

Winslow turns 100

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SPCA pet for adoption

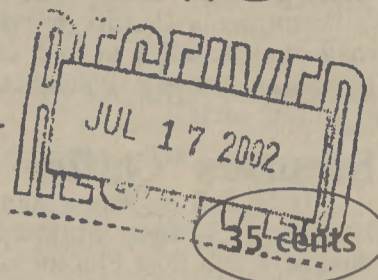
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Students sail to awards

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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## Belvidere residents fight OLF

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Residents of the Belvidere-Whiteston community plan to make a supersonic noise as they tell the powers that be in Washington, D.C. that they want no part of a military outlying landing field.

Last Thursday evening residents met to create a citizens action group to fight the possibility that the military may put a practice landing field in Perquimans County.

A spot in the Whiteston community is on the military's list of possible sites for a landing strip upon which the new F-18 Super Hornets will practice repetitive touch-and-go landings. Residents say the noise from the landings will negatively impact the quality of life in their quiet farming community.

Perquimans is one of

four possible sites for the landing field in the Albemarle area, the others being Bertie, Washington and Hyde counties. Officials from Pasquotank and Chowan counties are also concerned about the field being located in the Albemarle region because regardless of where the field would be located, it would bring noise to the entire area.

In fact, according to Navy maps, the lozenge-shaped areas of highest-impact noise cover an area 7 miles by 14 miles. And that estimate was calculated using noise data from the Hornet, not the Super Hornet, which is louder.

Perquimans, Bertie, Chowan, Pasquotank and Hyde counties have contracted with New Bern lawn firm Ward and Smith to fight locating the field in the Albemarle. The firm



Belvidere residents raise their arms in protest against the Navy putting a touch-and-go practice landing strip in their pastoral community.

will research flaws in the Environmental Impact Statement which is due out any time, and lobby Congress and the Navy.

In updates in county commissioners meetings, officials have said they are concerned that the powerful Virginia Senator John Warner will be a major obstacle to local efforts to stop an outlying landing field in the Albemarle.

Warner wants the Super Hornets to be based in Virginia Beach, a move that would bring further strength to the Navy's presence in Hampton Roads and continue to have a positive

economic impact on the area.

But Virginia Beach residents have long complained about the noise associated with the Oceana Naval Air Station, and adding the planes and the noise would be politically unpopular for Warner. So, Perquimans seems a prime location for the landing strip should Warner get his way.

Other problems cited by local officials is the poor health of Senator Jesse Helms, the presidential aspirations of Senator John Edwards which have kept him mum on the issue, and the congressional

redistricting which will remove Congressman Walter Jones as the area's representative.

County Commissioners Chairman Ben Hobbs attended the citizens meeting. Hobbs updated the group on efforts of local governments in the area to fight an outlying landing strip in the Albemarle.

The group elected the following officers: Chaplain - Tom McClaren, President - Mike Lucas, Vice President - Craig Craft, Secretary - Patsy Miller, Treasurer - Lu Ann Riddick, and Board members Pete Perry and Carrie

Baker. The officers will work with the following committee members to study the issues and develop action plans: Barbara Stallings, Linda Godfrey, Nancy Baker, Stan Winslow, Jeff Chappell, Arnold Winslow, Charles Baker, Jeff Winslow, Deborah Byrum, Edward Winslow, Julian Baker, Doug Layden, Jimmy Baker, Cathy Matthews, Amy Van Benton, Lot Winslow, and Van Harris.

To add your voice to the protest or offer your help, contact the action group via e-mail. NO OLF@mchsi.com.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting Monday at Layden's Country Convenience Store in Winfall.

## Layden's expands to Winfall

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Doug Layden describes it as a convenience store with a country flair.

"The concept I'm going on is to leave it a convenience store with a touch of country, meaning you can get seasoning meat, Layden's sausage in small quantities and other items like molasses, honey and Lane's cornmeal," said Layden of his new store in Winfall.

The Layden family brought its long tradition of operating country stores to Winfall, moving into the building formerly occupied by Sheldon's Mini-Mart. The new store is called

Layden's Country Convenience. The Winfall store is open 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-6 p.m. on Sunday.

