

# CRASH

Continued from 1

tional Transportation Safety Board is now in charge of the investigation. It said officials of NTSB, the FAA, the helicopter's manufacturer, Air Methods, the sheriff's office, EMS and emergency management met Saturday morning.

The search for victims was suspended Friday about 7 p.m. to allow inspectors from the FAA and the NTSB time to review the wreckage.

The Duke Hospital helicopter had three crew members and one patient on board when it crashed about noon Friday in a field off Swamp Road. The aircraft was flying from Sentara Albemarle Hospital to Duke. It crashed near the substation that serves the Amazon Wind Farms East wind power project.

Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Avangrid Renew-

ables, the firm that owns the wind farm, said the helicopter did not make contact with any of its equipment.

About a dozen people, including crews from NTSB and the FFA were on-site on Saturday.

On Saturday, Duke University Hospital released the names of the three flight crew members killed the crash. They were identified as Jeff Burke, the helicopter pilot, and Kris Harrison and Crystal Sollinger, both of whom were registered nurses who worked as flight nurses.

Duke University Hospital said it released the crash victims' names after their families agreed to it. "The Duke University Hospital and entire Duke University family continues to grieve their loss," the hospital said in a statement.

The name of the fourth victim, a patient at Sentara Albemarle, has not been released.

White said the area where



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department secure a landing site for an East Care medical helicopter to land at Craft Air Services on Swamp Road Friday afternoon. A Duke Life Flight helicopter crashed near the site and a plume of smoke was visible for miles.

the helicopter crash is covered in grass about two feet high. The grass in the area around the crash site is about 8 feet high, White said.

Personnel from the Belvidere Fire Department, Winfall Fire Department, Perquimans EMS, N.C. Highway Patrol, Perquimans County Emergency Management,

landed at the aviation runway owned by Craft Air Services but was not needed.

Terry Williams, a spokesman for NTSB, said his agency is in the very early stages of the investigation.

"We're in the fact gathering phase," he said.

As part of that, the NTSB will be looking at the engines on the aircraft, maintenance records, and the records on the pilot.

"I stress they are all standard parts of our investigations," Williams said.

The NTSB will also be interviewing any witnesses to the crash. Williams said there are four people right now who saw some phase of the accident. Anybody with information is asked to visit [witness@ntsb.gov](mailto:witness@ntsb.gov).

Terry Williams, a spokesman for the NTSB, said the agency would not announce the cause of an accident while on scene. The cause may not be determined for 12 to 18 months after the crash. Highway Patrol Master

Trooper Christopher Knox said the Duke Life Flight helicopter went down around 11:45 a.m. Friday near the town of Belvidere. Patrol spokesman Michael Baker said there were no survivors.

Dale Gauding, a spokesman for Sentara Healthcare, confirmed the helicopter had departed Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth City and was headed for the hospital in Durham.

Sentara Albemarle President Coleen Santa Ana said the hospital was "deeply saddened" by the deaths of those killed in the crash.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of the patient who was lost and to those closest to the crew members," she said. "We also extend our sincere sympathies to Duke University Medical Center on the loss of their colleagues. This tragedy reminds us of the devotion of healthcare professionals to the service of others."

# HUNTER

Continued from 1

New York Yankees in 1975-79. In all he won five World Series championships.

Next year the NC Lion's

Club will pick another person for the pin. It might be a lawyer, actor or maybe another athlete, Dupree said.

"I want to thank you for honoring him," said Helen Hunter, Hunter's widow. "He loved the Lions."

She will again be organizing a walk in her husband's honor this month to raise money for a local ALS foundation.

Tommy Harrell, a long-time friend of Hunter, said Jimmy's legacy lives on. "No Bats Balls" a charitable organization visited Hertford right after Hunter's death and provided \$39,000

towards the Hunter foundation that helps fund other ALS patients. The "Bats" continues to do so from fundraisers all over the country.

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will be selling the Hunter Lions pins for \$5. Any leftover money will be used to fund the Jim "Catfish" Hunter

Museum at the chamber.

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid was for the event Thursday at the chamber and presented Helen Hunter with a plaque he could not present her before because he had a medical issue.

Sid Eley, the director of the chamber of commerce, said new highway signs honoring Hunter are being

assembled and should be up soon after any hurricane passes. They will replace two that had long since faded with age.

One was located on U.S. 17 heading south on the US 17 Bypass towards Hertford and the other was located on U.S. 17 near Edenton Road Street for traffic headed north.



