

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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First-graders receive free books. Page 10.

Regional jail now transports inmates

Switch frees up deputies in county

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Inmates are now being transported by the new regional jail's transportation team instead of local county deputies.

The switch, which began about four months ago, allows deputies with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department to spend more time in the county instead of driving inmates back and forth to Elizabeth City or farther for court appearances, doctors' visits, and mental health appointments.

For Sheriff Eric Tilley, the assistance helps free up deputies to provide more service to the public.

"We still have to carry someone to the jail when they are first arrested," Tilley said, "but this really helps free up our deputies for other things."

Pasquotank Sheriff Randy Cartwright, administrator of the regional jail, said the transportation service is provided for Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties by employees of the newly constructed regional jail that's awaiting an occupancy permit expected later this month.

"When we open the new regional jail, we'll have to have a transportation team already in place to meet the new federal contract to house federal inmates in the new jail," explained Cartwright. "We'll receive reimbursement from the federal government to house pre-trial, pre-sentence federal inmates. We look at housing federal prisoners as a revenue source to help pay for the facility and reduce debt service for the counties. With proper scheduling, I believe we can alleviate some of the transportation responsibilities off the local sheriff's departments and transport the federal inmates as well. The U.S. Marshals won't be transporting these federal prisoners any longer."

Six detention officers have been hired to comprise the transportation team. The new recruits will work in the jail and undergo specialized training including fire-arm training since they will have inmates in their custody while transporting them from

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Officials look at 2009 accomplishments

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

With the start of a new year, area leaders are looking back on what was accomplished in 2009, what wasn't, and what issues they will face in 2010.

Just weathering the recession that drastically reduced local revenues was an accomplishment felt by both town and county officials. Growth in the Commerce Centre was also a high point for both Hertford and Perquimans County.

County Manager Bobby Darden sees several positive accomplishments that occurred last year, even in the face of a recession.

The county's entering into an agreement with the North Carolina Seafood Industrial Park Authority to construct a marine-based industrial park within the Commerce Centre and conveying property to seal the deal is number one on Darden's list of county accomplishments last year.

Approximately 80 acres will be developed to hopefully attract six boat

Area accomplishments

According to County Manager Bobby Darden, some of the positive achievements of 2009 included:

- The county's entering into an agreement with the North Carolina Seafood Industrial Park Authority to construct a marine-based industrial park.
- The construction and opening of the 27,000 square ft. Fed Ex facility.
- County taxpayers funded the replacement of the roof at Hertford Grammar School.
- The county also received \$3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act federal stimulus funds.

builders to the area and create approximately 400 jobs in the future.

Twenty-six sites from 11 counties along the coast and waterways were considered for the new marine industrial park, an expansion of the authority's current industrial park on Roanoke Island. The Perquimans County site was selected as top priority because of

the county's advance planning work, location, water and transportation access, utilities and site certification.

Number two on Darden's list is the construction and opening of the 27,000 square ft. Fed Ex facility in the Commerce Centre, a highlight for both the county and the town. Other new construction occurring in that area includes the siting of a funeral home, and additional recreational facilities at the county recreation center such as walking trails, fishing piers, and small-boat launch areas.

Also last year, county taxpayers funded the replacement of the roof at Hertford Grammar School, a project that culminates five years and \$18.5 million in county school projects, Darden noted.

The county also received \$3 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act federal stimulus funds to fund improvements to the county's water plant in Winfall. These funds incorporate half grant and half 0 percent interest loan.

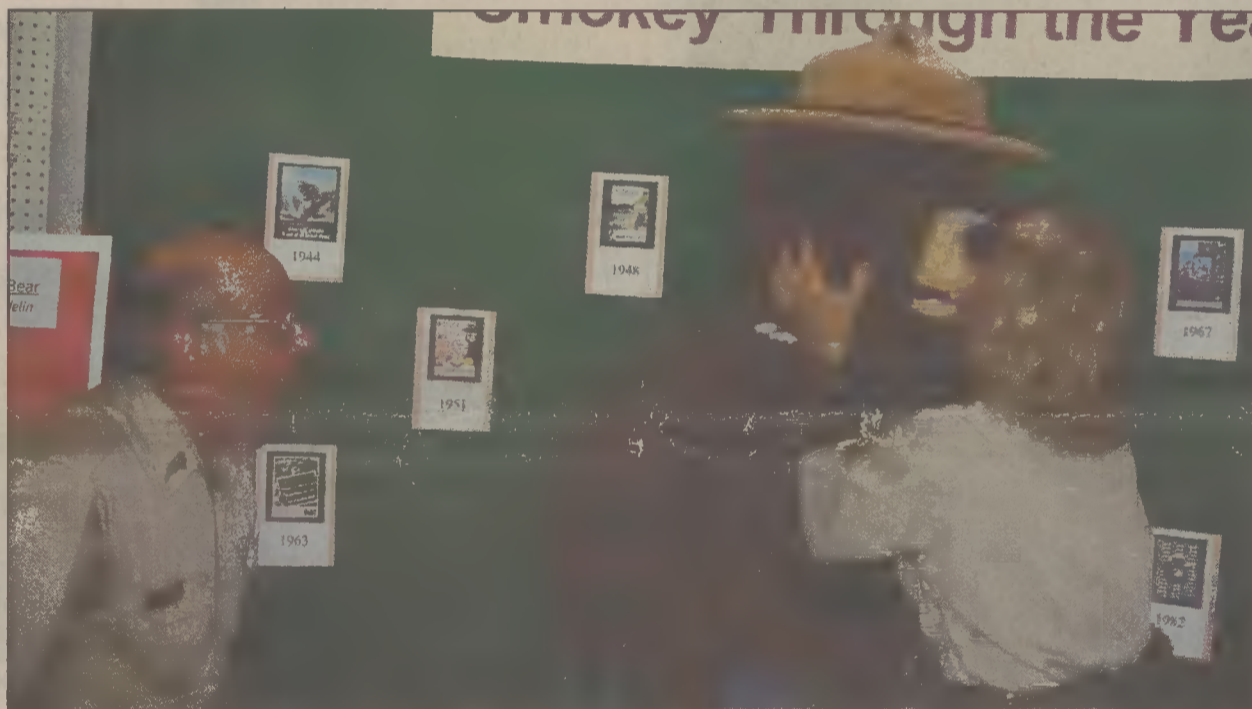
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JOHN MATTHEWS PHOTO

