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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

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September 21, 2005

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## Sale to bring jobs to county

MARGARET FISHER

After more than four years, the Branwick Center at the Commerce Centre has been sold to a wholesale building products company.

Branwick Associates, Inc. of Virginia Beach, Va., has sold their building on Harvey Point Road to Lansing Building Products, Inc., of Richmond, Va.

"We are pleased to have entered into the contract to purchase the Branwick Center in Hertford because it fills a need in our strategic marketing plan," said J. Christopher Lansing, president and executive officer of Lansing. "The investment in this building will help us grow Lansing Building Products' business in eastern North Carolina for many years to come."

Lansing Building Products, formally known as Ted Lansing Corporation, was formed more than 50 years ago and now operates in 21 states with about 60 distribution facilities, including Norfolk, Newport News and Roanoke in Virginia and Raleigh.

Perquimans County built a shell building to attract industry to the county through a loan program with Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. The building generated some interest, and at one time there had been a contract on it that had fallen through, said

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## Officers nab theft suspect

MARGARET FISHER

Two break-ins, with a man apprehended, have occurred within a week at a local auto dealership on New Hope Road.

Donte Tyrone McCain of 1812 Sanford Drive in Elizabeth City was arrested after being spotted inside Gallaway Auto Outlet, said Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

At about 12:15 Saturday morn-

ing, sheriff's deputy, Kendall Harrell was driving past the dealership on U.S. Highway 17 when he noticed a light on in the building, Tilley said.

"It looked like the door was cracked open," Tilley said.

McCain ran out the door when the deputy was pulling in to check it out and a chase ensued.

Two Hertford Police Department officers assisted and McCain was apprehended.

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## HALL OF FAME



PHOTOS COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

## Hall of Fame begun

SUSAN HARRIS

Some were Panthers. Some were Indians. Some were Pirates.

But they all shared one thing: fond memories of hard work and competition that made them stand out from the crowd while they played or coached sports for a high school in Perquimans County.

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Members of the 1965 Perquimans Union School Panthers state championship team (top) are inducted into the Perquimans County Hall of Fame Friday night during halftime ceremonies at Perquimans County High School. Athletic standouts and coaches were inducted as part of the first class.

## Lions memorial to equip lab

John Biggers retired from Perquimans County Schools in January 1966, but the legacy of the late educator will touch local students almost 40 years later.

Hertford Lions Club President Kent Sawyer recently announced a donation of \$2,500 to Perquimans Middle School in Biggers' memory.

"The monetary award is being given to the school in memory of John T. Biggers and will be used to equip a science lab," said Sawyer.

Biggers died earlier this year.

Biggers was a 60-year member of the Lions Club and was superintendent of Perquimans County Schools for nearly two decades, having served from May 5, 1948 until January 1966. Biggers received nine successive 2-year contracts to serve as superintendent, committing to serve teachers and students to the best of his ability.

"It's appropriate that Hertford Lions Club pay tribute to Mr. Biggers in this way," said Sawyer. "He served the club, community and schools in an exemplary manner. His life exemplified service to others through giving."

According to Principal Jamie Liverman, the funding will equip one lab at the middle school that will serve students in all grade levels. Science teachers collaborated to ascertain how funds would be utilized through purchase of furniture and equipment such as stools, hot plates, microscopes, thermometers, fire blankets, gloves, safety goggles and laboratory glassware.

"Our students are blessed to receive this funding in memory of a former educator and superintendent," Liverman said. "We are extremely appreciative and will ensure students are aware of this generous gift to support their education."

## Walk to D'Feet ALS set for October

MARGARET FISHER

A walk to support research for a disease that has no treatment and no cure is planned next month.

The 6th annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation Walk to D'Feet ALS will take place on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 9 a.m.

Hunter, a baseball Hall of Famer, died on Sept. 9, 1999, of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Last year about 250 walkers raised nearly \$34,500 at the Walk to D'Feet ALS.

The walk was initiated in 2000 by the Jim "Catfish" Hunter chapter in Raleigh which contacted the ALS Foundation in Hertford for support. The ALS Foundation is a nonprofit organization of volunteers that was instituted in 1999 by the Beech Spring-Bear Swamp Ruritans.

The Raleigh chapter will also be participating in the walk, and the money they raise will go to that chapter, including their paid salaries. But the money raised for the local ALS Foundation will support the foundation's goals, said Helen Hunter, ALS Foundation board member and former wife of Jim Hunter.

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year," Hunter said. "The money

goes to help research and we help patients who can't get a wheelchair and different things that they need."

The foundation will help individuals across the state with ALS who cannot afford special equipment or medical bills, said Hunter, who also advocates for ALS funding in Washington, D.C.

Recently, North Carolina legislators approved \$400,000 to provide services to ALS patients in the state, she said.

Funds are needed to support research because there is still no way to slow the disease down or cure it, Hunter said.

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## County prepared for Ophelia

MARGARET FISHER

Though Hurricane Ophelia passed by the area without more than a light rain and a few breezes, Perquimans County officials were prepared for the worst.

After Hurricane Isabel caused extensive wind damage and outages two years ago, local officials have stepped up efforts to prevent some of the problems that had occurred then.

"(Ophelia) allowed us to put into practice the things we learned from Isabel," said Harry Winslow, county emergency management coordinator.

One of those problems was a lack of water supply due to power failure. Recently, Perquimans County has contracted with a firm in Raleigh to rent a 300-kilowatt generator on an as-needed basis during

hurricane season.

The unit was transferred to the Bethel Water Plant to keep water supplies running in case of power failure from Hurricane Ophelia. Even though the generator wasn't needed this time, its presence displayed the county's readiness to prevent another Isabel crisis.

A State of Emergency was issued by the county last Wednesday at 2 p.m. Hertford town offices were closed Thursday morning until 1 p.m.

Voluntary evacuations were recommended for people living in low-lying areas.

Perquimans County Middle School in Winfall opened as a shelter at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and closed at 10 a.m. the next day after the storm was determined to be moving away. There were 22 people who checked into the shelter, Winslow said.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

A 300-kilowatt generator stands in readiness for Hurricane Ophelia. The unit was brought to the Bethel Water Plant to keep water supplies running in case of power failure. The county has contracted with a Raleigh firm throughout the hurricane season.

In addition, Perquimans County Commissioners approved in August the opening of an additional shelter in Hertford. The Albemarle Commission Building has been approved as a second shelter by the American Red Cross.

Afternoon activities at

the schools were cancelled on Wednesday, as were classes on Thursday. The missed day will be made up on Oct. 3.

"We were very lucky that we were not impacted by (Ophelia)," Winslow said, "but the season is not over."

Hurricane season continues through Nov. 30.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 87, Low: 70  
 SUNNY

FRIDAY  
 High: 91, Low: 70  
 SUNNY

SATURDAY  
 High: 84, Low: 68  
 PARTLY CLOUDY