

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

October 3, 2007

Vol. 75, No. 40 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

P3/C2*****CAR-RT LOT**C-001
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

PCMS raises test scores

Perquimans County Middle School has been recognized as a School of Progress by the state after students there met expected academic growth and at least 60 percent of students scored at or above achievement level during the 2006-2007 school year.

Students attending PCMS demonstrated the highest academic growth in local schools, according to the ABCs of accountability released recently by the state Department of Instruction. PCMS students raised their overall proficiency from 67.8 in 2005-2006 to 76.3 last year.

Principal Jamie Liverman credits his entire staff, students and parents for the continued success demonstrated by his students.

"Teachers are working more diligently than ever," said Liverman. "As the standards continue to rise under the No Child Left Behind law, it will be imperative that school officials and teachers remain vigilant in their efforts. We will constantly examine, refine, and improve what our teachers are doing in the classroom."

The news wasn't as good for Perquimans County High School, however.

Students there dropped slightly from 58.4 in 2005-2006 to 57.8 scored last year, keeping the local high school designated as a priority school by the state, or one where less than 60 percent of students scored at or above achievement level. Students did meet expected growth as determined by the state accountability program, and they met 13 out of 13 target goals for the year under the Adequate Yearly Progress criteria.

"Academic success doesn't just happen," said Principal James Bunch. "You make it happen by identifying weaknesses that affect your performance and then provide assistance in achieving academic success. Extended learning opportunities are provided for students to participate in individual and group tutorials or workshops such as SAT tutorial sessions, Saturday writing academies, and after-school tutorial sessions. Our goal is to assist students in becoming efficient and effective learners."

Bunch believes academic success for students is achieved by providing an environment that is safe, friendly, and conducive to learning.

"It is my goal to do exactly that for students attending PCHS," he added. Students at Hertford Grammar demonstrated 69.5 percent proficiency in 2006-2007, slightly higher than the 68.5 percent scored the year before.

Neither Hertford Grammar nor Perquimans Central met their expected growth standards.

SPORTS GREATS



Perquimans Weekly Photo by PHIL HARRIS

THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY ATHLETIC Boosters inducted the third class into the Hall of Fame Friday night. Inducted were the 1963 state championship baseball team (above) and Sid Eley, Hazel "Skip" Matthews, Paul "Matt" Matthews, Keith Rouse and Gary Stubbins (right). For more about the contributions of these inductees to sports programs, see page 8.



Farms can get drought help

Winter crops may also be adversely affected by dry weather

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County is one of 85 counties across the state declared eligible for federal disaster assistance for farmers who lost crops or received damage due to the drought and high temperatures this past summer.

The state was declared a natural disaster last month because of the heat and drought that has impacted crops. And, local agricultural officials say, the drought is continuing so far this fall.

"It's as dry now as we've been all year," noted Lewis Smith, director of the Perquimans County Cooperative Extension Service.

Perquimans County is down about 25 inches in rainfall for the year, he pointed out. Not only has the drought affected crops that have grown or are in the process of growing now, but it's expected to impact crops not even planted yet as well.

Smith explained that the county's corn yields are down about 25 bushels per acre.

"Usually, we see about 130-135 bushels per acre in corn yields," said Smith. "This year, we've seen about 80-90 bushels per acre."

While cotton, peanuts and soybeans are still in the field, Smith expects yields in those crops to be off this season as well.

"Some are pleased with the cotton so far," he said. "But, I'm afraid overall, the cotton is going to be on the short side with the yields."

Wheat is usually put in the ground mid October, but some farmers may have problems getting the seed to germinate.

"I don't know if we have enough moisture to get the wheat crop going," he added.

While some areas in the county have received rain throughout the summer, Smith says rain has been very spotty.

"The showers that did come hit at the right time," he said.

Farmers in Perquimans County may apply for Farm Service Agency emergency loans for physical and production losses up until May 12, 2008. The local FSA office is located at 512 South Church Street in Hertford.

Any farmer who has suffered a production or physical loss should contact the local office for additional information.

County board opposes OLF again

SUSAN HARRIS
Editor & Publisher

Perquimans County Commissioners approved a resolution Monday night reaffirming their opposition to the navy siting an outlying landing field in northeastern North Caro-

lina. The possibility of an OLF in the area re-emerged recently after six more North Carolina sites, including two in Gates County and two in Camden County, were discussed at a joint meeting of the Governor's OLF Study Group and navy officials in

Raleigh. The Perquimans County site is still on the list of possible locations.

In addition to the commissioner's resolution, the grassroots No OLF Committee reactivated last week to oppose consideration of any site in northeastern North Carolina and specifically in

Perquimans. The group is hosting a public meeting on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Belvidere Fire Department to discuss the issue and help local residents prepare for a visit to the area from the Governor's OLF Study Group on Oct. 23. The site of that meeting has not yet been announced.

Emergency notification system coming

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A tanker truck traveling Highway 17 southbound loses control and runs off the roadway, overturning into the parking lot of the ABC Package Store at 2 a.m. The tanker explodes, spewing poisonous gas into the air.

The first policeman or firefighter on the scene assesses the situation, and immediately determines that all homes within a five-mile radius must be evacuated.

Instead of sending police or firefighters door to door to notify residents of the necessary evacuation in the middle of the night, which takes up precious time, Perquimans County officials will soon be able to call each resident by phone within minutes.

County commissioners recently approved taking part in the First Call Network, Inc., a web-based emergency notification program that can deliver up to 20,000 30-second messages via telephone within 10 minutes. County emergency service officials believe getting important information out to county residents quickly can save lives and property. The program can be used in the event of natural disasters like hurricanes or tornadoes, or local emergencies like hazardous materials spills, or for something as simple as notifying residents of a broken water line.

"Back when Hurricane Isabel hit, getting information out to the public was an issue," remembered County Manager Bobby Darden. "This program will call

residents, leave messages on answering machines if no one answers, and it will let us know who they were not able to get in touch with. It's something we hopefully will never have to use."

The program is similar to the one used by the county schools. A database of phone numbers will be infused into the system from the local telephone carrier, and those who have unlisted phones or use only cell phones can register their phone numbers on a website for inclusion. The program is web based, so the county can activate it from any location as long as the employee has access to a phone or a computer.

Jarvis Winslow, the county's emergency management coordinator, researched emergency noti-

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 82
LOW: 68
T'SHOWERS

FOOTBALL FRIDAY
HIGH: 83
LOW: 67
FEW SHOWERS

FARM TOUR SATURDAY
HIGH: 82
LOW: 67
SCATTERED RAIN

SUNDAY
HIGH: 83
LOW: 66
SUNNY

CONTINUED on page 2