

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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## Commissioners name Heath manager

Board also unveils strategic goals

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

County commissioners appointed Frank Heath as the new county manager Monday night.

Heath has served as interim county manager

as well as tax administrator since former manager Bobby Darden left the position Nov. 11.

Heath, 36, has worked for the county for the past eight years as tax administrator and special projects coordinator. He has assisted in the remodeling of the former Albemarle Electric building into a new home for the county's emergency

services, the acquisition of Winfall's water system, and the redesign of the county's website.

Commissioners set Heath's annual salary at \$77,776.



Heath

"I am excited and appreciative of the board's decision to appoint me as county manager," said Heath. "It is an honor to work and live in Perquimans County, because our citizens are our biggest asset. I look forward to carrying out the decisions of the elected officials, and to finding ways to make the county more efficient and responsive to

our residents."

Commissioners also appointed Debbie Stallings as the county's interim tax administrator while the county begins the process to hire a new one. Stallings serves as assistant tax administrator and has worked for the county since 1989.

As interim tax administrator, Stallings will help

lead the assessing, listing and collection of county and municipal taxes as well as managing the county's water department billing office and county's mapping department.

Also Monday night, commissioners presented a summary of their two-day retreat held last month to

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## COAST GUARD VISITS STUDENTS

By PETER WILLIAMS  
The Daily Advance

Taylor Berman had a big day Thursday. She won third place in the school art contest and her father came to visit her at school and had lunch.



Just how Mark Berman got there was a bit unorthodox. Berman is an aviation maintenance technician and a member of the flight crew aboard a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter that made the trip to Hertford Grammar School from Elizabeth City. Taylor, 10, knew a helicopter was coming to visit. Thursday morning her Dad asked for permission to be on that flight.

The \$20 million aircraft got a first-class welcome by the 450 students. Some of them painted a giant American flag on the field and others made banners to welcome the five-member crew.

For their part, Lt. Com. Steve Bonn and the others had the luxury of spending hours with students, visiting classrooms, answering questions, staying for lunch and giving students an up-close look at the aircraft.

"This is one of the cool things about the job," Bonn said.

The visit was timed to coincide with the end of a session on STEM courses. The Jayhawk helicopter is the embodiment of the science, technology, engineering and math that has to happen to lift five people and 20,000 pounds of metal into the air and get it to fly at speeds of up to 210 mph.

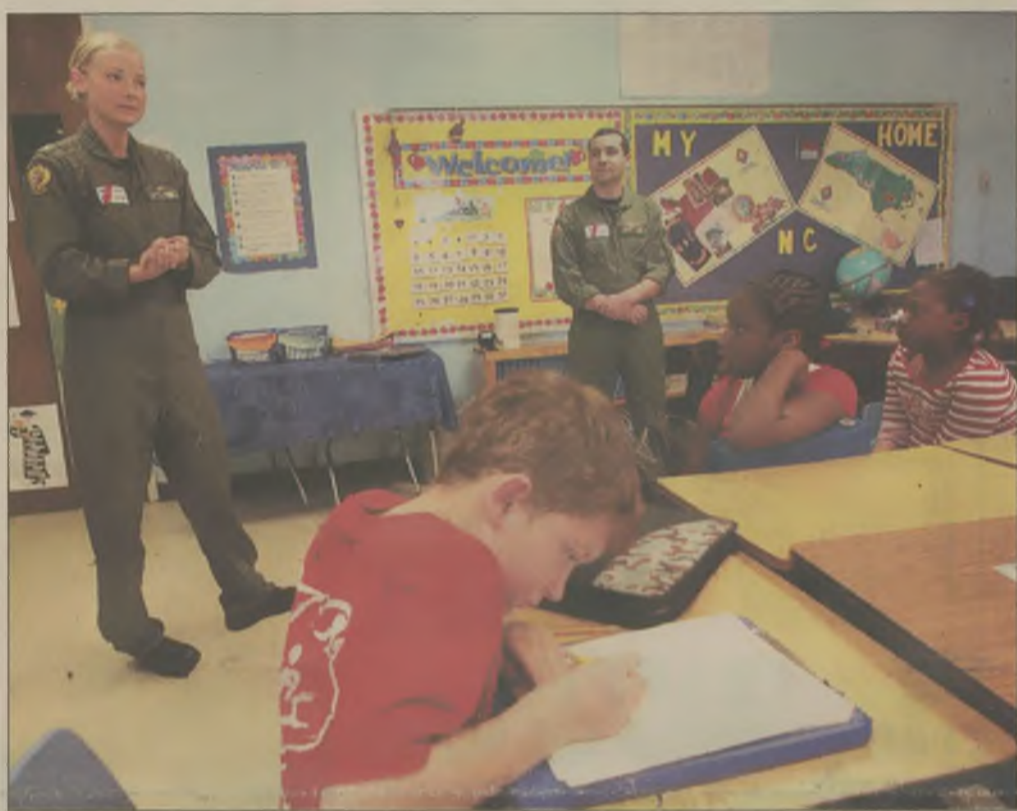
For girls — a segment of the population that isn't highly represented in aviation — Thursday was a day to see first-hand that women can fly too.

