

AEMC holds annual meeting

Page 2

Women's Equality celebrated

Page 3

Sports

Page 7

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

P14/C5
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

RECEIVED
SEP 17 2003

35 cents

September 17, 2003

Vol. 71, No. 38 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

County gears for Isabel

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County Emergency Management held a meeting Tuesday at 1 p.m. to prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Isabel.

Emergency Management Director Harry Winslow Jr. had called in representatives of fire, rescue, law enforcement, school, county, towns and social services agencies to plan for the possibility of a direct hit by Isabel.

Winslow said around 11 a.m. Tuesday that the latest information he had called for the storm to pass almost directly over the county.

With no changes, the projected path of the storm put the eye over the Outer Banks at 10 a.m. Thursday. Hurricane winds would extend 120-130 miles from the eye. That would mean that Perquimans County would feel the impact of winds around 1-2 a.m. Thursday. Winslow said winds as of Tuesday were expected to be about 90-100 mph when the storm reaches the county.

A storm surge of 4-6 feet is expected up the sounds.

The hurricane is expected to bring six inches of rain, with the bands reaching Perquimans late Wednesday afternoon. FM radio station Dixie 105.7 will be called with the information and will air it and pass it along to other stations owned by the company.

Even before the Emergency Management meeting, Winslow said those who live in mobile homes and in areas prone to flooding are advised to seek shelter. Shelters in Wilson County and Rocky Mount had already opened Tuesday morning as Ocracoke and the Outer Banks began evacuation.

While no decision had been made prior to the meeting on opening the county's only shelter at Perquimans Middle School, Winslow said if the shelter opened, it would be late Wednesday afternoon.

At press time, the school system had canceled all after school programs and activities for Wednesday and expected to close all day Thursday. A decision on opening Friday will not be made until officials know exactly what the storm brings to the county. The information will be broadcast on radio and television stations listed in the students' agenda books issued at the beginning of the school year.

Those who opt to go to a shelter should take non-perishable food items, medications, important papers, bedding, battery-operated radios with headphones, games or books for children and other necessary supplies. Pets are not allowed in shelters.

Continued on page 8

FESTIVAL FUN



A hayride provided fun for all ages at Winfall Landing Park. The Atlantic Fleet Band was the very popular finale in downtown Hertford.



The moonwalk was a favorite in the kids area in the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot. The Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates are always a festival favorite.



Schools earn passing grade

Perquimans earns honors under state ABCs program

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County Schools demonstrated expected or high growth under the state's ABCs Accountability Program, according to information released last week by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

In the official report, Perquimans Central, Hertford Grammar and Perquimans Middle schools were recognized as Schools of Distinction, while Perquimans County High School was named a School of Progress.

Grades k-5 demonstrated high growth; grades 6-12, expected growth.

For the sixth consecutive year, the overall performance composite of each of the schools has climbed, with the elementary schools increasing from 79.3 percent proficient in 1002-02 to 87.8 percent proficient in 2002-03.

The middle school's composite rose from 83.7 percent to 85.4 percent, while the high school increased from 69.6 percent to 71.7 percent.

Superintendent Ken Wells credits the ABCs success to the diligence of quality educators and outstanding students.

"Teachers are working like never before to put our children and their education first," Wells said. "Making education better today than it was yesterday is what it's all about."

Wells said the challenge that lies ahead is merging the new federal requirements under No Child Left Behind with the state ABCs accountability model.

For more information, visit www.ncpublicschools.org.

Festival was a success

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Friday's rain forced last-minute changes, but not the success of the 22nd annual Indian Summer Festival.

Missing Mill Park, which was to be the main venue of this year's festival, was not usable because of its soggy condition, so festival organizers moved everything downtown.

Over in Winfall, Winfall Landing Park was wet, but events there were able to go on as planned.

The Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White Historic Site was canceled because of the wet grounds.

Even with the changes,

both downtown Hertford and Winfall Landing Park were alive with people by mid-morning.

Entertainers performed, children enjoyed games and pony rides, folks danced in the streets and festival-goers browsed and shopped with the variety of vendors at both sites.

Fearing rain Saturday evening, the Atlantic Fleet Band, the festival finale, opted to start their show about 20 minutes early.

During a musical tribute to the military forces serving at home and abroad and the heroes of 9/11, "God Bless the USA" was sung by the navy band. The audience gathered to hear the

performance spontaneously stood when the singer sang the words, "and I gladly stand up next to you."

The early start of the band's performance and the crowd leaving at its end caused the awards to be presented by Mary White of Historic Hertford Business Association not to be given during the festival.

Those honors included kudos to Donna Mummert, Winfall Festival Chair; Donna McDilda, Outstanding Volunteer; Parker Newbern, Town of Hertford; Wendy Jewett, Historic Hertford, Inc.; Sylvia Wyatt, Volunteer of the Year; and Susan Harris, The Perquimans Weekly.

Both White and Mummert said they were pleased with the turn-out of both festival-goers and entertainers and vendors after Friday's day-long downpours.

Vendors in both places were pleased with their sales.

LuAnne Pendergraft, Tourism Development Officer at the Newbold-White House, said Perquimans County Restoration members were disappointed to have to call off events there, but that the grounds were just too wet to go ahead with plans at that site.

Next year's festival is already being planned.

Partnership promotes networking to help business

SUSAN R. HARRIS

One North Carolina company was buying supplies it needed from out of state, not knowing that a company within its region produced those supplies.

Once the owner found out, he opted to deal with a fellow North Carolina business owner.

This type of scenario is not unusual, and North Carolina's Northeast Partnership wants to set up a network to make it easier to find what businesses need close to home and bolster the state's economy as a result.

Working together was the crux of the discussion at a Business & Industry Opportunities Luncheon held by the Partnership at the Albemarle Commission Building last Thursday.

Partnership Chairman Jack Runion, President and CEO Rick Watson and Existing Industry Specialist Rocky Lane joined Perquimans County Assistant Manager Bobby Darden, North Carolina Partnerships for Economic Development Meredith Norris and other state and local officials to explain a new networking program to help business people connect is the Buyer-Supplier Network now being implemented in the Northeast region. To be operated through the chambers of commerce, the network would allow buyers and supplies to meet electronically to learn what is available in the area.

The hope is that the network will build strong partnerships in the region, then across the state, the country and internationally. Watson said a follow-up meeting will be held to introduce the concept to the county's business community.



Nate Smith of the N.C. State University Industrial Extension Service speaks with Brian Nixon of Majestic Embroidery and LeAnne Hamilton of Inteliport during the Perquimans County Business & Industry Opportunities luncheon sponsored by the Northeast Partnership last Thursday.

meeting will be held to introduce the concept to the county's business community.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 76
Low: 66
HEAVY RAIN/WIND

FRIDAY
High: 83
Low: 64
PARTLY CLOUDY/WIND

SATURDAY
High: 82
Low: 62
MOSTLY SUNNY