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Lady Pirates defeat Manteo, are No. 1 seed in conference Page 6
 Tigers top tourney Page 6
 Students commemorate 100th day of school Page 8

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Chamber honors outstanding service

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Outstanding contributions to the community were noted by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual banquet last week.

Natalie Bero was named Volunteer of the Year for giving many hours of time and energy to the organization.

Honored as Ambassador of the Year was Anna Wrae Smith. The owner/operator of Smith's Jewellery and Fine Gifts, Smith was recognized for devoted commitment and assistance to the Chamber, especially with special events and projects.

Inteliport was chosen Small Business of the Year. Owner Steve Lane was noted for sharing his expertise in website design with various organizations in the county, including

Membership drive kicks off

The Chamber kicked off its annual membership drive Monday with a lofty goal: increase chamber membership by 50 percent.

Membership Director Carol LeRoy will have the luxury of a new entity within the chamber to assist with the drive — the Perquimans Chamber Ambassador Alliance or PCAA. PCAA was formed to expedite chamber initiatives. The first order of business will be to increase chamber membership from

175 to 263.

The initial PCAA team includes Natalie and George Bero, Paige and Gil Underwood, Jan and Wes Hostetler, Anna Wrae and Paul Smith, and Cynthia and Champion Cox, as well as LeRoy.

Increasing the membership is not new for LeRoy. Since she joined the chamber staff two years ago, membership has increased from 70 to 175.

Some people think that the

chamber is only for businesses, but that is not true. The chamber has membership categories for business, civic, individual, church, schools, governments and more. An individual membership is \$40 per year, with church and civic dues at \$50. Other categories are on a payment scale for dues.

For information on PCAA, chamber membership or other activities, call the chamber at 426-5657 or log on to perquimans.com.

the chamber.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association and its president, Chris Lane, earned recognition for com-

mitment and leadership in heritage tourism and economic development.

Charlie Skinner was presented with a Lifetime

Chamber Membership for his tireless efforts, positive attitude and selfless promotion of Perquimans County.

Guest speaker for the ban-

quet, held at Angler's Cove Restaurant, was Dan Kidd, Heritage Tourism Manager with the N.C. Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development in Raleigh.

Kidd's slide presentation took both a serious and light-hearted look at heritage tourism, the fast-growing segment within the gigantic travel and tourism industry.

Heritage tourists, according to Kidd, are the industry's "preferred customers" due to their higher spending and other habits. He also noted that heritage tourism is bona fide economic development as it supports businesses and provides jobs. In addition, heritage tourism provides revenue that helps maintain an area's unique characteristics and promotes community pride.

Kidd presented a letter from

Gordon W. Clapp, Executive Director of the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, to LuAnne Pendergraft, heritage tourism development officer based at the Newbold-White House. In it, Clapp praised Pendergraft's efforts in the development of an official document dealing with Hertford's designation as the Eastern Model Community for Heritage Tourism Development across North Carolina.

Installed as chamber officers were Jeri Oltman, president; Mary White, The Wishing Well, vice president; and Harriette Woodard, Woodard's Pharmacy and Family Care Pharmacy, treasurer. Board members include Bert Hayes, Steve Lane, Brenda Lassister, Norma McMullan, Jack Taylor, Anne White and Julian Winslow.

New businesses open in county

Chamber holds two ribbon cuttings in week

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

With its emphasis on economic development, the Chamber was pleased last week to sponsor ribbon cuttings for two

The Blue Door Gallery & Antiques is open on Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appointment. Call 426-7965 or 426-5945 for information.

On Friday, Pam Collins opened Rainbow Graphics in Hall of Fame Square, Church Street, Hertford.

Collins has affixed graphic designs to sweatshirts for some time. She used to work from her home, but grew to need a retail outlet. She chose the newly-renovated Hall of Fame Square for her new home, partly because of the interest generated by the array of shops in the mini-mall.

In addition to putting designs on T-shirts, sweatshirts and other items of clothing, Collins carries hair products, bath and kitchen cleaning products, soaps, lotions, candy, hats and clothing. In the clothing line, Rainbow Graphics' offerings include Nautica, Polo, Fubu, Tommy Hilfiger, Guess and Calvin Klein.

The two grand openings marked the third ribbon cuttings sponsored by the chamber in 1999. A fourth is scheduled for the last week of February.

Blue Door Gallery & Antiques opened in Winfall and Rainbow Graphics opened in Hall of Fame Square last week.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce welcomed two new businesses to the county last week. The Blue Door Gallery & Antiques, owned by Linda Morris and Jane McMahon, opened in Winfall on Thursday (above). Rainbow Graphics, owned by Pam Collins, held its grand opening in Hall of Fame Square on Friday.



EEN is info hiway for business

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

It's kind of like a mini information highway for small businesses. That's how Perquimans 2020 Vision Coalition Executive Director Leo Higgins describes the Entrepreneurial Education Network that makes a detour in Hertford.

Through the EEN, business development and entrepreneurial training programs are available through distance learning. Perquimans County business people — or those who desire to start their own business — can take classes to increase their knowledge and understanding of business via computer. Examples of class subjects include finance, how to get started, bookkeeping, taxes, business plan development and designing web sites. Most are free to the consumer.

The three computers hooked into the EEN in Perquimans County are located upstairs in the courthouse. Students take interactive classes, meaning that they can interact with other students and instructors, simulating a traditional classroom. Most classes last about 1 1/2 hours, and most are free.

The EEN was set up in late 1997 by the North Carolina Technological Development Authority with a USDA grant of \$250,000. The network is designed to enhance and develop small businesses in small, rural areas. Classes are scheduled ahead of time and are repeated at least twice in a month to allow more people an opportunity to enroll.

Higgins said several people have taken advantage of the program in Perquimans County, including the 11-week FASTRAC, the only course for which there is currently a fee and the only multi-session course.

For information on course availability or to pre-register, visit www.een.org; email EEN Training Administrator Floretta Campbell at fcampbell@TDA.ncda.org; email Leo Higgins at leo@inteliport.com or 2020@inteliport.com; or call 426-2020.

Weekend Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 50s	High 50	High 40s
Low 40s	Low 40s	Low 30s
Partly Cloudy	Chance of Rain	Windy Colder

Jones to hold open meeting here

Congressman will be at county courthouse today

Congressman Walter B. Jones Jr., Rep.-Pitt, will be in Hertford tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. to hear comments, questions and concerns from his constituents in Perquimans County.

Jones' staff contacted County Manager Paul Gregory

asking that a meeting place be made available and the public be notified that Jones planned to visit.

The Congressman was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994 after 10 years in the North Carolina General Assembly. He represents the state's Third District.

Jones serves on the Armed Services, Resources and Banking and Financial Services committees. He is a founding member of the

Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, and had four pieces of legislation signed into law in the 105th congress: The Shackleford Banks Protection Act, Pfiesteria Research Act of 1997, Expanded War Crimes Act of 1997 and First Flight Commemorative Coin Act of 1997.

The Farmville native and resident served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Families, Children and Youth while in the state's general assembly.