

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PIRATES FALL IN OPENER

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"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 26, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

35 cents

Crop duster causes outage

A crop duster owned by Craft Air Services of Perquimans County clipped three power lines over a field off Wynne Fork Road Aug. 18 around 4:40 p.m. leaving several thousand residents in the dark.

The plane did not crash and no injuries were reported.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said a county dispatcher informed him the plane did not sustain serious damage and was able to return to its hangar on Swamp Road.

The downed power lines are owned by Dominion Power. The outage did leave about 2,100 of Albemarle Electric Membership Corp.'s customers without power, spokesman Chris Powell said. Dominion's power lines feed electricity to AEMC's substation off Harvey Point Road. They also supply power to the Albemarle Plantation subdivision.

Tilley said the incident has been ruled accidental and no further investigation is required.

Murder trial put on hold

One of the defendants needs a new attorney

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The murder trial of a local mother and daughter originally scheduled for next month has been postponed after one defendant's attorney was appointed to a judgeship in another county.

Superior Court Clerk Todd Tilley said the Sept. 21 trial for Jennie Lee White, age 61, and daughter Katherine Ann White, 43, will be rescheduled at a later date. Both are charged with first-degree murder in the death of Thomas White, Jennie's husband, in their Mill Drive home on June 22, 2007.

Tilley said Wayland Sermons, Katherine's attorney, was recently appointed to a superior court judgeship in

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 89 LOW: 72
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 84 LOW: 70
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 83 LOW: 69
ISOLATED
THUNDERSTORMS



Back to school



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

FROM APPREHENSION TO FINDING A FRIEND. Eight-year-old Adrienne Davis (right) and her mother Racquel Gibbs seem a little apprehensive over her first day in the third grade at Hertford Grammar School as Safety Patrol member Autumn Bateman gives them directions to her new classroom. It didn't take long for Autumn to find a friend in Cindy Martinez, after-school coordinator, who welcomed her excitedly with big smiles and a warm hand.

Opening day goes smoothly

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Fathers toting pink lunch boxes. Mothers wearing big smiles but protectively holding little hands. The stream of parents and yellow school buses bringing children back to Perquimans County Schools Tuesday morning kept school personnel busy.

The opening of the first day of school here went extremely well, according to Superintendent Dwayne K. Stallings.

What's inside

Cynthia Stallings wins Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, see Page 8.

"School employees have been working diligently to prepare for the start of school and it paid dividends this morning," said Stallings. "I visited each of the schools in the district and it was exciting to see the



enthusiasm of parents, students and school officials."

Student safety patrols and school employees were stationed in the hallways and breezeways at Hertford Grammar School, welcom-

ing students back to class, and offering directions to classrooms.

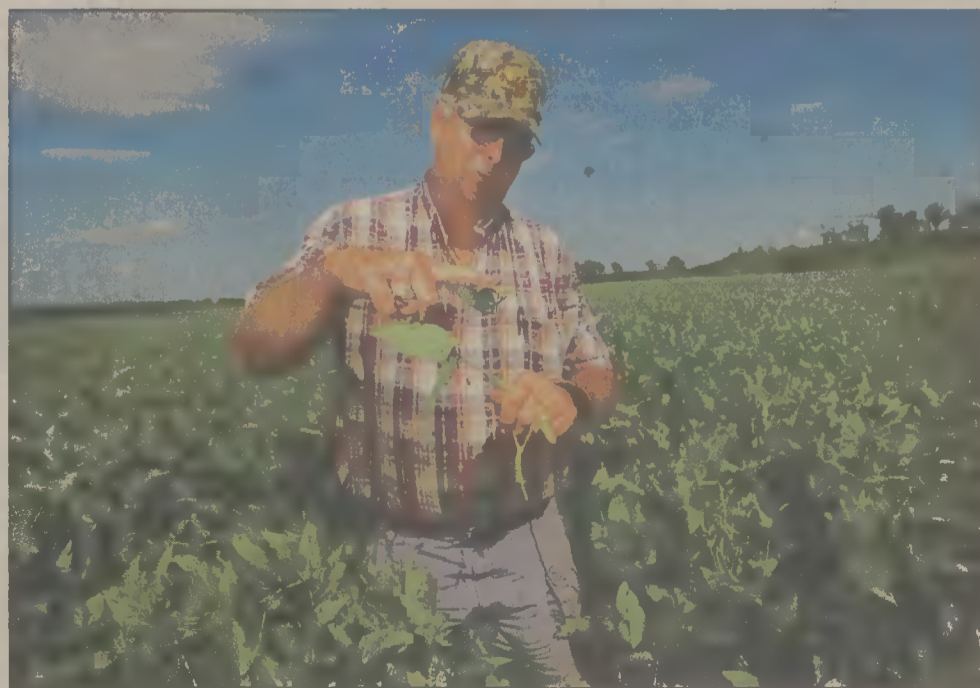
For 10-year-old fifth-grader Autumn Bateman, an upperclassman this year, the morning was busy pointing

