled with low voltage, sometimes called a brown out, probably caused the air conditioner motor to burn.

There were no flames and no injuries reported, Lassiter said.

Lassiter said all the computers were operating smoothly Tuesday morning, with no problems apparent as a result of the fire.

"We were very fortunate, especially with school starting

Thursday," Lassiter said. "We were very happy when our computers were turned on this morning and everything was running fine."

The town of Hertford was without power for about 1 1/2 hours, according to Town Manager John Christensen. Christensen said North Carolina Power, whose lines supply electrical current to the town, lost one phase of a three-phase power system.

Christensen said some town electric customers experienced a low voltage situation before the power went off completely,

while some did not. He said that is because of the way the electricity is routed and balanced through the power lines.

N.C. Power immediately sent crews to town, and rerouted the distribution system to bring electricity into the town from the south, rather than its usual northerly entry.

Christensen said he was not sure of the cause of the problem. He added that it could have been caused by a tree limb on a line or a heavy load.

Some Albemarle EMC customers also experienced, outages, according to Bradley V.

Furr, Manager of Technical Services. The EMC outage, which was also attributable to N.C. Power problems, lasted for about an hour, he said. It affected about 1822 customers.

Furr said N.C. Power had a jumper burn open that feeds Albemarle EMC's Burgess substation. The Burgess substation feeds the Albemarle Plantation, Holiday Island and Snug Harbor communities in the southern end of the county. EMC de-energized the Burgess station to prevent unnecessary damage to its customer's appliances.

Perquimans Schools aim even higher

Last Thursday they celebrated their exemplary status and set out to become schools of distinction in 2000-2001.

Perquimans County Schools official kicked off the new school year last Thursday with the annual Opening Day Convocation. During the program, Superintendent Gregory Todd announced that all four county schools earned exemplary status under the ABC's accountability program criteria for the second consecutive year. The ABC's of Public Education is a comprehensive plan to improve public schools that is based on three goals of strong accountability: an emphasis on the basics, high educational standards, and local control of schools.

Todd credited administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students for continued improvement in the schools and encouraged staff to continue to move forward, make adjustments and improve. He added that the goal for the coming year should be to move to the level of Schools of Distinction,

meaning that at least 80 percent of the system's K-8 students perform at or above grade level on end-of-grade tests, and that high school students perform at proficiency or above.

"Success is a choice," Todd said. "As we begin this school year, let's choose to succeed, let's choose to help those around us succeed, and let's choose to help our students succeed."

The ABC's model recognizes both growth in student achievement and the percentage of students performing at grade level or proficiency level. Each K-8 school has a goal for student achievement that is set by the state and is based on average growth statewide and previous year's experiences.

A total of 69.8 percent of students in grades three through eight scored at or above grade level in reading and math statewide. In Perquimans, Hertford Grammar students had a composite score of 70.50, while the middle school's composite was 76.40. The high