Layden said he had told building owner Russell Hollowell that if a store offering gas ever became available in the area, he would be interested. When Sidney Sheldon decided to discontinue operation of the Mini-Mart, Hollowell called Layden.

The need for a store in Winfall coupled with the opportunity to expand his buying power to compete with larger stores made the move a good one for Layden, he said.

Now those coming

through Winfall who need convenience items as well as those desiring the savory taste of Layden's famous meets can stop in one place. For a country ham or supply of meats, produce and hoop cheese, Layden's Supermarket is right down the road in Belvidere.

Doug's father, the late Charles Layden, started Layden's Grocery at its present location in Belvidere in 1954. Since that time, the Layden family, including Charles' wife Mittie Jean, the couple's six children and several grandchildren, have learned to cure country meats and assist customers with a smile.

## Sprint warns of scam

Sprint has learned of a new potential slamming or scamming situation.

Callers claiming to be Sprint representatives are contacting Sprint customers, claiming the customers have been paying too much for one fee or another, and offering to correct the situation. The caller may or may not offer to switch their long-distance service, and they may refer to an "incorrect LCR fee." They may also refer to a "rebate program" and ask for personal account information, and they may ask customers to provide additional telephone numbers connected with a main number.

Anyone who receives such calls to report them to Sprint Security at 1-877-451-1980.

## Cox leads Perquimans High athletic department

SUSAN R. HARRIS

She played at PCHS. She coached at PCHS. Now Susan Cox is the first female athletic director at PCHS.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to go and work at the high school," Cox said. "I'm looking forward to teaching and I'm looking forward to being one part of a team that's trying to put together an outstanding athletic program."

Cox, a 1964 graduate of Perquimans County High School, brings over 30 years of coaching experience at the middle school, high school and college level to the job.

After earning her degree in physical education from UNC-Greensboro, Cox spent seven years at Williamston High School, where she coached tennis, basketball and softball.

From there, she spent seven years at Peace



Susan Cox

College coaching basketball and softball. While there, she completed her masters at East Carolina University.

She then spent a couple of years in private business before returning to her first love.

"I didn't like it (private business)," Cox said. "I missed the kids."

So Cox got back in public education with a part-time job at East Cary Middle School, coaching basketball and softball at Meredith

College also. The job at East Cary went full-time, and she stayed on another year at Meredith. She taught at the middle school full-time for six years.

Her next move was to Cary High School, where she spent seven years as volleyball coach and four years as softball coach.

Cox began to long for a quieter life, less traffic and a smaller school. She found an opening at Perquimans Middle School two years ago, and moved back home.

"I was looking for something smaller," she said. "I was teaching at a school that had 2,000 kids in it. It was kind of impersonal."

Cox and fellow health and physical education teacher Rodney Lassiter revamped the health and P.E. curriculum at PCMS. She also coached basketball for two years, while assisting with volleyball at the high school. Last year, she accepted the head coach

responsibility with the PCHS softball team.

Now, she's taking her role a notch higher with the AD position. Cox has no plans to go in and make wholesale changes in the athletic department there.

"I think for a while, we're just going to let things stay where they are," Cox said. "There're some improvements and things that need to be made, that have to be made every year. I think the athletic department is in a good position."

"Until I sit down with the coaches and see where they think things need to go, I just don't see a whole lot of changes."

Cox will continue to coach softball, but does not plan to coach any other sports.

"My personal opinion is, you can't coach a great deal and handle the job of athletic director," Cox said.

The new athletic direc-

tor believes that participation in sports is an important component of education.

"Sports give students an opportunity to develop themselves physically, to develop a sense of teamwork and commitment, and it helps them to learn to get along with others and maybe sometimes put other people ahead of themselves," Cox said. "Sometimes you have to sacrifice yourself for your team."

The coaching staff at PCHS will remain stable, except for filling coaching duties in girls basketball and JV baseball formerly held by Bob Turner.

"Everything else looks like it's pretty set," Cox said.

Soon, fall sports will get underway and student athletes will be riding on newly-painted activity buses. They'll also have a new weight room in which to train.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 95  
Low: 74  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 96  
Low: 72  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 90  
Low: 71  
ISOLATED T'STORMS