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DPI releases Adequate Yearly Progress results

ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans County High School is said to be the only school in the system to have met the requirements needed for this year's Adequate Yearly Progress, preliminary reports released by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction revealed Monday.

Out of four public schools, three failed to

show Adequate Yearly Progress — falling short in test scores of exceptional students.

"We have target goals to meet in the system and the school," said Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth W. Wells. "If they are not met, score are not counted. With AYP there is no credit for the progress you make."

Students in grades three through eight and high school students in the tenth

grade participated in testing of reading and math comprehension at their schools in May. A requirement of the federal education law called No Child Left Behind.

Their proficiency, Wells said, was based on whether schools' were able to meet the proficiency level set for each of their target goals.

This year Hertford

Grammar, Perquimans Central School and Perquimans Middle School were scored using 21 target goals while PCHS was scored using 17.

Perquimans County Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter said to test proficiency students were lumped into groups of at least 40 in a number of categories where they qual-

ified — including categories such as race/ethnicity, economic status and special needs.

Wells said when one student, who qualifies for more than one of the schools targets does not meet proficiency, scores for each of the categories they qualified are brought down.

"We want every group of students to be successful," Wells said. "[But] It's an all or nothing proposition."

During the 2004-05 year,

students were deemed proficient by the state if individuals in grades three through eight met 76.7 percent proficiency in reading and 81 percent in math. While students in the tenth grade were required to be 35.4 percent proficient in reading/language arts and 70.8 percent proficient in math.

Though PCHS met their proficiency ratings, Lassiter said the three

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Wells

Community helps locate hound lost in accident

ERIN RICKERT

The Border Collie missing since his involvement in the recent traffic accident on U.S. Highway 17 was finally located family reported Wednesday.

Nine year-old "Double Dip" had been missing since he strayed from the scene of a July 7 accident that caused a grain truck and a tractor-trailer to collide near where Chapanoke Road intersects U.S. 17.

Double Dip was riding in the passenger seat of the grain truck, as he often did, the morning of the accident.

The driver of the grain truck, longtime Perquimans County farmer and Double Dip's companion, 79 year-old Ray Godfrey would die from injuries sustained in the collision.

Sharon G. Meiggs, Godfrey's daughter, said the family had assumed Double Dip was dead after seeing the condition of Godfrey's vehicle following the incident.

It was only after neighbors near the scene of the wreck informed the Godfrey's they had spotted Double Dip, Meiggs said, did they regain hope they would be reunited with their precious companion.

Then, a day after the accident a resident near the scene, who claimed Double Dip was in their yard, would contact the family.

"We left to get him,"

Meiggs said. "But he was still so traumatized he ran from Sonny [Godfrey's son Earl] and my mother [Earline]. He ran straight across the four lane highway."

The family would make several other attempts to locate their pet. Earl, Double Dip's actual owner, even parked his pickup in nearby neighbors' driveways — leaving the doors open and placing several articles of Godfrey's clothing on the seat — hoping to catch him.

"Neighbors kept seeing him around the area [of the accident]," Meiggs said. "They let us use their driveway's and put food and water out. That whole entire community was helpful."

Meiggs said just when the family had almost given up they investigated one more sighting — only this time Double Dip was closer to home.

"He was under the tailgate of a pickup at a house being built closer to the New Hope end," Meiggs said.

This time, Meiggs said, instead of running after the Double Dip, Earl stepped out of the car and coaxed the dog who finally crawled to Earl on his belly.

"He looked so tired and pitiful," Meiggs said. "But he was home."

Since his return Double Dip like his old self — swimming in the family's

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ECB BREAKS GROUND



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Bank personnel from Hertford's branch of East Carolina Bank participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for their new building Monday. The new branch, located off Harvey Point Road, is expected to be finished in six months.

New Hertford branch to add amenities, space

ERIN RICKERT

Amongst the freshly laid dirt and the sounds of heavy machinery, East Carolina Bank broke ground Monday for a new 3,600 square foot branch in the Perquimans County Commerce Centre.

There, several communi-

ty officials and ECB representatives joined Hertford Branch Manager David W. Noell said the team has been waiting for since they started in their current location off South Ocean Highway nearly four years ago.

"This couldn't have come

any sooner," Noell said. "We are looking forward to a lot of growth."

"Since we opened the temporary site in 2000, we have been looking for just the right site to build a permanent facility," Mimi W. van Nortwick, director of

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Parker: Tilley soon to be clerk

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A magistrate and former deputy clerk of court has been named clerk of superior court in Perquimans County effective Sept. 1.

Todd W. Tilley will fill the unexpired term of L. Gail Godwin, who recently announced that she will retire at the end of August. Godwin has held the post for 17 years.

Tilley's appointment was made by Senior Resident Superior Court Judge J. Richard Parker of Manteo.

"Todd is well-qualified to assume this important position and the citizens of Perquimans County are indeed fortunate to have a person of his caliber serving as their clerk of court," Parker said of his appointment.

Godwin's four-year term expires in 2006, and Parker said Tilley is expected to seek election to the post at that time.

Tilley has served as magistrate in the county since 1993. Prior to that, he worked as deputy clerk under Godwin for three and a half years. In addition to his magistrate duties, Tilley works part-time with Reed Oil Company.

A 1987 graduate of Perquimans County High School,

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Perquimans County diver takes part in taping for cable television program

ERIN RICKERT

There among the schools of fish he navigates through a depth of water that cannot be penetrated by light.

As he swims deeper into the abyss, the eerie darkness lifts to show an object once foreign to this part of the sea, but after decades its almost at home among hundreds of others vessels that have succumbed to the same fate here in the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

And for years, Harrell Thatch, a member of the Perquimans County Technical Dive Team and

master diver at the Outer Banks Dive Center has been exploring these famous shipwrecks off the coast of North Carolina.

But this time Thatch was assisting with the taping of one of the first episodes of the new season of "Deep Sea Detectives," scheduled to air January 2006.

Featured at 10 p.m. ET/PT Monday's on the History Channel, the show investigates underwater mysteries using the latest scientific forensic techniques in the attempt to find new clues that could help determine the sequence of events that led

many of these ships to their resting places below.

Thatch said the dive cen-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIVE CENTER

The wreck of the Jackson now sits on the bottom of the Atlantic.

ter was contacted by the show earlier this year and

asked to assist the cameraman, technicians and show's stars and expert divers, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, with the episode.

Last week, Thatch and six other divers from the Outer Banks Dive Center, spent four days off the coast of Nags Head volunteering their time to help with the episode — featuring the famous wrecks of U.S. Coast Guard Cutters Jackson and Bedloe.

There they dove, like they had many times before, to the two nearly 125-foot long ships that

sank during a hurricane Sept. 14, 1944.

As legend has it, Thatch said, the two both went down around the same time that day after being pummeled by three rogue waves close to 75-feet in height.

The ships had come to the rescue of the Liberty ship George Ade after it was torpedoed by a German U-boat two days earlier.

Though the George Ade had not sunk it was dead in the water and requested the assistance of the Jackson

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 89
LOW: 73
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 91
LOW: 72
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 90
LOW: 73
ISOLATED T'STORMS