

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



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Tourism dollars spent in area fell in 2009

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

New figures released recently show that visitor spending and other tourism impacts on local counties declined in 2009.

According to figures released by the state, travelers spent \$8.21 million in Perquimans County last year, a reduction of 3.3 percent from 2008. While tourist spending was down here, Perquimans saw the smallest percentage decline in the six-county region.

Region-wide, Chowan County suffered the highest reduction with visitors spending 11.5 percent less in 2009 than they shelled out the year before.

Camden received 8.7 percent less in tourist spending, Gates and Pasquotank saw 7.7 percent less, and Currituck's tourist dollars declined by 5.8 percent, according to the 2009 Economic Impact of Travel on North Carolina.

The report was prepared for the North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

by the U.S. Travel Association.

Figures show that travel expenditures statewide fell 7.4 percent.

"Across the nation, 2009 was a challenging year for tourism businesses and destinations as together, we faced the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression," wrote Lynn Minges, assistant secretary for tourism, marketing, and global branding, with the North Carolina Department of Commerce in an email to area chambers of com-

merce.

"This is the first time in many years that we in North Carolina have suffered a statewide decrease in visitor spending, and most counties saw declines in their local numbers as well."

"There is some positive news at the statewide level - we maintained our ranking as the sixth most visited state in the US," she added.

"In fact, we gained a little ground when compared to 2008, coming within one tenth of a percentage point

of fifth-ranked Pennsylvania in overnight visitor volume."

Only Florida ranks higher than North Carolina in overnight market share in the Southeast.

Figures show that tourism in the Perquimans County last year added \$1.05 million to payrolls, employed 40 people, paid \$370,000 in state taxes and nearly \$1 million in local taxes.

"These taxes equal \$105.87 for every resident of the county," pointed out Sid Eley, director of

the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber, he added, assisted tourism locally by hosting the county's website that saw over 12,000 visits, assisted with 10 group tours, helped with five magazine articles about the county, opened the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Museum, assisted with three television shows dealing with the county, greeted over 5,200 people visiting the Visitor Center, and answered over 20,000 email requests for information.

Liverman resigns at PCMS

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The principal at Perquimans County Middle School resigned Friday to take a principal position with Washington County Schools.

Jamie C. Liverman will leave the school system this week after serving as principal at the Winfall school for five years.



Liverman

With just a week before students arrive for the new school year, Superintendent Dwayne K. Stallings finds himself looking for another principal.

He just filled the principal position at Perquimans County High School in June.

Liverman leaves a legacy of distinction at the middle school.

Under his leadership, the school earned the status of School of Distinction in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. In addition, the school met all target goals under both the federal and state accountability programs for the past two years.

"He is a change agent, ensuring students are successful in the classroom," said Stallings. "Students and their academic success have been Liverman's top priority."

"He works at a high energy level and has high expectations for the development and implementation of programs that enhance the educational

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Rescued!



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Perquimans County EMS members tend to an injured truck driver caught between the mail truck and a hydraulic lift at the Hertford Post Office on Aug. 11. The lift is used to load and unload trucks at the post office.

Mail driver trapped, hurt

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The driver of a truck delivering mail to the Hertford Post Office was injured last Wednesday afternoon when he apparently fell between the truck and a hydraulic loading dock.

According to Hertford Police reports, a Greenville man was injured while trying to walk from the dock into the 26,000-pound truck when he slipped through the gap between

the two, injuring his left shoulder in the process. He was wedged between the truck and dock bent over in pain when police, rescuers, and firefighters first arrived on the scene.

The truck was backed up to the caution posts installed in front of the dock area, preventing the man from walking out on his own from the side. Police said the man was not stuck, and could have removed himself from entrapment by sitting down and sliding out underneath

the truck; however, extreme pain from the shoulder injury prevented that from occurring.

He remained trapped between the dock and the truck until members of Perquimans EMS first stabilized the injured arm, allowing members of Hertford Fire Department to wench the truck away from the dock.

The man then walked to a nearby emergency stretcher and was transported to an area hospital where he was treated and later released.

New PCHS principal loves her children

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Chante' Lassiter has a passion for children.

The new principal at Perquimans County High School grew up helping her mother take care of children in one of the largest daycare centers in Gates County. She has no children of her own, just godchildren she loves dearly.

"And any body else who wants to call me Mom," she quipped.

The former special education teacher takes the helm of the Pirate Ship this year with a confidence not usually found in a 28-year-old. Her excitement and enthusiasm bubbles over in her words that spill out as fast as her advancement in school administration.

"From the start, I knew that kids were my gift," said Lassiter who served just two years as assistant principal before being named to lead the largest school in the county. "I always root for the underdog."

Her love for children began by helping her mother in the daycare business, but spread through the years by volunteering with Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters, becoming a mentor, teaching childcare classes in community college, and working with the youth at her church.

She earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in special education at East Carolina University and went on to obtain her

See LASSITER, 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 91 LOW: 72
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 88 LOW: 73
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 90 LOW: 72
SCATTERED T-STORMS

Storm causes damage to home, shop

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

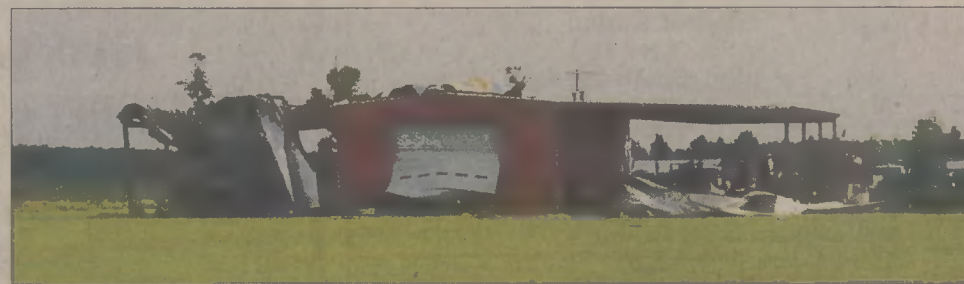
Debbie Proctor sat in the middle of the bathroom floor, holding her two-year-old granddaughter, saying the Lord's Prayer.

The wind outside increased, and the air inside the two-story brick home changed in a matter of seconds, becoming thick, wet, making it difficult to breathe. Outside, the wind roared louder and louder until all the doors in the house blew open, causing the sound of the wind and rain to grow even louder.

Pete, her husband, saw items in the back yard flying by the window in one direction. He turned and saw items in the front yard flying by windows in the opposite direction.

In just a couple of minutes, the roaring was over, leaving only the sounds of their pounding hearts and the rain hitting the roof.

"Everyone was safe, and that's what matters," said Debbie following the Wednesday night storm that damaged their Davenport Lane home and destroyed a metal farm shop located nearby.



PCEM PHOTO

A farm metal shop belonging to Pete and Debbie Proctor on Davenport Lane was damaged during last Wednesday's storm.

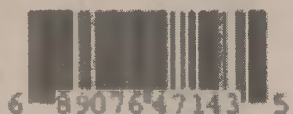
While the Proctors, insurance adjusters, and emergency management officials believe it was a tornado that hit near the Five-Mile Y area, the National

Weather Service says they believe the damage was caused by straight-line winds blowing 65-70 miles per hour.

"Based on the photos of

damage we saw, it looks like straight-line winds," said Chris Wamsley, meteorologist with the NWS.

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