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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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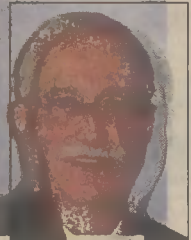
New super

Stallings tapped by board to lead schools

SUSAN HARRIS

A veteran of Perquimans County Schools was chosen to serve as superintendent Tuesday morning.

Assistant Superintendent Dwayne K. Stallings, 50, will move up to the lead administrator's spot effective July 1.



Dwayne Stallings

"It was obviously a career advancement, but I see it mainly as an opportunity to influence more students, teachers, fellow colleagues and administrators," said Stallings. "Perquimans is where I want to complete my tenure. The sense of community, the knowledge and expertise of the staff and their ability to build relationships with students is impressive and is the reason the school district is so successful."

Stallings came to Perquimans County Schools in 1993 as assistant principal at the high school. He went on to serve as principal at both the elementary and high school levels, and was named Principal of the Year in 2001.

For the past four years, he has been assistant superintendent, super-

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A mighty wind



PHOTOS BY PHIL HARRIS

April has been filled with weather events from snow flurries to this past weekend's torrential rains, thunder and lightning, and strong, gusting winds. On Sunday afternoon, winds ripped through the Belvidere farm of Virginia Winslow, bringing havoc to outbuildings. Much of the debris had been cleaned up by noon on Monday, but the winds continued to blow through Tuesday. Even ducks on the river had to paddle furiously in the choppy waters. Emergency Management Coordinator Jarvis Winslow said Tuesday morning that he received no reports of damage.



Corn new fuel crop

MARGARET FISHER

Corn was a staple food eaten by American Indians. Today, young and old enjoy the juicy kernels fresh off the cob or dried and ground for grits or breeding.

But high fuel costs have people seeking cheaper and more readily available forms of energy, such as corn. And corn is easily grown throughout the state.

Interest in corn as a source of ethanol has caused prices to rise recently.

"Corn is higher today (in price) than it has been in years," said Lewis Smith, field crop agent for the Perquimans County

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Commission gets economic development grant

MARGARET FISHER

Albemarle Commission received a nearly \$40,000 grant for economic development planning for 2007.

The grant came from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration as part of the \$119,000 state funding to help meet the economic development needs of distressed communities.

Albemarle Commission uses the funds to develop

its comprehensive strategic plan for each fiscal year.

In Perquimans County, the Commission is focused on five project areas. These are providing infrastructure around the Commerce Centre, working out a Strategic Plan for Economic Development, tourism-related efforts, attracting industry into currently vacant buildings and developing the downtown.

Bert Banks, new executive director of the Commission, said he has

met with Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden and Hertford Town Manager John Christensen to discuss economic needs.

"Infrastructure is mostly what they're looking for," Banks said.

The Commission assists by writing grants, securing project funding and identifying priority road needs for the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The Commission is in the process of interviewing for an economic development planner — a position

that is crucial for carry out the 2007 projects.

"This is a real hole in the organization," Banks said, "and we need to get that hole filled as soon as possible."

Transportation planning is a large part of the Commission's work. The Rural Planning Organization provides about \$80,000 in support of road and bridge improvement needs in the 10-county region. Those needs are compiled each year for DOT's Transportation

Improvement Program.

One of the recommendations made to Banks is to create a planning network where key planning officials could meet on a regular basis for discussions.

Another specific area of concern in Perquimans is to renovate dilapidated houses for the elderly.

Albemarle Commission hopes to be able to provide a planning and zoning official that will be available to help small towns who cannot afford to pay for a full-time position, Banks said.

Rose Pointe Community gets nod from commissioners

MARGARET FISHER

After months of working through county commissioners and public concerns, Rose Pointe Community, a planned unit development in Old Neck, got the go-ahead for conditional re-zoning and building at a special called meeting on Monday.

"I must say, this has been the most thorough process we've been through," said Mack Nixon, commissioner chairman.

The county hired a consultant, Roger Waldon, of Clarion Associates in Chapel Hill, to study the proposal submitted by Rose Pointe developers.

The county approved the development with a number of changes to the original application.

The planning board had recommended 840 dwellings based on 1.42 dwellings per acre on the

591-acre property. Waldon recommended that unusable wetland areas be removed from the calculations and there be two dwellings per acre. That raises the total number of dwellings to 962.

"It seems that usable land is a better way to calculate this," said commissioner Ben Hobbs.

The building will be done in two phases. Phase One will include 600 units.

Lot widths will be 50 feet and side setbacks will be 7 feet for up to 30 percent of the lots and 10 feet for at least 70 percent of the lots.

The development will include a pond with two lifts that will take boats to and from the river without creating a disturbance in the creek. The lifts can move 18 boats in an hour, said County Manager Bobby Darden.

Based on a recent traffic study that looks at the next



GRAPHIC COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY MANAGER/ROSE POINTE

An artist's rendering of the developed Rose Pointe Community.

10 years of expected development, the developer is required to provide turn lanes at the Union Hall/Old Neck roads intersection at Bundy Road and the intersection at New Hope and Union Hall roads. Commissioners asked for

another turn lane at U.S. Highway 17 at Union Hall Road.

Off-site infrastructure is required to be completed within one year or before the 301st building permit. On-site infrastructure must be completed before

the first building permit is issued.

Rose Pointe will build a \$12 million wastewater treatment plant and eventually sell it to a private company to operate and maintain. The plant will use a membrane technology that produces no discharge.

In addition, they will have to cost-share their water supply. They have until August 2007 to tap into water to be supplied from Pasquotank County. However, if an agreement for water is not made by August 2007 with Pasquotank, then the developer will have to provide alternative water.

The developer is required to create berms and buffers using some evergreen shrubs. They also must provide protection for large trees on the property.

Curbside trash pickup

and recycling will be done. No private docks or boardwalks will be allowed.

Developers relieved fears brought up at the meeting by saying that eagles known to be nesting in the area will be protected.

WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 60, Low: 45
SHOWERS

FRIDAY
High: 64, Low: 47
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 66, Low: 50
SUNNY