

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Family grows goat soap business, 2

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

\$1.00

County prepares for Dorian

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County officials were preparing for bad weather Tuesday but were still unsure just what they were going to get and when.

Confidence in predications for Hurricane Dorian were getting higher, but it will be later in the week before they have a better handle on wind speeds or rainfall totals.

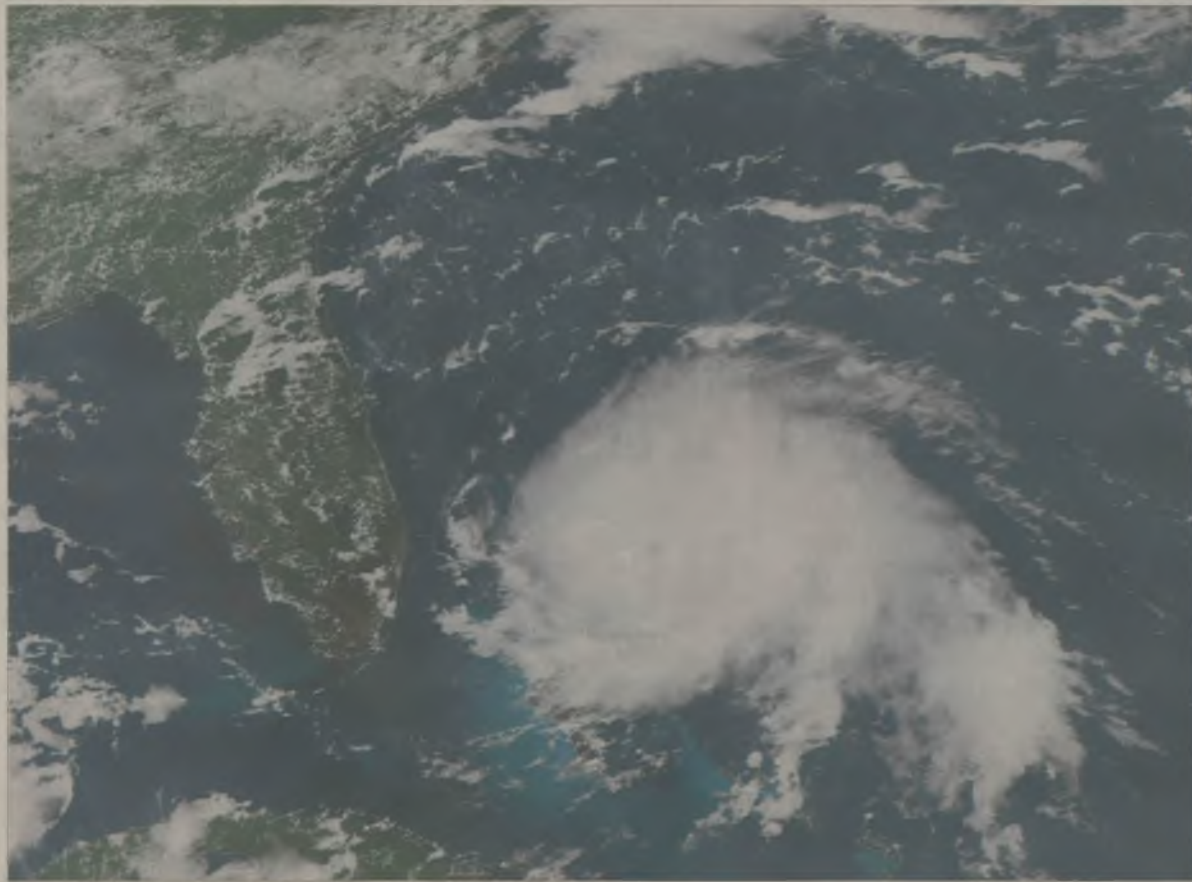
Dorian was expected to turn northeast and track off the Carolina coast by Thursday and Friday.

A control group consisting of elected and appointed leaders from the county and the two municipalities along with the sheriff was scheduled to meet late Tuesday or early Wednesday. Last year the group imposed a ban on alcohol and firearms sales that lasted for about 36 hours.