The co-pilot on the flight was Lt. Amanda Denning. She caught the aviation bug late and was an English major in college with ideas on going to law school.

Denning joined the Coast Guard after seeing what the service did in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

One of her messages to the students was "it's never too late to start."

Women have flown in the Coast Guard for 35 years. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, of the nearly 600,000 pilots in the United States, approximately six percent are women. The aviation community in the Coast Guard is no different. Of



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Fourth-grader Hinton McDonald (center) draws a picture of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, while Lt. Amanda Denning (left) and aviation technician Brandon Hamlin speak to his class at Hertford Grammar School, Thursday.



Lt. Cmdr. Steve Bonn discusses the helicopter that he and his crew flew to Hertford Grammar, Thursday.



Hertford Grammar students hold a banner saying "HGS" as part of a larger banner that welcomes the crew of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to the school.

the approximately 4,500 Coast Guard personnel assigned to air stations, only 4.5 percent are female.

Additionally, women account for less than four percent of the more than 500,000 non-pilot aviation related jobs in the United States.

Students wanted to know

if flying a helicopter was hard. Denning described it by asking students if they could rub their belly and pat their head at the same time.

"It takes that kind of concentration," she said.

They also wanted to know if you had to be a great swimmer to be in the Coast

Guard.

"You don't have to be the best swimmer, but you do have to be comfortable in water. If you ever did have to go down in the water, we'd expect somebody would come out to get us."

The idea of a crash was

## Judge dismisses 6 complaints against Parrish

By BILL WEST  
The Daily Advance

A Superior Court judge has dismissed six of the eight complaints filed by citizens calling for the suspension or removal of District Attorney Frank Parrish.

In a one-page order filed with the Pasquotank County Superior Court Clerk's Office, Judge Alma Hinton of Roanoke Rapids said she reviewed six of the complaints and concluded Parrish did not break any state laws governing district attorneys' conduct.

Hinton further said she found Parrish "has conducted himself within the bounds of his prosecutorial discretion."

Neither Parrish nor his attorney, James Maxwell of Durham, could be reached for comment Friday.

Kathryn Fagan, a Manteo attorney representing all eight of the persons who filed the complaints, appeared stunned when reached for comment late Friday afternoon.

"I have not seen the order or the dismissal as yet because, as throughout the entire process, my presence in it has been ignored," Fagan said.

Fagan called both the judge's decision not to hold a hearing on the complaints and the fact she hadn't been notified of the dismissal "ab-



Hinton



Parrish

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Antje Curphey, who was the former community technology learning center coordinator for Perquimans County Schools, died in a two-vehicle collision near Camarillo, Calif., on Feb. 27

## Former teacher killed in Calif.

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Local residents are mourning the death of a former high school teacher and community activist who was killed in a California car crash just three weeks after moving to that area from Hertford.

Antje Curphey, formerly the community technology learning center coordinator for Perquimans County Schools, was killed Feb. 27 in a two-vehicle collision in the Camarillo, California area when the vehicle she was riding in turned left onto a roadway and was struck

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