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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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AUG 21 2002

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August 21, 2002

Vol. 71, No. 34 Hertford, North Carolina 27944



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

About 150 people attended a public meeting about the proposed military outlying landing field in Northeastern North Carolina held at Perquimans County High School last Tuesday night.

Residents vow to fight OLF

SUSAN R. HARRIS

If you build it, they will come.

And that's exactly the reason a grassroots effort is underway to fight the Navy's proposed construction of an outlying landing field in Northeastern North Carolina which will bring the roar of Super Hornets to the area.

The Perquimans NO OLF Committee hosted a public meeting at Perquimans County High School last Tuesday night to pass along information about the negative effects

an OLF would bring to the county. Organizers also encouraged all present to continue their letter-writing and email campaign and to attend the public hearing set for Sept. 3 at Perquimans County High School enmass.

Ben Hobbs, chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and chairman of the regional steering committee organized to fight an OLF in Northeastern North Carolina, said the action of local residents to fight an OLF has made a difference.

"We truly believe that we were the preferred site in

the beginning," Hobbs said.

But Perquimans County residents did not take the news that their new neighbor may be a stop-and-go landing field lightly. There were six counties in Northeastern North Carolina that either stood to be the new home of the OLF or were next door. People in Perquimans submitted over half the letters and made over half the contacts with federal officials speaking out against an OLF.

In addition, Hobbs said county commissioners received over 200 letters.

Hobbs encouraged atten-

dance at the Sept. 3 hearing.

"We need to prepare for the public hearing," he said. "We need to pack this place."

County commissioner Charles Ward has also been a vocal opponent of the landing field.

"Back in January ... we knew we were in serious trouble," he said, adding that at one time Perquimans was the only OLF site being considered.

That changed, he said, because of the outpouring from residents against the OLF.

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It's hurricane season: Prepare

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The area has been so lucky for so long, Perquimans County Emergency Management Coordinator Harry Winslow worries that one day the luck will run out and area residents won't be prepared for a major hurricane.

"We have not had a serious hurricane in so many years, I think we get complacent," Winslow said last week.

With hurricane season in full swing, failure to be prepared is a concern for Winslow.

"Early preparation is the key (to protecting life and property)," he said.

And Winslow has reason to be concerned about early preparation. There are over 11,000 residents in Perquimans County, and only one Red Cross approved shelter, roads in low-lying areas prone to flooding, and a county split by a river. Add to that the number of people it takes to adequately monitor and prepare for the onslaught of a major hurricane, and a

storm can become a major undertaking.

Winslow is always alert to the first warnings that a storm may move across the area. He and other emergency and law enforcement personnel kick into high gear when a direct hit is predicted. They discuss if and when roads should close and a shelter should open, using a plan that is already in place.

"Planning can't be done two hours before the storm hits," he said.

Often, the Outer Banks are the first to evacuate. But with only one shelter in Perquimans, local officials don't open here until those ocean areas are evacuated so that folks on the beaches move further inland and there is shelter available for locals.

At peak tourist season, it takes 28 hours to evacuate Ocracoke, 18 hours for Dare County and the beaches and 12 hours for Currituck.

When the decision is made to open the shelter, which is at Perquimans Middle School, school, health department, rescue, fire, social services, law

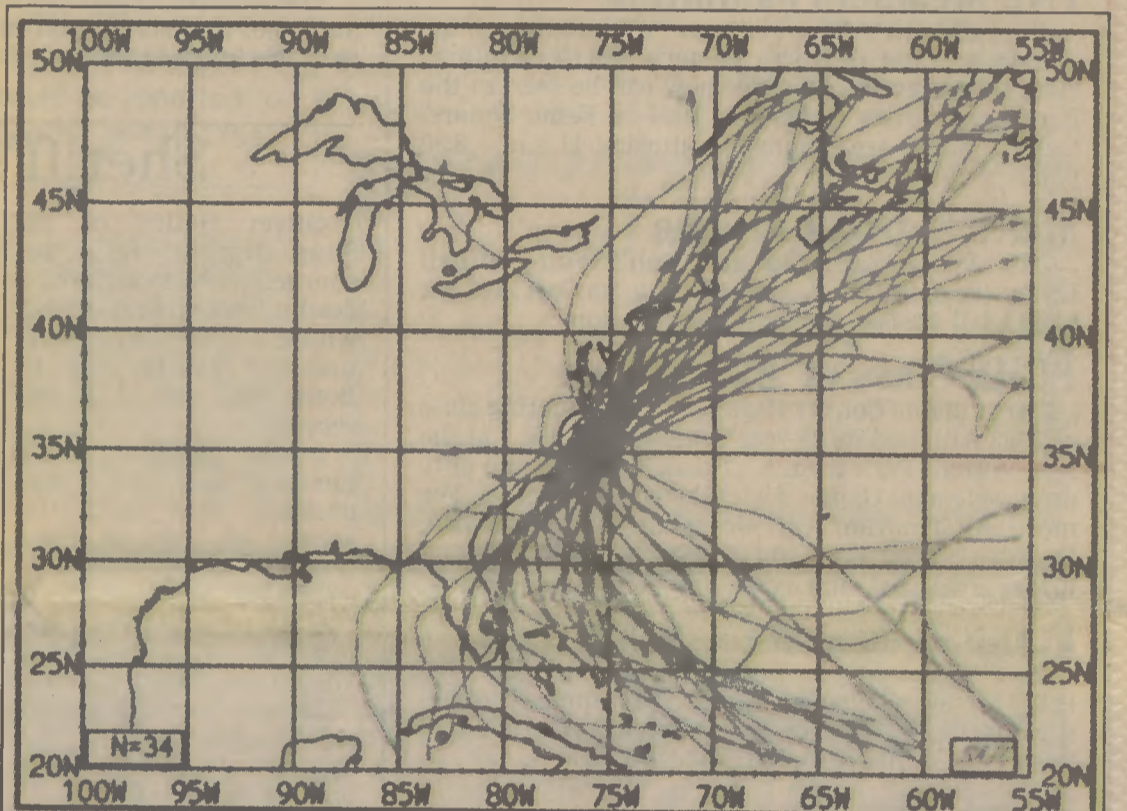
enforcement and Red Cross personnel are all called upon to assist.