"I don't anticipate that at this time given the storm tracks we'll be on the left hand side of the storm," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath.

The control group could also order an evacuation if one is needed.

Some coastal counties had already done that. The Dare County Control Group met Monday and declared a State of Emergency for all areas of Dare County including the towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags



NOAA PHOTO

A NOAA photo shows Hurricane Dorian off the coast of Florida earlier this week.

Head, Manteo and all unincorporated areas including Hatteras Island, Roanoke Island and the Dare mainland. A mandatory evacuation was issued for all Dare County visitors beginning Tuesday, at noon. A

mandatory evacuation order for all Dare County residents became effective at 6 a.m. on Wednesday.

Hyde County also imposed an evacuation.

As of early Tuesday morning

Perquimans school officials had not made a decision on classes this week or if sports schedules would be changed. Michelle Maddox,

See DORIAN, A2

Some schools see big gains

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans Central School and Perquimans County Middle School saw big increases in enrollment this year.

As of last week, Central had 51 more students than last year and the middle school saw an increase of 49. The high school was also up by 12 students.

Hertford Grammar School however is estimated to have 25 fewer kids than last year. Principal John Lassiter said it was simply a matter that this year's incoming third grade class wasn't as large as last year's fifth grade class that moved on to middle school this year.

"We lost a really big fifth grade, like 160 and the incoming third grade class is like 115."

The grammar school, he says, is always dependant on incoming students from Central and some years those classes are big and some years they are small. Likewise both the middle school and the high school are dependant on the students moving up.

Superintendent Tanya Turner said the school district should have a better handle on final enrollment this week.

"These numbers are moving targets at the moment as students are still enrolling and withdrawing and will be through Labor Day," Turner said. "After that time, the numbers should begin to stabilize and we will have a more accurate picture of our actual increase."

But as of last week the numbers were:

Perquimans Central increased from 377 to 428

HGS decreased from 402 to 377

PCMS increased from 367 to 416

PCHS increased from 457 to 469

Middle school Principal Laura Moreland said the increase in enrollment is a positive sign for not only the school, but also the community. She said some families moved to Perquimans just so their kids could enroll here.

"It is exciting to see people are choosing us," Moreland said. "When people choose you, you are going to live up to their

See SCHOOLS, A2

Red Cross seeking volunteers to staff shelters

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Red Cross is reaching out to senior citizens and others to find volunteers who can help staff local evacuation shelters in an emergency.

Long before Hurricane Dorian, Mark P. Lenz spoke at the Perquimans County Senior Center. He is the local disaster program manager for the Red Cross and will be back on Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. to talk again. The meeting is for everyone, not just seniors.

Lenz said the Red Cross tested the program of recruiting seniors in the western side of his 20-county area and it worked so well, it's being rolled out elsewhere.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mark Lenz recently spoke at the Perquimans Senior Center about the services of the American Red Cross. Additionally, he extended opportunities for members to join the Red Cross as members of a sheltering team during disaster and recovery in the community. The Red Cross will return to speak on Sept. 11.

"If you have three to five folks and they know what they are doing and work well together that is a real help." After hurricane Florence

some people thought they had seen the worst, Lenz said.

Then came Matthew. "Hurricane Matthew was very, very, very hard on emergency agencies because it was so large."

In just 53 counties in eastern North Carolina, the Red Cross opened 172 shelters in the span of two and a half days, he said.

"Obviously that's a lot of shelters and we couldn't do it without our partnering agencies."

The training the Red Cross will do for volunteers will take about a day.

"It's about them (seniors) being part of that bigger picture," Lenz said. "It gives them that joy to know they are helping their communi-

ty in a time of need."

The commitment the Red Cross is looking for isn't necessarily long term.

"We'll have them ready to go to work in shifts for two or three days until we, the Red Cross at the national level, can be ready to really dump a lot of volunteers into an area."

