

Sneade named Ambassador

Page 3

Seniors present projects

Page 4

Basketball update

Page 7

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

JAN 11 2006

35 cents

Brothers indicted for Gallaway theft

MARGARET FISHER

Two brothers were indicted after being apprehended for stealing two cars at Gallaway Auto Outlet back in September.

Justin Davenport, 19, and Jessie Davenport, 18, both of 308 Manteo Trail, Edenton, were apprehended in their vehicle by

Chowan County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 4 for unrelated reasons. The officer who had stopped the brothers found, in their vehicle, a dealer's license plate and car keys that were reportedly stolen from Gallaway in September, said Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley. Deputy Shelby White

then received a call from Chowan Sheriff's Office to investigate the matter further. On Nov. 7, White went to the home of the Davenport brothers' parents in Roper, where the brothers were then residing, and retrieved a \$1,100 remote control monster truck that had also been stolen from the auto dealer-

ship. The theft occurred on Sept. 10 at the dealership at the intersection of Ocean Highway and New Hope Road. The door was found kicked open and the keys to two vehicles were taken, along with the dealer plate and remote control truck. The Davenports allegedly drove off in the direction of

New Hope with two vehicles taken off the lot.

The cars were later retrieved by T.G. Weeks, general manager of Gallaway. One vehicle had run out of gas in New Hope and the other was stuck in a soybean field.

The Davenport brothers were both indicted and charged on Dec. 12 with

injury to real property, breaking and entering, larceny after breaking and entering, breaking and entering of a motor vehicle and larceny of a motor vehicle.

Both suspects were taken to Albemarle District Jail each on a \$6,500 bond, and both were released, Tilley said.

Winfall bridge gets widened

MARGARET FISHER

After 10 years of making requests to the N.C. Department of Transportation, the town of Winfall is getting the narrow bridge on Wiggins Road widened.

Frequent traffic from the nearby cotton gin and tractor-trailer rigs make the bridge that crosses Mill Creek unsafe if two should happen to cross it at the same time.

"That thing is an accident waiting to happen," said Winfall Mayor Fred Yates.

The water lines will begin to be moved and DOT will follow with widening the bridge next Tuesday, Yates said. The deadline to complete the job is Feb. 15.

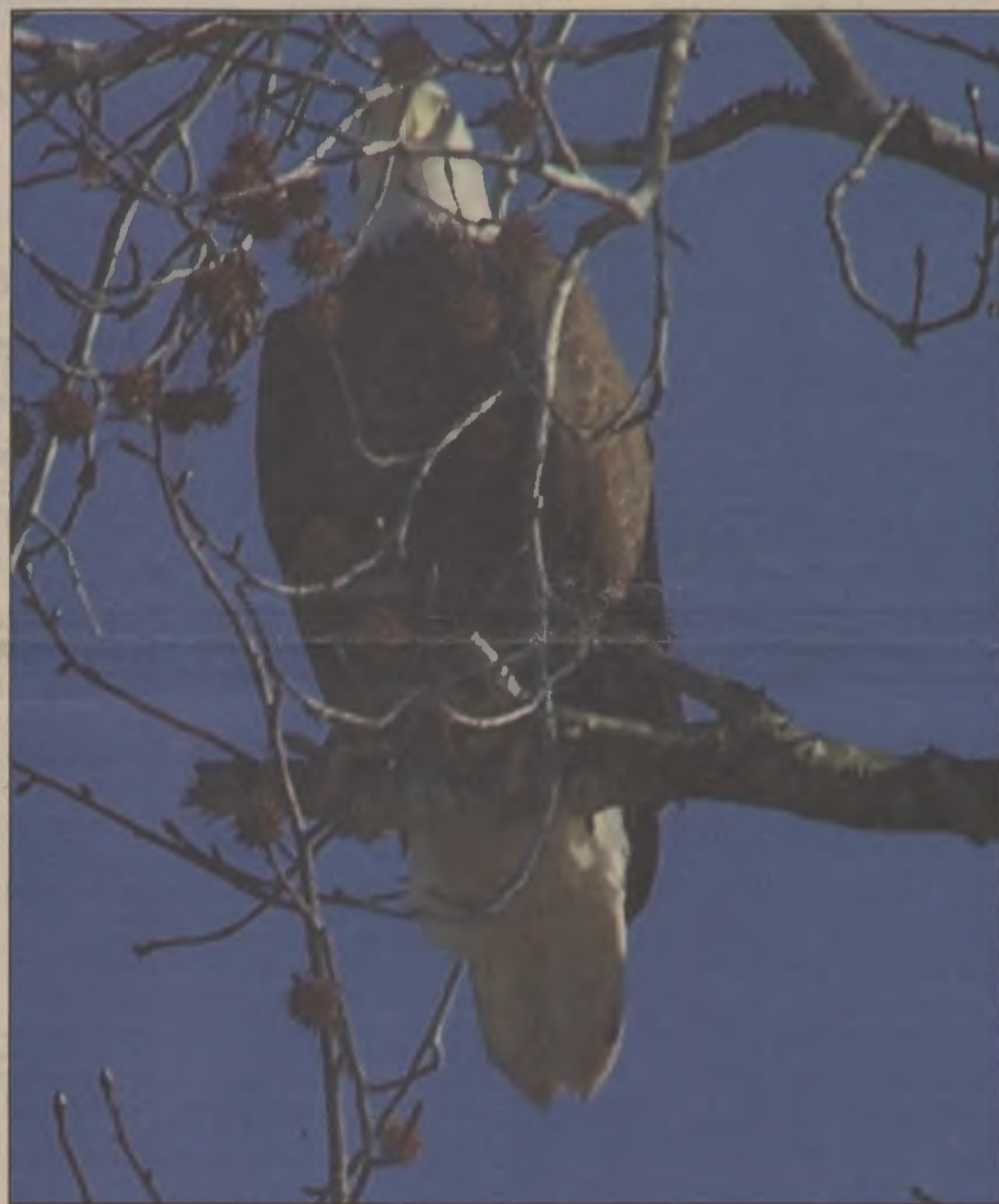
"We're waiting on the water lines to move," Yates said. "They're going to speed up the permit process and make the bridge wider."

