Carteret County
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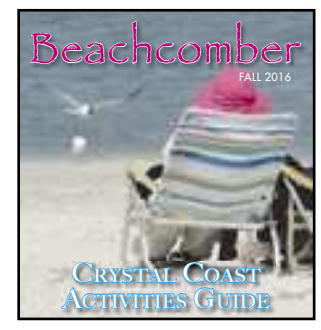

Inside today

Get the scoop on winter activities in the Beachcomber special insert.

Hermine reverts to tropical storm, approaches coast

Cool weather settles over the Crystal Coast Wednesday ahead of Tropical Storm Hermine, which is slated to impact the county starting today. (Dylan Ray photo)

Area prepares for gusty wind, rain

STAFF REPORTS

MIAMI — Tropical Storm Hermine, which was briefly a hurricane but now weakened back to a storm, is getting closer as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center forecasts it to arrive in North Carolina late today into early Saturday.

According to the NHC's latest available advisory, issued at 8 a.m., Hermine is located about 35 miles northeast of Valdosta, Ga., and about 120 miles west-southwest of Savannah, Ga. The storm has maximum sustained winds of 60 mph extending up to 175 miles from its center. It's moving north-northeast at about 14 mph, with a minimum central barometric pressure of 29.21 inches.

State officials are working to help residents avoid the approaching storm. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory declared a State of Emergency Thursday for 33 eastern counties, including Carteret, and issued an executive order to waive certain truck restrictions on weight and hours of service to facilitate a quicker storm response.

The N.C. Ferry Service began evacuating non-residents from Okracoke Thursday. As of this morning, state ferries remain on schedule.

The NHC has issued a tropical storm warning for the majority of the North Carolina coast, including Carteret County. Hermine is forecast to weaken while the center of the storm remains over land, though some re-strengthening is expected after the center moves offshore of North Carolina Saturday.

The National Weather Service said in its hazardous weather outlook at 8:30 p.m. Thursday that a flash flood watch is in effect from

See Storm / Page 4A

Weather results in schedule changes

MOREHEAD CITY — Here is a list of some area events that have been canceled or postponed due to Tropical Storm Hermine, which is expected to move into the area tonight and last into Saturday.

- Carteret County Public Schools will dismiss students and staff three hours early today.
- Carteret Community College is closing the campus at 1 p.m. today.
- Alive at Five North Tower Concert that was originally scheduled for 5 p.m. today has been rescheduled for 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, at Jaycee Park in Morehead City.
- Morehead City Parks and Recreation Concert in the Park with Carolina Beach Club has been canceled.

COUNTY REPORT CARD

Croatan High School students study calculus Thursday. The school received an A+ on the state's READY Accountability report released Thursday by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. (Cheryl Burke photo)

Croatan, Tiller lead the pack

NCDPI data: Carteret schools receive passing grades

BY CHERYL BURKE
NEWS-TIMES

The county school system received good news on a state report released Thursday, although there were some areas of concern.

The good news – the percentage of students graduating from county high schools in 2015-16 increased from the previous year and remains above the state average.

In addition, all county schools received a student performance score of C or better, with Croatan High School receiving an A+. Tiller School, a kindergarten through fifth grade charter school in Beaufort, received an A.

However, there were areas of concern. The percentage of county high school students proficient on end-of-course exams decreased, although it remained above the state average. Plus, there were five county schools that did not meet expected growth standards, a set of goals each school sets for itself to attain from the beginning to the end of the school year.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction released the data for the 2015-16 school year Thursday, revealing how they performed last year. The READY Accountability report includes traditional public schools, as well as charter schools.

The report features graduation rates, results of the 2015-16 state end-of-grade and end-of-course exams, as well as other data, such as results of the ACT college entrance exam.

As required by state legislation, each school received a letter grade. Grades are based 80 percent on the school's academic achievement scores and 20 percent on students' academic growth.

All county schools earned a C or better. Statewide, 75 percent of traditional public schools earned grades C or better, up from 72.2 percent the previous year.

Dr. Sue Kreuser, director of testing, assessment and student achievement for the county school system, was especially pleased with Croatan High School receiving an A+.

"We commend the Croatan students and staff members for these remarkable results, and also recognize this is a comprehensive preK-12 effort," she said in a statement.

She also commended all schools for achieving C or better grades, as well as remaining above the state average in all areas.

"Carteret County Public Schools have consistently demonstrated highly favorable results. This year follows that trend in many areas," she said. "The dedication and commitment of our personnel is noteworthy. Despite the challenges our teachers face, we continue to see an intrinsic desire to improve."

State Superintendent June Atkinson said in a press release Thursday she was encouraged about the progress of public schools, but expressed concern for schools with high percentages of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who are were the most likely to receive D or F school performance grades.

School grades statewide correlated closely with the poverty levels of schools. Among all schools last year that received a D or F, 93

See Report / Page 5A

Croatan: A+ **East: B** **West: B**

New center opens doors in city

BY JACKIE STARKEY
NEWS-TIMES

MOREHEAD CITY — Health officials, advocates and the greater community welcomed mental health support and counseling services to the county Wednesday as they cut the ribbon on the new Integrated Family Services clinic.

"We're here to be an alternative to hospitalization, to be in this community and meet needs," IFS mobile crisis director Mona Townes said.

The center opened for business Aug. 1, and served roughly 14 county residents the first month.

MORE INFO

To access services through the new Integrated Family Services office in Morehead City, find them at:

3710-A John Platt Road, Morehead City
Phone: 252-648-7850
Mobile crisis response team:
1-866-437-1821

Mobile crisis, their flagship service, responds to calls for help for those facing acute mental health and related episodes 24 hours a day, providing transport, triage, evaluation and access to services.

"We're going out into the community versus scheduling appointments for those in crisis, because as we all know, crises are not scheduled," Ms. Townes noted.

Bringing that service in county was critical, according to local health officials, as it provides a better means for diverting those in crisis to other services where possible, rather than relying on the response of law enforcement and dropping the individual off at the emergency department.

"Anytime we can open up something to help the (mental health) community, that's great," said Capt. Dennis Barber, who spearheads efforts for the Carteret

See Center / Page 4A

Integrated Family Services staff smile as they open their doors with a ceremonial ribbon cutting Wednesday on John Platt Drive in Morehead City. (Dylan Ray photo)

Forecast

Friday High: 79
T-Storms Low: 74

Saturday High: 79
T-Storms Low: 68

Inside

Editorials 10-11A
Sports 6-9A
Coastal Living 1-3B
Puzzles 3B
Public Notices 7B
Classified Ads 8-9B
Church Page 6B

Tides

Daylight Saving Time at Beaufort Bar

	Fri., Sept. 2	Sat., Sept. 3	Sun., Sept. 4
Low	2:55 a.m. 3:04 p.m.	3:32 a.m. 3:45 p.m	4:06 a.m. 4:26 p.m.
High	8:58 a.m. 9:18 p.m.	9:37 a.m. 9:55 p.m.	10:16 a.m. 10:31 p.m.

Deaths

Annie Cruze, Youngsville
James Bell, Newport

(Obituaries on Page 3A)