the way to third and fourth grade hallways.

"It's mainly the third graders who don't know where their classrooms

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Soybean summer



DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Tommy Harrell checks the growth and health of his soybean crop in Perquimans County. As of Aug. 25, 7.37 inches of rain have fallen at his farm. Other farmers in the area say they have gotten even more rain in the past couple of weeks. Farmers are looking for a little dryer weather to give local crops time to dry out for a better harvest.

Get the flu facts

Local agencies prepare as flu season arrives

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

With the upcoming flu season right around the corner, school system and local government officials are taking action to educate employees and the public on how to help prevent the spreading of illnesses.

Last Wednesday, the federal government released guidelines designed to help employers prepare for the impact both the normal seasonal flu and Swine Flu might have on employees and operation of businesses. While it's not known whether the Swine Flu virus will cause more illness or more severe illness in the coming months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone be prepared for influenza.

The Albemarle Regional

Health Services (ARHS) is distributing information throughout the area, and updating local governments on how to prepare.

ARHS representatives provided training for local school employees last week. They appeared before members of Winfall Town Council recently and are scheduled to appear before county commissioners Sept. 8. Hertford Council members will hear their flu presentation on Sept. 14, and members of the local Board of Education will in the near future.

According to Jill Jordan, health education director and public information officer for ARHS, Pandemic H1N1 2009 (formerly known as Novel H1N1 and as Swine Flu) is the predominant strain of influenza in our communities as well as in North Carolina. She could not provide an accurate count of confirmed cases in Perquimans County because

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Causeway repairs to be \$865K

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The cost of fixing the 200-foot section of causeway that failed recently was estimated around \$865,000, highway officials told local government representatives recently.

In fact, cost of construction needed to fix failures on the causeway over the last six to seven years has totaled almost \$2 million.

So far, about 800 feet of roadway has been repaired just over the last three years.

"That leaves about 1,500 feet out there," said North Carolina Department of Transportation's Division Engineer Jerry Jennings. "It may hold over the next few years, or it may not. The challenge is, we don't know where it will fail next."

Get involved

A public meeting on the TIP project is planned on Oct. 22.

Transportation officials met with town, county and school representatives recently at the request of Hertford Commissioner Carlton Davenport who thanked the state transportation leaders for their efforts in fixing the waterlogged shortcut between Hertford and Winfall. But, Davenport reminded them that closing the causeway impacts not only the downtown businesses, but local tourism as well.

"This is the third year in a row that you have closed it," Davenport said. "I hope this is it."

The causeway was closed in September of 2007 and again in September of 2008 for repairs.

Jennings explained that the causeway was built in the 1920's by dumping trees, stumps, and other fill matter into the river and then pouring concrete layers on top. Basically, the river running underneath is washing the causeway away, he said.

Repairs in the past have concentrated on areas of concrete that had broken; but this time, the concrete slab was still intact.

Construction workers drove

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