Among Hertford's 2009 accomplishments was the addition of more water storage capacity by replacing a 100,000 gallon overhead storage tank (left) with a new 250,000 gallon tank.

Bearly a big kiss



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ben Hanson jokes around by appearing shocked as his wife, Jo Ann lays one on Smokey the Bear during Smokey's birthday party. The Hansons, from Holiday Island, are seasonal volunteer rangers with the United States Forestry Service, serving at the Cradle of Forestry, located in the Pisgah National Forest near Asheville.

Couple likes volunteering with Smokey

Volunteer rangers help U.S. Forestry Service

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Ben and Jo Ann Hanson love to hang out with Smokey the Bear. In fact, this past summer, they helped throw a birthday party for the gentle giant of a bear who promotes preventing forest fires.

As volunteer rangers with the United States Forestry Service (USFS), the Hansons live in Smokey's home for about four months out of the year. The rest of the time, they live in Holiday Island.

The Hansons volunteered for the past three years at the Cradle of

Forestry, the birthplace of forestry in America, located in the Pisgah National Forest near Asheville. Ben works primarily in maintenance, helping to keep the public bathrooms and historic buildings in good shape. He also makes sure the voice boxes that speak history lessons to whoever pushes the buttons remain in good working condition while he's around.

Jo Ann works mainly with people: serving as a trail guide for school group tours; providing hospitality in the Forest Discovery Center; or lending a helping hand in the historic educational exhibits.

"We just love to do it," said Jo Ann. "We get to meet people from all over the country and from all walks of life. We really enjoy working with the visitors."

The Hansons first heard about

the volunteer program with the USFS during a trip to Minnesota. After retiring from their respective careers, they bought a recreational vehicle and headed cross country to visit relatives. Those relatives suggested volunteering with the forestry service since they knew the Holiday Island couple enjoy working with the public and are free to travel since retirement.

Jo Ann said she went online to the USFS website, filled out an application, and received a phone call within two days asking them to be in Pisgah National Forest in a week.

"We were a little overwhelmed at first, having to go so quickly," she remembered, "but it was worth it. We have certainly enjoyed it."

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Third man arrested in fatal shooting

Nightclub's alcohol license suspended

By Diana Mazzella
The Daily Advance

Police have arrested a third U.S. Army soldier in connection with the fatal shooting of a local man in Elizabeth City early New Year's Day.

In a related matter, the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has suspended the alcohol license of a nightclub near the crime scene.

Willie Arthur McMeans, 21,

of Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va., was arrested Jan. 5 and charged with being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder in the shooting death of Antoine Tyrone Williams. The 21-year-old Winfall resident was shot in a parking lot not far from the E. City Restaurant and Lounge early Jan. 1.

Detective Jerry Boyce declined to give specifics about McMeans' involvement in Williams' shooting, but said the suspect was not with two other soldiers — Shawn Horskins, 22, and Everett Bynum, 19 — when the shooting took place. According to Boyce, McMeans helped Horskins and Bynum evade police after the soldiers returned to Fort Lee following the shooting.

McMeans is being held at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$25,000 bond.

Boyce said other arrests are possible in the case.

According to police officials, Horskins is charged with first-degree murder while Bynum is charged with being an accessory after the fact to first-degree murder. Horskins is being held without bond, while Bynum was confined in lieu of a \$50,000 bond.

Interviewed earlier this week, Williams' sister Triquita Williams said she had driven to the E. City Restaurant and Lounge just before 1 a.m., stopping in a parking lot adjacent to a car wash near the nightclub.

After her brother told her he

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WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 38
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 40
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 52 LOW: 42
MOSTLY CLOUDY



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So, are you the area's biggest loser?

Weigh-in scheduled to begin on Jan. 30

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

It's not boot camp, and there won't be any tough trainers around to spur you into action. But, the local recreation center hopes their upcoming weight loss challenge will help local residents become more active and lose a few pounds.

The Perquimans Recreation Department will hold a Big-

gest Loser Contest beginning later this month to help motivate residents to lose weight. Folks can enter as five-member teams or as individuals to compete for cash prizes. The initial weigh-in will start on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. at the recreation center. The contest will last for 12 weeks.

"We're forming our own rules," said Howard Williams, recreation director. "This is not boot camp, and it's not like the television show. We just want to get more people involved, get them motivated to exercise

and use the recreation center more. We have walking trails out here now, so we want to get more people out here using them."

Teams must include at least two females. Cost is \$50 per team to enter.

Individuals may enter for \$10 each.

Williams said special programs promoting exercising will be held for participants every other Saturday in the gym. In addition, a cardio-workout program will be offered during the week.

Participants will weigh at

the recreation center every other week to keep track of their weight loss. The weights, Williams added, will be kept confidential.

At the end of the 12-week program, cash prizes will be given to the overall team and individual winners.

To join the contest, just register at the recreation center on or before Jan. 30. Those who wish to compete must attend the initial weigh-in on Jan. 30.

For more info, call the recreation department at 426-5695.