Beverly Gregory, the director of the senior center, said talks like the one Lenz gave is just part of what they do.

"We want to encourage people to be actively involved," Gregory said. "There is the concern that they will need lots of volunteers to set up cots, and do data processing and enrollment."

Lenz can be reached at Mark.lenz@redcross.org.

See OFFICIALS, A2

Emergency officials: 'Be Prepared, Not Scared'

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Emergency Management has been highlighting a program of "Be Prepared, Not Scared" during this, the hurricane season.

It promotes emergency planning for families and communities.

There are some things that don't cost money.

There is the county's Code Red

reverse 911 system. A resident has to enroll in the service in order to receive messages. It will send out messages as needed to certain areas that have an issue or county-wide.

The messages can vary, like water department alerts, evacuation procedures or weather warnings.

"We currently have about 1,270 residents and close to 40 businesses enrolled," said Julie Solesbee, a

spokesman for Perquimans EMS. "Residents can enroll on the county website at <http://www.co.perquimans.nc.us/> and click on the CodeRed tab on the left side of the screen."

There is also a new text to enroll option. Residents can text PERQES to 99411 and that will send them a link to the CodeRed website for enrollment.

The county also has a Voluntary Special Needs Registry Form for

residents who need some additional help in the event of an emergency.

By filling out the form public safety personnel can contact the resident to check in with them. The form gives first responders a basic medical history; emergency contacts and can also share the limitations of a resident.

See OFFICIALS, A2

Laundry, school join forces for reading

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Laundromat may not be the most exciting place to be, especially for a child, but Hertford Grammar School and the operators of The Wash House have taken steps to make it a little more productive.

The two created what

is referred to as a "library without borders." The Wash House provided the foam cushion mats for kids to sit on plus a bookcase. The school provided the books.

"I'm good friends with Luke Williford and Josh Riverbark and they are brothers in law and the owners and operators of The Wash House," said HGS Principal John Lassiter.

"The idea started in Durham. After they checked the security cameras and you could see kids in the Laundromat at midnight or

1 a.m. Sometimes a Mom gets off work and has to take the kids with her to the Laundromat."

So the company created the pop up library.

Sheila Evans, the principal at White Oak Elementary in Edenton worked with the Wash House there to create a similar space.

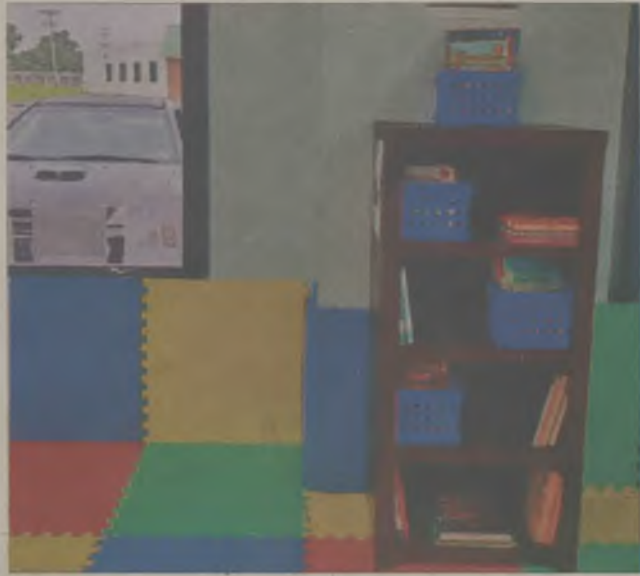
Now there is one in Hertford.

"We don't know how much it will help, but we know it can't hurt," Lassiter said. "We know there are three things parents can do to improve the life of their

child, and one of them is reading to them," Lassiter said.

"There is a ton of research on how reading 20 minutes a day impacts students' achievement. I am not overly concerned about the state test, but we're trying to make students a success in life - period. Anything we can do toward that is good."

"Literacy is important and family engagement is important. If we could get every family to read with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A reading space has been created at The Wash House laundromat in Hertford.

See READING, A2

