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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Belvidere man killed in wreck

CHRIS WHIPPLE  
The Daily Advance

A Perquimans County man died Monday, June 26 in a single-vehicle accident on Beech Springs Road, officials said last week. Willie James Payne, 59, of 836 Gliden Road, Belvidere, died about 4:50 p.m. after losing control of his 1978 Ford pickup truck, according to Sgt. J. Cotton, of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Payne, an auto mechanic, had been driving southeast on Beech Springs Road, which is a curvy secondary road off Center Hill Highway and about four miles west of Hertford, when he lost control of his vehicle in a curve, Cotton said. The truck slammed into a ditch embankment and flipped over, ejecting Payne from the vehicle, he said.

According to Cotton, Payne was traveling faster than the 55 mph posted speed limit for Beech Springs Road. He also was not wearing a seat belt, Cotton said.

## Ward saves historic house

MARGARET FISHER

Some people save stray dogs by bringing them home. But Charles Ward saved an old house from being destroyed by purchasing it for \$2,000.

The catch? He had to move it. But the lot where he planned to move the house would have required moving a number of large power lines - a costly job. So Ward purchased another lot in February on Holiday Island Road that required less expense in moving utility lines.

In addition, he has to restore it. It wasn't that Ward needed something to do. As an auto parts and hardware store owner, county commissioner and a doer of numerous projects, he stays busy.

"I always like a challenge," he said. "I hated to

## Plane crashes near Winfall

CHRIS WHIPPLE  
The Daily Advance

A biplane crash-landed at an airstrip in Perquimans County Sunday after its landing gear hit a power line. The pilot and passenger were transported to Albemarle Hospital, where they were treated for what appeared to be minor injuries, authorities said.

The Acrosport II - a single-propeller biplane that enthusiasts build from a kit - crashed just before noon at Craft Air Services, a grass landing strip on Swamp Road near Winfall.

The passenger in the plane, and its owner, was Eric Wright from Newport News, Va. The man piloting the aircraft was James Tarkington, a flight instructor from Chesapeake, Va., according to

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

Tilley and Perquimans County Emergency Manager Jarvis Winslow responded to the crash, along with the N.C. Highway Patrol and the Belvidere and Winfall volunteer fire departments.

There was no fire and little damage associated with the crash, Winslow said.

"There was not even the smell of

a fuel spill," Winslow said. "It was almost just no damage. The plane looked like it just sat down. It could have been a lot worse."

Winslow said on impact the plane's landing gear splayed out on either side, beneath the wings, and the plane landed on its belly.

The owner of the landing strip, Craig Craft, saw the plane come down.

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## CIS gets \$96K in grants

MARGARET FISHER

Communities in Schools of Perquimans County has been awarded a \$72,000 grant from the Governor's Crime Commission along with a \$24,000 match from Communities in Schools of North Carolina for Families First.

The monies are to be used for school-based crime prevention programs. CIS of Perquimans has received half of the total, or \$48,000, while the remaining half will be awarded next year.

CIS will use the funds to enhance the Judicial

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## SCHOOL IS IN



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Mustafa Holley, 6, is getting ready to begin his reading session with student tutor Kierra Shields, 12, using his homemade notebook during one of Rhema Ministry Institute's summer tutoring sessions last week. Other student tutors (not pictured) include JaQuasia Griffin, 11, Destinee Thatch, 10, and Shavona Costen, 12.

## Rhema offers summer tutoring program

MARGARET FISHER

Four students are giving up their free time this summer to provide learning experiences for their younger peers. They are tutors at Rhema Ministry Institute, a nonprofit

agency.

The students include JaQuasia Griffin, 11, Kierra Shields, 12, Destinee Thatch, 10, and Shavona Costen, 12.

"We found that sometimes students receive bet

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## Town vs. Harris ends in draw

MARGARET FISHER

After 10 years of the town of Hertford dealing with the removal of two mobile homes, the case is called even - thousands of dollars after litigation began.

The mobile homes, owned by the defendants Jesse L. Harris and Elizabeth Clark Harris, were demolished under the town's minimum housing ordinance in Nov. 1999. Beginning in 2001, the town sought compensation for the demolition of the homes, formerly located at 603 and 605 Pennsylvania Ave.

In an appeals suit in May 2005, the N.C. Court of Appeals reversed and remanded an earlier verdict back to Perquimans Civil District Court.

In a jury trial heard before Edgar Barnes, District Court Judge for the First District, the town was awarded \$2,250 for the cost of removal and demolition of the homes. At the same time, the value of the homes and their contents was determined to be \$2,250, eliminating it from a lien.

"I'm very satisfied with that (verdict)," said Town Manager John Christensen.

Back in April 1996, the town had followed standard procedures for attempting to clean up and remove uninhabitable homes. The building inspector filed a complaint and the Harris family received a notice of hearing. Neither Harris attended the hearing on May 10, 1999.

The building inspector entered an order on June 2,

1999 stating that the homes were not repairable and must be removed or demolished. The Harris family had until July 23, 1999 to comply with the order. They did not appeal it or comply.

The town's board of commissioners adopted an ordinance in September 1999 declaring the property unfit for human habitation. The Harris family made no attempt to comply or remove any property they deemed valuable from the premises. In November, the mobile homes were demolished.

In January 2001, the town filed suit seeking compensation to satisfy a lien on the property for the cost of demolition. In October 2003, Perquimans Civil District Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff and the Harris family filed a counterclaim denying that a lien was lawful. In February 2004, the town filed a summary judgement, which was granted.

That's when the Harris family appealed. The appellate court, heard by Robin Hudson in Raleigh, found that the district court had erred in granting the summary judgement. The court decided that consideration should have been given as to whether or not the property had any value because the town did not attempt to sell the mobile homes or their contents, as stated in the statutes.

Because of health reasons, the Harris family were represented last week by their son, Clark Harris, who said that the homes and their contents had a "ballpark value" of more than \$5,000.

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PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Chi'Mur Knight receives a certificate and keys to her new home purchased through the assistance of the USDA's Rural Development office in Winton. Pictured (left to right) are Linda Barrett, Knight, Sharon Cooper, Vickie Winslow, Lynetta Jordan, and Teresa Winslow, broker/realtor at Taylor Mueller Realty.

## Knight gets home through USDA

MARGARET FISHER

President George W. Bush designated June as National Homeownership Month - a time to reflect on the important role homeownership plays. And Perquimans County resident Chi'Mur Knight is doing just that as a first-time buyer of a newly constructed home.

Like numerous other Americans, Knight didn't qualify for a conventional loan. But with the assistance of Vickie Winslow, mortgage loan underwriter at the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Rural Development office in Winton, she was able to realize her dream of owning her own home.

"It's actually a multi-faceted blessing because there are so many benefits to owning your own home," Knight said.

The house she bought on June 30 is located at 810 Grubb Street. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home was sold to Knight by Sharon Cooper, general contractor for First Class Homebuilders & Development, for \$128,600.

Knight was renting a home in Elizabeth City and

works at the Albemarle Commission in Hertford. At the age of 30, Knight, who has two children, was looking for a secure investment, rather than to continue renting.

"Sometimes rent is higher than what a new loan payment will be," Winslow said.

Knight's first step in the buying process was to visit Northeastern Community Development Corporation in Camden. There, she was referred to other agencies, including Rural Development, and businesses that could help her

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 79, LOW: 69  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 84, LOW: 68  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 86, LOW: 70  
SUNNY