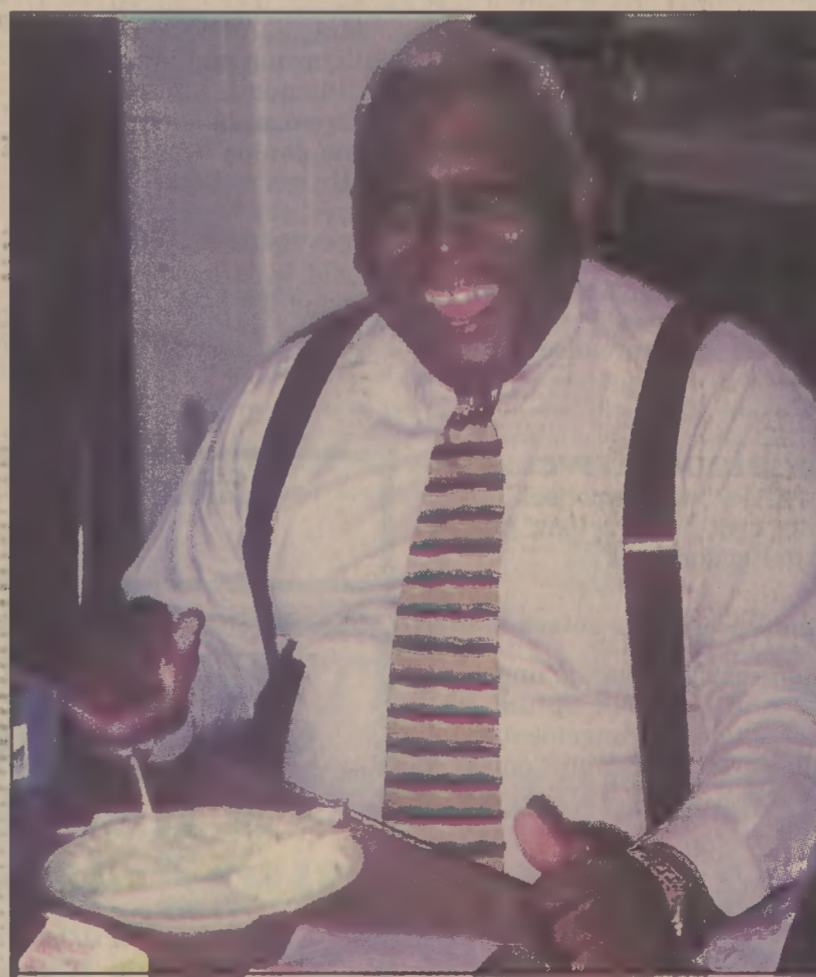
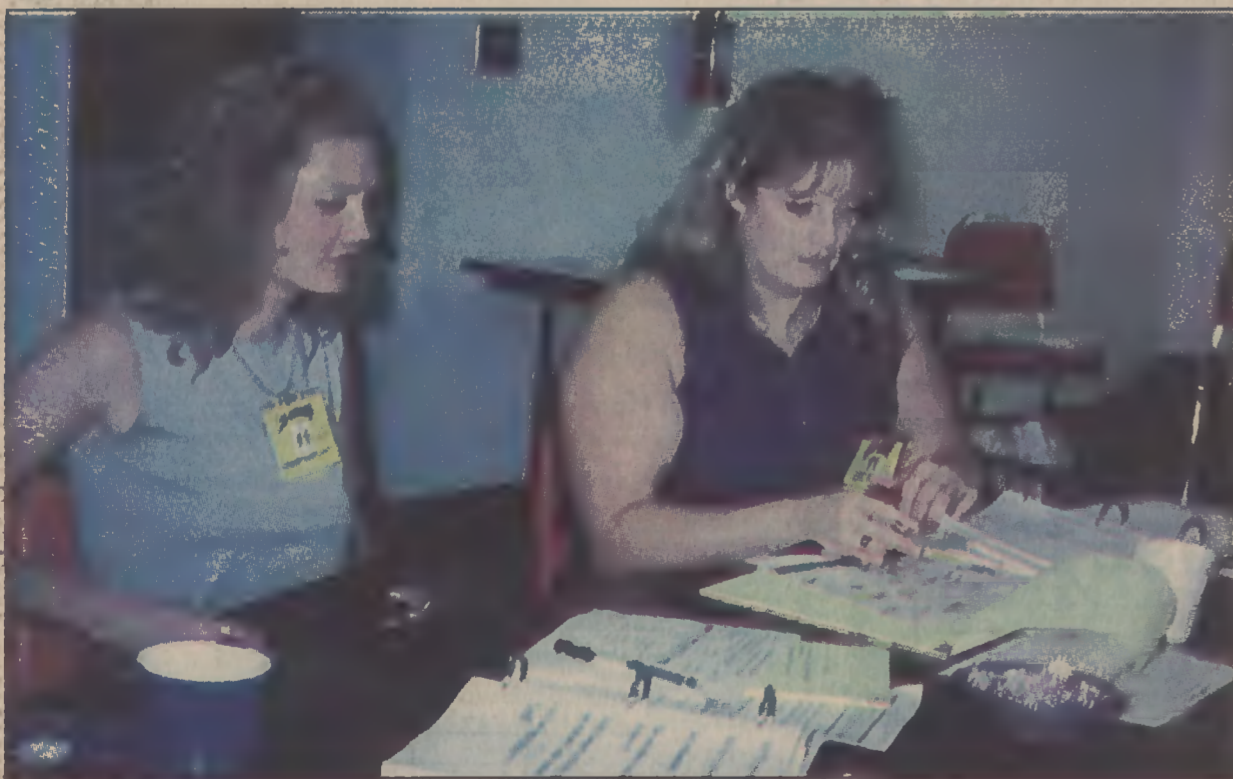


SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County Schools staff is back at work preparing for Thursday's return of students. Teachers from Hertford Grammar School (above) attended a workshop on assisting students to become higher-level thinkers through playing chess. Perquimans Central School teachers Lisa Hollowell and Lynn Woodell (bottom left) attend a workshop on peer coaching. Peer coaching is a technique of evaluation implemented in the school system. Judge J.C. Cole (below right) enjoys a light moment during the Opening Day Convocation for Perquimans County Schools.

school's composite score was 66.30.

The exemplary designation means school staff will receive bonuses.



September weekend filled with ALS fund raisers

September 22-24 will be a big weekend for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

The 2000 Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Softball Tournament is set for Friday-Sunday at the Perquimans County Athletic Fields in Winfall. On Saturday, the ALS Association, North Carolina Chapter will sponsor an ALS walk in Hertford.

The men's softball tournament,

introduced last September, was a hit — especially the game pitting a WVEC TV team against a team composed of Hunter's extended family. According to Joan Rountree, Hunter's niece and one of the event's organizers, the two teams will face off again during the tournament.

Rountree said donations of baked goods or other items for sale in the concessions stand

are being accepted. Call Rountree at 357-0597 for more information on donations.

Registration for the softball tournament is \$200 per team and each team must provide balls. Teams can register at the Perquimans County Recreation Department or by calling Guy Webb at 426-5695.

The department is providing organizational assistance for the tournament.

The 3-mile walk, the first sponsored by the ALS Association in North Carolina, will begin at the Perquimans County High School baseball field. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., with the walk starting at 9 a.m.

A portion of the proceeds from the walk will fund research. The Hunter ALS Foundation will help make the decision on what project(s)

gets funded with the proceeds.

Applications for walk participation are available at Woodard's Pharmacy and The Perquimans Weekly, and by contacting Leah Robertson at 426-3043 or Kim Hunter-Layne at 426-1559.

For information about ALS or the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation, log on to catfishhunterals.org.

Fowl tests positive for EEE

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

A chicken in a Perquimans County sentinel flock tested positive for eastern equine encephalitis.

Albemarle Regional Health Services Health Education Supervisor Jill Jordan said Monday that the flock is on the Bethel farm of Walker and Majorie Rayburn. The flock is part of a state program that put flocks in 28 counties for testing purposes. The blood of each bird is tested every two weeks for a number of mosquito-borne viruses, Jordan said. One bird in the flock tested positive for eastern equine encephalitis, also known as triple E, at the last testing.

Jordan said there have been no documented cases of humans in the county contracting triple E.

In response to the latest case of triple E, Perquimans County, in conjunction with Albemarle Regional Health Services, sprayed by truck for mosquitoes in Albemarle Plantation, Snug Harbor, Holiday Island, and the surrounding communities Monday and Tuesday. Spraying will continue based on mosquito population documented by landing counts in higher density population areas. Health officials said residents should remain indoors during hours of spraying.

Jordan said triple E can be passed to humans through mosquitoes, but the disease is not passed through the meat of an infected bird if the bird is eaten.

For questions about triple E, contact Environmental Health Services at 338-4490.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 92
 Low: 72
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
 High: 87
 Low: 69
 ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
 High: 85
 Low: 68
 PARTLY CLOUDY