

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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Gardner Stokely

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"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 31, 2011 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

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Hurricane Irene packs a dainty punch

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Shirley Ferebee wasn't scared when she heard a slight thump towards the front of her home as Category 1 Hurricane Irene smacked the area Saturday.

When she looked out, however, she was surprised to see three large pine trees toppled over on top of her house on Center Hill Highway. The large branches came to rest on top of her front porch.

"It wasn't a loud thump, but a nice thump," she said. No one was hurt when the trees fell.

Ferebee was just one of thousands of Eastern North Carolinians who escaped without major damage when Hurricane Irene hit the North Carolina coastline and travelled north over the weekend, downing trees and power lines in her wake. It lashed the area with high winds and rainfall before it made its way out of the area early Sunday morning.

Perquimans County experienced wind gust up to 80 miles per hour and received between 9-10 inches of rain, officials said. Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow initially termed local damage as minimal compared with the last hurricane that hit the county in 2003, but cautioned it was still early since not all damage assessments had been turned in.

"As of Monday morning, we still had some people without power but all the roads are clear," he said. "There were trees down, some crops blown over, but as a whole I think we are a whole lot better off this time than we were with Hurricane Isabel."

Trees were also blown over on two other homes in the county. A large tree fell on a two-story home on Nixon Street in Winfall damaging a bedroom while a second tree crashed into a vacant house located near the intersection of Wynne Fork Road and Edenton Road Street in Hertford.

Imogene Lane looked at the tree that cut a large hole in the roof of the Hertford home and thanked her lucky stars. She had made an offer to buy the

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STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A snapped utility pole is seen near the basketball court at Wynne Fork Court Apartments where children are playing, Sunday. See more photos of Hurricane Irene damage online at DailyAdvance.com.

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Wind blew a tree onto this home located at 100 Wynne Fork Road during Hurricane Irene. The house was vacant and listed for sale.



PHOTO COURTESY ED LEICESTER

A pool of flood water in seen behind the Hertford Post Office.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Reba Smith sweeps up glass and debris after wind blew out an upstairs window at Inteliport.

Classes begin at county schools

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

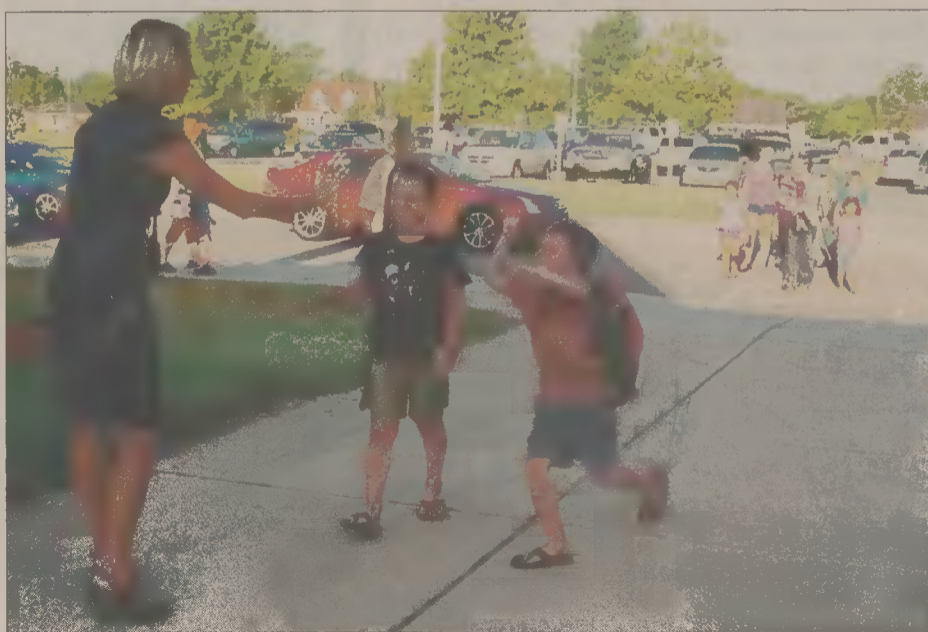
High fives, giggles, a little apprehension, and lots of hugs were abundant Thursday morning at Perquimans Central School as students returned to classes after summer break.

"Is that a new bookbag?" Principal Melissa Fields asked a student after sharing a high five with the excited youngster. "I like that. Welcome to school. I'll be in to see you in your new class in a little while."

Such was the greeting at county schools as 1,688 students returned to class in Perquimans.

Hallways were filled with parents bringing their little ones to school.

"This is hard," said Mom Narhaja Bond as she peeked in the door to her daughter's kindergarten class, checking to see if daughter Essence was adjusting without her. She was relieved to see Essence quietly sitting in her teacher's lap and watching



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Melissa Fields, the new principal at Perquimans Central School, welcomes students back to school, Thursday. See more back to school photos online at DailyAdvance.com.

other children around her. First grader Carissa Baker said she was glad to see her friends again as she scuttled down the hall filled with classmates sporting new shoes, new outfits, and even new lunch boxes.

For Fields, seeing students return to PCS was even more exciting for the first-time principal.



Narhaja Bond watches her daughter Essence adjust to her first day of kindergarten at Perquimans Central.

Street dance kicks off Indian Summer fest

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

This year's Indian Summer Festival will open on Friday night, Sept. 9, with a free Friday night street dance.

Food and craft vendors will open for business at 6 p.m. as DJ Pete welcomes visitors with a variety of tunes on the courthouse square.

The band "Windfall" will crank up their mixture of pop, R&B, soft rock at 7 p.m. and will continue to entertain dancers until 10 p.m. Church Street will be closed off for the street dance.

A beer and wine garden will be available in the parking lot at the intersection of Church and Market streets. Festival organizers say that area will be enclosed with a three drink limit.

Windfall, from Greensboro, offers a mix of well-known classics featuring a distinctive style and lush

harmonies. They are considered one of the Triad's premier variety bands.

Band members include: Tony Saliba on guitar and lead vocals; Amber Marlowe-vocals; Bob Spencer-vocals and varied instruments; Stuart Hall-drums; and Scott Marlowe-sound engineer.

Saliba, a 40-year veteran in the music business, has worked as a studio guitarist in New York as well as performed on international tours. He has sung with major companies such as Laurie/Crimson/Sultan Records as far back as the 60s and had hits in the 70s on Decca Records and Columbia Records. He is an original member of Soul Survivor with the Gold hit "Express Way to Your Heart". He also holds Gold record status with the Cuff Links.



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