Ambulances are positioned on both sides of the river so that rescue personnel can answer calls without the danger of high winds across the Highway 17 bypass bridge and flooding on the causeway. Volunteer firefighters man stations, becoming the eyes and ears for Winslow and others at the central command center, which is in the courthouse annex.

School cafeteria and custodial staff, and health department, social services, rescue, law enforcement and Red Cross personnel must report to open the shelter.

Winslow said residents should pay close attention to news forecasts and monitor television stations in the Hampton Roads area for news of evacuation announcements and shelter opening in Perquimans.

Those in mobile homes and low-lying areas should be especially watchful, he said. When a direct hit is predicted, those residents should seek shelter with



HURRICANES PASSING WITHIN 75 N.M.I. OF CAPE HATTERAS, NC 1886-2000

This hurricane chart prepared by the National Weather Service shows that Perquimans County has felt the impact of numerous storms since 1866.

family or friends or go to the local shelter when it opens.

Other residents should move lawn ornaments and furniture, and take precautions for large windows.

Every household should have sufficient supplies to last three days, including

water, non-perishable foods, medications, battery-operated radios and flashlights, and pet supplies.

When going to a shelter, people should take bedding, medication, snacks, and quiet entertainment such as books, puzzles, cards, board games or a radio

with earphones. Pets are not allowed in the shelter.

Before leaving, people should let family or friends know they are leaving, unplug appliances, turn off gas, gather important papers, make provisions for pets and lock the doors.

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Cross Country Homes opens

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Cross Country Homes of Eastern NC, Inc. opened the doors of two model homes at its grand opening celebration last Thursday.

Located on Ocean Highway (U.S. Highway 17 South), the company offers quality modular homes at affordable prices, according to owners Tommy and Shelley Layden.

Cross Country is an authorized builder for All-American Homes.

Shelley Layden said homes are built with 2x6 exterior walls on 16-inch centers with 2x10 floor joists on 16-inch centers, the same construction as stick-built homes. They are built in a climate-controlled



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Cross Country Homes of Eastern NC, Inc. held its grand opening last Thursday. The company offers modular homes from its location on U.S. Highway 17 South. A ribbon cutting for the business was held by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce.

factory in Rutherfordton, protecting them from the weather during construction. She said prospective home-owners can expect four months from order date to move-in date.

The Laydens saw a need for their type of business in the area.

"We are a model home

center that specializes only in system-built homes and one of the reasons for bringing it into the area is because the need is here," Shelley said.

"Northeastern North Carolina seems to be a highly developing area."

There are four basic

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Winfall prepares for festival

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Winfall Landing Park will become the newest venue at the Indian Summer Festival.

Donna Mummert, a Winfall resident and member of the town's Beautification Committee, is organizing events at the park.

"We're very excited and we're very grateful that they've included us," Mummert said about the town's participation in the annual festival.

So far, Mummert said, people have been very receptive to the expansion.

An opening ceremony at 9 a.m. on festival day, Sept. 14, will be followed by entertainment under the park pavilion, children's games, boat rentals and rides and the opening of booths with business and community service information.

Set to perform are the Ellis Temple Praise Dancers, the Perquimans County Middle School band, David's Red Barn Gang, a disc jockey and

Wild Streak Band.

Perquimans Heritage, Inc., a local non-profit working to enhance life on the county's waterways, worked Saturday in Winfall preparing for the festival. PHI will organize river events at both Winfall Landing Park and Hertford Municipal Park for the festival.

Winfall Landing Park features a clean family environment, offering handicapped access to the waterfront boardwalk, a small playground area, restroom facilities, a covered pavilion and ample parking, Mummert said.

In addition to parking at the park, there will be parking at Central School with a shuttle to the park.

Another change in this year's festival will be the street dance. The dance will feature Guta, a band playing an eclectic variety of music. It will be held in downtown Hertford on Friday night from 7-10 p.m.

On Saturday, downtown Hertford, the Hertford Municipal Park, Missing

Mill Park and Winfall

Landing Park will all be Indian Summer Festival venues. The Hearth & Harvest Festival will run simultaneously at the Newbold-White House. Shuttle buses will run continuously between the venues all day.

WEEKEND
WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 89
Low: 71
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 93
Low: 71
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 93
Low: 71
ISOLATED T'STORMS