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The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Ground broken for detention center



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Perquimans County
 an
All of Us
 Community

November's theme:
Celebrate community, family and friends

State officials praise local leaders for cooperation

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
 Editor

Wednesday's showers stopped long enough to keep state and local officials dry at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Northeast Juvenile Detention Facility.

Gwendolyn C. Chunn, director of the state Division of Youth Services, praised local officials for the cooperation that led to the groundbreaking. She said local officials realized the need for the facility and worked with the state to find a location for the center and pave the way for its construction.

"The prospects of this facility will bring many benefits," Chunn said. "We want to leave no children behind. We want to give up on no child."

Donald Alexander, Chief

Court Counselor of the 1st Judicial District, illustrated his contention that a detention center is needed in the northeast region. He said he took two youths into custody in Manteo Wednesday morning. The closest detention center with space was in Wilmington.

"This is certainly something that we need in this area," Alexander said.

Both Winfall Mayor Fred Yates and Perquimans County

"We want to leave no children behind. We want to give up on no child"

Gwendolyn C. Chunn
 Director
 State Division of Youth Services

Commissioners chairman Charles Ward emphasized that the center will bring jobs to

the county. Information provided by the Division of Youth Services indicates that the center will employ 27 people including a director, secretary, human services coordinator, teachers, shift supervisors, counselor technicians and cooks.

The facility, expected to be completed by late summer, will cost \$1.8 million. The 8,460 square foot building will include 24 bedrooms, a kitchen, two day rooms, multi-purpose room, four administrative offices, control room, intake office, medical room, substance abuse office, teacher's office and laundry room. Chunn said there will be a fenced outdoor recreation area.

The detention facility will house up to 24 youth. They will attend school and substance abuse and other counseling programs on site.

The county provided the land for the facility, which is on N.C. Highway 37 near the county recreation fields.

The placement of the facility



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

State Director of Youth Service Gwendolyn C. Chunn (right) looks on as (left to right) Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, Perquimans County Commissioners chairman Charles Ward, Rep. Bill Owens (D-Pasquotank), and Perquimans County manager Paul Gregory participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Northeast Juvenile Detention Facility in Winfall Wednesday.

ty brought opposition from Winfall residents who feared that the community would not be safe after the center opened.

Few spoke out at a public hearing against the facility, while several spoke in favor of bringing it to Perquimans.

Residents said later that rather than all speak, they had chosen a spokesperson to represent a large group. Although the group remained vocal for quite some time, plans for the detention center moved ahead on schedule.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

The PAL art gallery, Saint Nick's Niche, officially opened last Thursday.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Carolina Trophy moved into its new headquarters at Ward Shopping Center last Thursday.

Chamber sponsors two grand openings Thursday

The PAL Christmas art gallery, Saint Nick's Niche, is open on Courthouse Square. The shop is filled with wonderful gifts crafted by skilled artist-members of the Perquimans Arts League.

PAL members opened a shop last Christmas, moving in with the Chamber of Commerce during the holiday season. The success of last year's initial holiday sales event prompted the

arts league to look for a home this year. Jewelry, paintings, pottery, ornaments and much, much more is available at the gallery. PAL members are manning the shop.

After a ribbon cutting at Saint Nick's Niche sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, local officials and business leaders moved out to Ward's Shopping Center for a second grand opening for

Carolina Trophy.

Owned by Russell and Brenda Lassiter, Carolina Trophy has outgrown the family's garage. They are now sharing space with Copeland Communication.

In addition to offering trophies and plaques, Carolina Trophy has a complete stock of gift items including desk clocks, jewelry and more.

Holiday deadlines announced

The Perquimans Weekly has announced early deadline for its Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 1998 issues. All advertising and news releases should be in the newspaper office by Friday, Dec. 19 at noon for the Christmas edition and Friday, Dec. 26 at noon for the new year's edition.

Next week, The Perquimans Weekly will publish its annual Christmas greetings edition. The section will contain Christmas greetings from area businesses and agencies, as well as Santa letters and photographs of Christmas events such as the annual homemakers ramble, the high school band and chorus concert and the Christmas parade. The newspaper should reach each household on Christmas Eve.

The newspaper office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25. The office will reopen on Friday, Dec. 26, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Call 426-5728 for more information.

Graham on hand for Southern States membership meeting

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
 Editor

State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham was on hand Thursday for the annual membership meeting of the Southern States Cooperative.

Farm families from across the Albemarle gathered in the cooperative's new fertilizer storage facility to elect directors and review operations for the year ending June 30.

"The fiscal year ending June 30, 1997, was a fairly good year for sales, although we did not set any records," said Rick Strecker, manager of the Hertford Service.

Sales for the 1996-97 fiscal year were more than \$2.7 million, with net savings after all expenses of \$4,000. The current year is starting off on the right foot, he said.

"So far this year, we are off to one of our best starts ever with sales through November



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Southern States Hertford Service Manager Rick Strecker (left) and district manager George Kirkland (right) speak with state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham at the Southern States annual membership meeting in Hertford last Thursday.

of nearly \$1 million, which is an increase of nearly \$170,000 over the same period last year," Strecker said.

Strecker updated the members on the construction pro-

gram at Southern States which is about 90 percent complete. New facilities include a totally enclosed blend plant that Strecker said virtually eliminates any chance of nutrient

runoff, a liquid fertilizer storage facility, an equipment shed to protect the cooperative's equipment and rolling stock, and a warehouse which is totally enclosed and curbed to contain any accidental spills and keep groundwater from becoming contaminated in the event of a fire.

Strecker said Southern States came to North Carolina in 1986. At the end of the first full fiscal year in operation in Hertford, total sales were just slightly more than \$1 million. Fertilizer tonnage was 2,600 tons, and sales for crop protectants totaled \$240,000. Since that time, the Hertford Service has grown tremendously, with annual sales of nearly \$3 million.

"All of this would not have been possible without the continued support of people like yourselves which leads us into our corporate motto of Let's Grow Together," Strecker told the members.

"Because of this past growth at Hertford Service and the continuing commitment of Southern States to agriculture in North Carolina, we felt that it was necessary to make the investment in the facilities that you see here today."

Strecker said the new facilities have been in the planning

stages for five years.

During the meeting, Billy Elliott and A.O. Roberts were elected to Southern States' board of directors.

Retiring directors Billy Williams and Roy Harrison were also recognized.

Strecker has been manager in Hertford for over 8 years.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 40s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 40s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY