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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## County off OLF site list

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County is officially off the list.

Last week, Navy officials announced that the county is one of five sites no longer under consideration as potential outlying landing field sites. Other locations not being considered any longer are sites in Bertie, Craven, Hyde, and Washington/Beaufort counties.

Localities making the Navy's short list and still being considered include Hales Lake that straddles Camden and Currituck counties and Sandbanks in Gates County as well as Sussex, Surry and Southampton counties, Va.

"Obviously, the information that came out is great news for the entire county," said Stan Winslow, president of the Perquimans Chapter No OLF. "It is what the Perquimans OLF has been working towards for the past several years. I want to thank the OLF committee, the county commissioners, Bobby Darden, and especially the county citizens who helped get the Navy to listen to us and help the decision made come to a reality."

"Perquimans County has finally gotten relief from this situation, but our neighbors in Camden and Gates are now under the gun," he added. "We need to support them in their battle to keep the OLF from coming to their communities."

The Navy will initiate a new Environmental Impact Statement on the five sites under consideration to analyze the impacts of construction and operation of an OLF to support field carrier landing practice-training requirements for all carrier air wing aircraft based at NAS Oceana and Naval Station Norfolk. The Navy plans to hold public scoping meetings on the new EIS this spring. The new EIS is expected to take 30 months to complete.

County Manager Bobby Darden voiced happiness over being left off the short list, but vowed the county's support for efforts to keep an OLF from siting in the region.

"We're glad we're off the list," said Darden, "and the county is going to continue to oppose it... This is a good thing for us, but we still want to keep it (OLF) out of the region."

In response to the Navy's announcement, Sen. Richard Burr said, "It has always been my hope that the Navy and the State of North Carolina could find a location for an OLF that was acceptable to both the military and the local community. It was clear that some of the previously proposed sites were opposed by North Carolinians and I am pleased that those sites are no longer under consideration ... It is crucial the Navy listen to the local community when considering these sites. This lengthy process has been difficult on many North Carolinians, and I hope that the Navy can follow the siting process and find a resolution to this matter."

## DOLE - ING OUT THE MONEY



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

UNITED STATES SENATOR ELIZABETH Dole presents a ceremonial check for \$242,900 to the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new heavy rescue vehicle. USDA Rural Development provided a \$142,900 low interest loan and a \$100,000 grant to finance the truck which is still being built. Also on hand for the Sunday afternoon ceremony was John Cooper (far left), state director of the USDA Rural Development.

## Dole visits Hertford - with money

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

She arrived in a gas-efficient compact car. She posed for pictures with local citizens and listened as folks talked about issues. She asked for prayer to undergird her when dealing with challenging matters in Washington.

But, the main reason for the United States senator's visit to Hertford was to dole out the money!

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole signed a ceremonial check for \$242,900 Sunday afternoon to finance a new heavy rescue vehicle for the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department.

USDA Rural Development provided a \$142,900 low interest loan and a \$100,000 grant for the town to purchase a 2007 Freightliner heavy rescue vehicle which will replace a 1992 model that is no longer capable of providing EMS and rescue support in the community.

"I applaud the Town of Hertford for securing this significant funding," said Dole. "Our firefighters are there in times of need and are literally on the front lines defending our homeland. It is so important that they have adequate facilities and equipment

so that they can safely do their jobs and protect the communities they serve."

John Cooper, USDA Rural Development state director, said the town received a 4.5 percent fixed rate on their 20-year loan to help pay for the truck which will include the Jaws of Life.

"Local firefighters are one of the first to respond in a time of need," said Cooper. "USDA Rural Development is pleased to assist with the purchase of a new rescue vehicle which will enable the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department to respond more quickly during an emergency. We are grateful to Senator Dole for her support of Rural Development programs... She really, really does care. She recommends the program and continues to fight for funding so we can help you."

Also attending the service held at the fire department was Betty Jo Shephard, field representative for U.S. Senator Richard Burr.

"I know how important the USDA is to this part of the state," said Shephard. "We want to see you getting the things you need in rural North Carolina."

USDA Rural Develop-

ment and local governments in Perquimans County have enjoyed a long-standing relationship that has provided funds for much needed projects over the years ranging from fire trucks to county-wide water service.

Hertford Fire Chief Bob Reed pointed out that Rural Development loans and grants have helped the town acquire several trucks including an engine in 1994, another engine in 2002, and now the heavy rescue truck in 2008 which is still being built.

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen voiced his support of the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program and what it has meant to the town.

"Their support of our fire department has allowed us to have the equipment to meet the needs of our citizens and provide an excellent level of service," he said. "Without the grant and low interest loan, we would not be able to afford this heavy rescue truck which is needed to respond to the accidents throughout our county and help get the injured to the hospital as quickly as possible."

Mayors Sid Eley of Hertford and Fred Yates

of Winfall both attested to the projects gained in their respective towns through funding provided by Rural Development over the years.

Mack Nixon, chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, said the citizens of the county today have county-wide water available, school projects built, and the current regional jail project ongoing thanks to help from Rural Development. Rural Development has helped other fire departments in the county gain apparatus as well.

Dole, who in various positions has served under five presidents, commended Cooper and his team for bringing in more money than any other state director in America. When thanked by local leaders for her stand in helping remove Perquimans County from the Navy's list of potential sites for an outlying landing field (OLF), Dole reiterated her conviction to continue working for Camden, Currituck and neighboring Gates counties which include sites still on the list.

"I have been meeting with these counties and I won't support any site for an OLF without broad local support," she said.

## Wreck claims local man

A 74-year-old Hertford man died Monday morning when the pick-up truck he was driving collided with a tanker truck traveling northbound on Highway 17 in Perquimans County.

According to North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper T.F. Langley Jr., Dillard Elmer Ward, of 535 Swingate Road, was killed when the 2007 GMC pick-up truck he was driving pulled out of Woodland Church Road in front of a 2006 Mack tractor-trailer. Ward was attempting to cross Highway 17 to Chapanoke Road, police said, when the tanker truck struck the Ward vehicle in the driver's side.

The tanker truck is registered to Advantage Tank Lines from Canton, Ohio, and was driven by Ardell Wayne Byrum, 62, of Elizabeth City.

Langley said no fuel escaped from the tanker during the collision.

No charges were filed in connection with the wreck.

Members of Intercountry Volunteer Fire Department and Perquimans County EMS responded.

## Man shot at Wynne Fork Court

George Moore of Wynne Fork Apartments was shot in the leg Jan. 23 just outside the apartments on Wynne Fork Court. Hertford Police are still looking for the shooter.

Moore apparently was in a vehicle with three other passengers when he was shot as he attempted to get out of the car.

Members of Perquimans EMS treated Moore at the scene and transported him to Church Street where he was later flown to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital by Nightingale helicopter.

Members of the Hertford Police Department are investigating the shooting.

Police believe the shooting occurred during an attempt to rob Moore.

The police department is currently following several leads and seeking several possible suspects for questioning.

## Filing period for primary opens Feb. 11

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Candidates seeking to run in the May 6 primary must file their intentions with the local board of elections next month.

Eula Mae Forbes, director of the Perquimans County Board of Elections, said the filing period for candidates wishing to run is Feb. 11 at noon until Feb. 29 at noon.

Local seats up for grabs

this year include three positions on the county commissioners' board, three seats on the board of education, and the Register of Deeds position.

Forbes said county commissioner seats currently held by Democrats Mack Nixon and Shirley Wiggins and Republican Sue Weimer are up for election this year, as are the non-partisan board of education seats currently held by Helen Shaw, Gail Hill and

William Byrum.

The Register of Deeds position, currently held by Democrat Deborah Reed, is also up for election.

Also slated to appear on the May 6 ballot will be several state contests including governor, lieutenant governor, commissioner of agriculture, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, and court of appeals.

Federal offices included in the primary are the of-

fices of president, senators, and members of congress.

At the primary election, voters registered as Democrats will receive the Democratic ballot. Voters registered as Republicans will receive the Republican ballot. Unaffiliated voters will get to choose which ballot they want to vote on, Democratic or Republican.

All the county's registered voters will be eligible to vote for school board

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 52 LOW: 39  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 64 LOW: 40  
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 55 LOW: 38  
SCATTERED SHOWERS

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