## Perquimans County Farm Bureau

### Annual Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 PM

Location: Bethel Ruritan Club on Snug Harbor Road

As part of the meeting, voting delegates will consider proposed bylaws amendments to clarify appointment of nominating committee members and election of officers and directors.

For more information, please contact Gay at the local office 426-5636.

Door Prizes and Refreshments will be served.

# SCORES

Continued from 1

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman who along with staff celebrated the news when the scores were released last week.

But Cheeseman and the Perquimans County School Board know there is more to do.

"It's a reflection of our organization. We believe in what's best for kids and obviously we want to provide them with a world class education," he said. "I credit our board of educa-

tions. They have been very thoughtful around hiring high quality teachers and bringing in high quality programs. Our work is not done. We still have a ways to go but we're moving forward.

"The letter grades are wonderful, but seeing that

are kids are learning, that is the goal," Cheeseman said. "It shows how hard our students are working and how intentional our teachers are teaching."

Both the grammar school and the high school growth met growth last year. The middle school did not.

"I missed just barely," Cheeseman said.

But he said the school system already knew the weak areas and had taken steps to address them even before the scores came out last week.

Amy Spough, the chair of

the county school board, said it was a team effort.

"I credit the strong leadership from our superintendent and great principals and great teachers and support staff. It's about everybody that influences the children every day.

Spough believes the success will breed more success.

"We have a culture of high expectations and a can-do attitude," she said.

The high school's graduation rate last year was also up to 90.8 percent, an increase of two tenths of a percent.



## PROUDLY SALUTES OUR HEROES

We want to show appreciation to our local heroes by providing 40% off of the surgeon's fee for LASIK and PRK.

Call us to schedule your evaluation today!

This special is applicable for all military, police officers, firefighters, and EMT (as well as their immediate families).



Thank you for your service!

1503 N ROAD STREET, ELIZABETH CITY, NC | 252-335-5446  
 101 MARK DRIVE, EDENTON, NC | 252-482-7471  
 3524 N. CROATAN HWY, KITTY HAWK | 252-441-3163  
 111 W SEACHASE DRIVE, NAGS HEAD, NC | 252-441-5911  
 1730 CAROLINA AVE., WASHINGTON, NC | 252-946-2171

HTTP://WWW.PRECISIONEYECARENC.COM



Introducing **Paradise Pet Resort:**  
A luxury boarding experience



Visit our website or come by for a tour of our new state-of-the-art facility

**Paradise PET RESORT**  
premier pet boarding for dogs  
[paradisepetresortnc.com](http://paradisepetresortnc.com)

Call now for reservations  
**252.482.4113**

## RABIES CLINIC

ANIMAL WELFARE OF THE ALBEMARLE REGION EVERYDAY!  
"AWARE" AND CHOWAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL

**WHEN: SATURDAY, September 23, 2017**

**WHERE: MISSING MILL PARK, HERTFORD**

**TIME: 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.**

**COST: \$8.00**  
Cash Only

**HELP PROTECT OUR PETS AND OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S THE LAW!**

[www.awarenc.org](http://www.awarenc.org)

## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)  
Vol. 85 No. 37  
Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC  
Established 1934  
111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

Mike Goodman..... Publisher  
Peter Williams..... News Editor  
Bev Alexander..... Advertising Representative

Phone 252-426-5728 • Fax 252-426-4625  
Email: [perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com](mailto:perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com)

**Subscription Rates**

In Daily Advance home delivery area..... \$26.25\*  
All other continental U.S..... \$32.50\*  
\*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions. Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944

# GRIFFIN

Continued from 1

is the teacher. We've been able to hire some dynamic educators. I go out and recruit teachers like (Duke's) Coach K goes out and finds basketball players."

Griffin was nominated and selected by his fellow principals through a state-wide search process conducted by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals Association.

A graduate of East Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University, Griffin previously held the position of a classroom teacher, Dean of Students and now Principal at Hertford Grammar School since 2013.

In 2014 Griffin received a Distinguished Leadership Award from the Friday Institute. In his career he's been named Teacher of the Year in both Perquimans and Martin counties.

Griffin and his wife, Megan, live in Hertford, and have one child, Ainsley age 6.

State Superintendent Mark Johnson praised Griffin for his work.

"Hertford Grammar School's strong progress is clear evidence of Jason's leadership," Johnson said. "He makes smart use of data to work with his teachers to personalize learning for all students. He delegates to help his teachers grow as leaders themselves, and he works to provide them with innovative strategies to improve teaching and learning for students."

Read more Perquimans news and feature stories online at [DailyAdvance.com](http://DailyAdvance.com)