The idea began about 10 years ago when the town wanted to upgrade Wiggins Road from a secondary road to a primary one because of the heavy vehicles that use the road. The upgrade could not be done because of the narrow bridge. Each year, Winfall made a request to DOT to have the road widened.

In 2004, DOT agreed to widen it in 2005. Permit delays held the job up because gas and water lines needed to be moved. The sewer line, in place going on three years now, had been installed so as not to conflict with the widening of the

Continued on page 4

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED



Joshua Lassiter of Belvidere caught this majestic eagle resting in a tree near the Lassiter home during the holidays.

County must purchase new voting machines

MARGARET FISHER

The deadline for the Perquimans County Board of Elections to make a decision on what voting machines they will purchase is less than two weeks away. By Jan. 20, the board must sign a contract with a vendor or the county will lose the \$106,000 Help America Vote Act Election Fund grant.

Meanwhile, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners has submitted a letter to Governor Mike Easley, Sen. Robert Lee Holloman and Howard Hunter Jr. asking them to delay the use of the new voting machines from the May to November elections.

If the delay is accepted, this could allow more time for other vendors to meet the state's requirements and possibly slip back into the state's bidding pool. Currently, Elections Systems & Software is the only company on the state's list since two other companies dropped out.

"If the state delays implementation, I don't know what kind of ramifications will happen," said County Manager Bobby Darden.

The county is now required to purchase new voting machines after the state decertified machines in 94 counties. The new voting machines will provide backup paper receipts.

Continued on page 10

County asks Navy to go south

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County Commissioners are urging the U.S. Navy to look at two additional sites, along with the five they are currently considering, to build an outlying landing field.

Commissioners, along with 15 other counties under the Northeast Partnership, have written the Navy asking them to consider two locations in the Marine Corp Air Station Cherry Point economic region - Open Grounds Farms in Carteret County and Oak Grove OLF and the surrounding acres in Craven and Jones counties.

While the Navy is conducting a supplemental environmental impact study in Perquimans, Washington, Bertie, Hyde and Craven counties, No OLF supporters have been asking the Navy why it doesn't look at alternative sites that would welcome the air field.

The Navy is presently focusing its attention mainly on an area of Washington and Beaufort counties.

In a resolution passed by commissioners on Jan. 2, Perquimans County views an OLF as having a negative economic impact because it would condemn about 30,000 acres of land while providing no taxable income and displace a number of homes and farms.

The county hopes that the Navy will look at the two sites that are located further south in an area that benefits economically because of two squadrons being located there.

The Navy plans to build an airstrip for F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft to practice touch-and-go maneuvers on a simulated footprint of an aircraft carrier. Squadrons support Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., and Cherry Point.

"If (residents around Cherry Point) are going to get the economic benefit, then they can get the rest. Take the bad with the good," said County Manager Bobby Darden.

The resolution is also being sent to the governor's office, Darden said.

Craven County wanted the OLF at one time, but that site was never seriously studied, said Stan Winslow, organizer

for the Perquimans County Chapter of North Carolinians Opposed to the OLF. In addition, Open Grounds Farm has about 40,000 acres available, he said.

"I think it's a good thing to consider more sites," Winslow said. There would be some impact in Craven County, but almost none in Carteret County, he said.

No OLF supporters in the Belvidere area where the OLF has been considered have been keeping track of bird populations there. The Navy's original EIS was found to be deficient by the Fourth Circuit Appeals Court last fall. One of the supplemental studies the Navy is now conducting has to do with large migratory bird populations.

"We have had a tremendous population of tundra swan since early December," Winslow said. "...We have also had multiple sightings of a pair of bald eagles."

No OLF organizers are sending out letters this month to residents within the OLF zone with maps and information concerning the possibility of an OLF in Perquimans County.

Injuries minor in two-car wreck

MARGARET FISHER

An accident at the intersection of Church Street and U.S. Highway 17 resulted in minor injuries and one driver charged with failing to stop at a red light.

Last Thursday at about 10:45 a.m., Stacie Hope Williams, 21, of 29050 U.S. Highway 64, Jamesville, was traveling south on Ocean Highway through the intersection at Church Street. Williams allegedly failed to stop when the light changed to red, said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy, who responded to the call.

At the same time, Roger Lee Turner, 59, of 1766 Belvidere Road, was attempting to cross from Church Street over to Harvey Point Road. Turner's 1994 Ford pickup truck hit Williams' 1990 Chrysler. The impact caused Williams' vehicle to spin 180 degrees and head into a ditch in front of the Popeye's restaurant with the car facing north, Vanscoy said. Turner's truck came to a stop in the intersection.

Emergency Management Services and Hertford Fire Department responded. Williams suffered minor cuts from broken glass and was treated by EMS, Vanscoy said. Turner was treated by EMS and transported to Chowan

Hospital where he was treated for lower back pain and released.

Williams was charged with failure to stop at a traffic light.

"(Williams) said that she didn't have time to stop," Vanscoy said.

A witness who had driven into the intersection behind Turner said that Turner had a green light and that Williams' car almost hit his vehicle, too, Vanscoy said.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 71, LOW: 48
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 68, LOW: 55
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 59, LOW: 45
SHOWERS