

P9/C9*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008 D0017
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 514 S CHURCH ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



puts WiFi on buses, 4

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

75 cents

North Carolina braces for Hurricane Florence

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The threat of Hurricane Florence closed local schools and other programs and sent people packing grocery stores.

And that was days before the Category 4 storm even arrived.

Perquimans County Man-

ager Frank Heath said he and some department heads met at another event on Saturday. On Monday there was a meeting of the "Control Group" which includes the top representatives from the county and the towns of Winfall and Hertford. A second meeting was planned for 5 p.m. Tuesday. At that time they will dis-

cuss imposing a local State of Emergency and opening evacuation shelters.

On Monday Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman announced schools would be closed to all employees and students from today through Friday due to the imminent impact of Florence. The district did operate under normal normal

hours on Monday, including extracurricular events. Perquimans' road football game at Pasquotank is now set Sept. 27.

Perquimans wasn't the only school system to take such action. Currituck County announced Monday their schools would be closed starting Tuesday. Elizabeth City-Pasquotank schools

will be closed Wednesday through Friday.

As of Monday, forecasts showed the storm going toward Wilmington. That is good and bad for Perquimans. It puts the bulk of the storm far south, but puts Perquimans on the bad side for torrential rains.

"If it follows that track, it's good because were are

150 miles from the center. But if it shifts 50 miles to the northeast, it can be real bad."

Jonathan Nixon, the county's emergency management director, reminded residents Perquimans County has a phone system that allows it to reach out to residents in

See FLORENCE, 2

Cause of crash debated

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A year after a medical helicopter crashed in Perquimans County, killing four, there are some indications why the accident happened.

On Sept. 8, 2017, the Duke Life Flight helicopter was seen with smoke coming out of the rear. It went down in a field in Belvidere while flying a patient from Sentara Albemarle Medical Center to Duke Hospital.

The National Transportation Safety Board released a preliminary report soon after the crash. It hinted that a lubrication problem might be at fault. The No. 2 engine's rear turbine shaft showed signs of "overheating and lack of lubrication" and that a key bearing was worn down.

At the time of the crash, NTSB officials said it could be a year or more before the final report is released.

However a lawsuit filed late last year lays blame on the manufacturer and others.

The families of one of the flight nurses, Kristopher Harrison, and the patient, Mary Bartlett, filed a suit in December saying the crash could have been prevented.

The attorney pressing the suit, points to an FAA "special airworthiness information bulletin" that suggests a link between the Perquimans County crash and another event involving the same Airbus model helicopter on Jan. 26, 2017 in South Dakota, according to published reports.

The problem in both cases could be a blocked oil line, said Gary Robb, the attorney representing the families in the lawsuit.

See CRASH, 2



Helen Hunter and others pay their respects during a ceremony last week in Oakland, Calif.

A's honor Jimmy Hunter

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Forty-four years after he left the Oakland A's, the late Jim (Catfish) Hunter was among seven people inducted into the first Hall of Fame class in Oakland, Calif.

Hunter died in 1999 but in his place last week was his wife Helen. The other six in the inaugural class were Dennis Eckersley, Rollie Fingers, Rickey Henderson, Reggie Jackson, Dave Stewart and former A's owner Charlie Finley. Finley's son attended on his behalf.

Even after years, Jimmy Hunter continues to be honored in Major League Baseball circles especially the Oakland A's and the New York Yankees. Last year Helen Hunter went to Oakland for the dedication of a gate at the stadium that was named after her husband. The Yankees honor him every year at the Old Timer's game.

For her part, Hunter got to speak about her late husband, and how it started when he was signed by the A's straight out of Perquimans County High School.

"It was really great to see everybody," Helen said. "They treated us



FILE PHOTO

Jim "Catfish" Hunter perfect game for the Oakland A's was the front page news in the Perquimans Weekly that week.

really well."

She said it was nice to see Reggie Jackson and Rollie Fingers again.

Hunter would be 72 years old now, the same age as Jackson and Fingers. Hunter played for the A's from 1965 through 1974. Jackson was with the team from 1967-1975. Fingers was there from 1968

through 1976.

"All three of these were young men, and they grew up together," Hunter said of her husband, Jackson and Fingers. "They played good together and they might have fought too, but they were young

See HUNTER, 2

Man admits to using credit card

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

An Edenton man pled guilty last week to using a credit card that was loaned to a Perquimans County woman who was last seen in May 2015 and is presumed dead.

Thomas Edward White Sr., 63, was not charged with Karen Rae Bosta's disappearance, but did plead guilty Sept. 4 to the illicit credit card use the day after Bosta was last seen.

Superior Court Judge J.C. Cole gave him the maximum sentence of six weekends in jail, including 36 months of supervised probation and parole.

White also has to pay \$600 in restitution and is prohibited from making contact with Bosta's family.

Bosta's mother, Arlene Murin, had loaned her Discover card to her daughter so Bosta could buy cigarettes at a Food Lion in Edenton. White was charged with using the same card the day after Bosta went missing to pump \$40 worth of gas into his girlfriend's vehicle. A video camera caught White using it. White was living on Johnston Street at the time.

He also tried to use it again but was unsuccessful.

Murin was allowed to read a statement in Perquimans County court last week and she said she was grateful for that.

"He (Judge Cole) was wonderful," she said. "It

See BOSTA, 2



WHITE

PCHS holds onto 'B' grade in new state test results

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County High School held on to its "B" grade last year, while two other schools were graded a "C," according to a state report released last week.

Hertford Grammar

School, which had held a "B" grade, slipped a notch. Perquimans County Middle School remained a "C." Perquimans Central School, which educates children grades Pre-K through second grade, is not included in the report because those grades are not tested.

The graduation rate at PCHS remained higher than the state average, but slipped slightly from the year before. Last year 89.9 percent of students graduated on time in four years. Last year the rate was 86.3 percent. More than 91 percent (91.5 percent) of girls graduated on

time compared to 88.6 percent for boys.

The report shows black students graduated at a higher rate than white students, at 94.7 percent, compared to 89.5 percent for whites. Data for students who are American Indian, Asian, Hispanic or of two or more

grades was not reported because the subgroups were too small to report a value.

Among students with disabilities, 80 percent graduated on time. Among the group of 19 students who were considered academically gifted, more than 95 percent graduated.

County school officials could not immediately be reached for comment. However the Department of Public Instruction cautions that because of changes to the state's accountability measurements required under

See GRADE, 2

Teens to be taught about 'Real World'

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

This month more than 100 area teens and young adults will learn the hard

lesson that decisions have consequences and sometimes "Life Happens" and their best laid plans can be derailed.



APLES

The Northeastern Workforce Development Board

of the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission will be rolling out the third annual "Real World" simulation program on Sept. 26 at the Museum of the Albemarle.

The program is targeted to people age 16 to 24. Area high schools in the 10-county Albemarle Commission region, public and private, are invited to participate. River City Youth Build and

the Commission's Next Gen program will also be providing participants.

Lora Aples, the youth program manager at the Commission, said each of the schools is limited to about 10 to 15 young people.

"The Real World objective is to show young people that their level of education

See WORLD, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students participate in the Real World simulation last year at the Vernon James Center.

