

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 17, 2010 - FEBRUARY 23, 2010



Hertford Grammar student recognized by Virginia TV station. Page 7

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FEB 17 2010

## Officials: Lottery sales up in the 5-county area

Local retailers have sold \$30.1M in lottery tickets

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Despite a slow economy, higher unemployment rates, and rising numbers of home foreclosures, local retailers have sold nearly \$30.1 million in lottery tickets in the past two and a half years in the five-county area from Chow-

an to Currituck County. According to figures provided by the North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL), lottery ticket sales in this five-county area have increased each year since July 2007.

Cash prizes won by local lottery winners have also increased. Nearly \$14 million in local cash lottery winnings has been paid out in this same five-county area in the past two and a half years. That number does not include

winnings paid by checks directly from the NCEL.

"I'm a little surprised by the numbers, but it doesn't shock me," said George Jackson, professor of accounting at Elizabeth City State University (ECSU). "That would be a perfectly logical reaction in troubled times...trying to grab for that golden ring. It's my opinion that in tough economic times, desperation enters the picture more, and people see playing the lottery as low risk

with a high return. Probability-wise, however, it's not a wise decision."

From July 1, 2007 until Jan. 9, 2010, NCEL figures indicate that lottery sales in Pasquotank County totaled \$14,557,048 with \$6,990,643 paid out in cash winnings. During that same time span, Currituck County retailers sold \$6,974,821 in lottery tickets with \$2,866,039 in cash winnings paid.

Chowan County retailers sold

\$4,368,471 in lottery tickets during the past two and a half years with nearly half that amount paid out in cash winnings. Lottery players in Camden County bought \$2,112,824 in lottery tickets during that same time span and won \$971,517 in cash payouts.

In Perquimans County, retailers sold \$2,070,802 in lottery tickets and paid out cash winnings

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## HHI looks to spruce up downtown

Asking for old and new members to join cause

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Historic Hertford, Inc., Hertford's Main Street program, is currently seeking members to take part in their upcoming projects for 2010.

Volunteers may join or renew their membership in the group that promotes the revitalization of historic Hertford. Memberships range from \$25 to \$1,000 and contributions are tax deductible.

In light of the recent embezzlement charges involving the director of a neighboring town's main street program, officials from HHI were asked by this newspaper to share information concerning the fiscal responsibility of the all-volunteer group.

Two HHI board members and the town's employee who serves as consultant for the group willingly shared that information.

HHI does not employ anyone; volunteers do all work. Brandon Shoaf, town planner, serves as a consultant for the group on behalf of the town. The group rents office space in the Chamber building.

Lynne Raymond is chairman of HHI while Ann Taylor serves as vice-chair. Nancy Gruener serves as secretary, Joan Bielski is treasurer, and board members include: David Goss, Sid Eley, Murielle Harmon, Susan Cox, Connie Jaklic, Jo Ann Morris, and Ed Muzullin.

Raymond brings years of experience with her as she helps lead HHI this year. For 17 years, she served as chief executive officer of a Girl Scout Council in Connecticut. Bielski, treasurer,

See DOWNTOWN, 9

## Sons Week



CATHY WILSON/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Ben Hobbs and his three sons, along with a friend, hold a special reunion each year by crafting a handmade furniture project in the Hobbs' shop. Hobbs (left) enjoys the special week with Calvin Hobbs, Matthew Hobbs, Don Harris and Ernie Hobbs.

## Father, sons have bond in woodworking

Four build individual pieces of furniture during reunions

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

For one special week out of the year, Ben Hobbs and his three sons gather in his wood shop for a hard-working one-of-a-kind reunion called Sons Week.

Son Calvin, 39, drives in from Kansas City. Son Ernie, 37, makes the trip from Indianapolis. Son Matthew, the baby at age 35 who lives closest to home, arrives from Durham. The four men work the entire week crafting individual pieces of furni-

ture while enjoying the family fellowship as well.

Joining them for the unique family time is Don Harris, a Colorado furniture maker who first learned his skills from Hobbs. Harris tries to spend as much time as possible in the wood shop when he's not working at Harvey Point.

The boys leave their wives and children back home which allows them to fully concentrate on the furniture project at hand while visiting with their parents.

They started the week-long tradition in 2006 when they first gathered to build corner cupboards for each individual family.

In 2007, father and sons took a trip visiting historic home sites and furniture

makers. In 2008, they gathered again to make chests. Last year they each made an armchair.

During this year's Sons Week, father and each son crafted a 42" walnut Thomas White desk that features hand-carvings on the feet. The type of desk constructed was first built for a family ancestor, Hobbs explained.

Honoring the talent and history of their ancestors is one reason why the Hobbs family celebrates Sons Week each year, but they also enjoy honing their furniture-making skills and just being around each other. It's clearly a family or family-like

See REUNION, 9

## United Way in need of community support

From staff reports

As if we needed another example, here's a telling sign that the economy is still struggling: The Albemarle United Way launched its annual campaign last September with a goal of \$400,000. Nearly six months later, total contributions are a few dollars over \$222,000.

Albemarle United Way relies almost entirely on employee campaigns at our region's businesses. Executive Director Susan Hoskins says the largest of these have been running several thousand dollars down from prior year. In one case, the company set the goal \$12,000 below 2009.

Furthermore, not every business conducts a campaign, and



workplace giving does not include anyone not in the workforce, such as our retired residents.

With The Daily Advance's help, Albemarle United Way hopes to bridge these gaps. It's time we all Live United.

In today's paper, you will find a self-addressed envelope for making a tax-deductible donation to the Albemarle Area United Way. Envelopes can be mailed to the United Way office or dropped off at The Perquimans Weekly.

Why donate?

From emergency assistance and family and individual counseling to 4H, scouting and other youth programs to early childhood education and hospice care, the Albemarle United Way helps improve life for thousands and thousands of area residents from Dare to Tyrrell counties.

The local office does not give money to individuals, but provides critical funding to support the efforts of 25 non-profit agencies across nine counties. (Go to [www.albemarleareauw.org](http://www.albemarleareauw.org) and click on Partner Agencies for the complete list.) The scope of services provided covers a range of human needs, from virtually cradle to grave.

The local United Way agencies rely on their annual allocations

to fill gaps often left by their other sources of funds, including state and federal money. And they can use their United Way dollars to secure additional funds. Pat Youngblood, executive director of Albemarle Hopeline, puts her United Way funding to work securing matching grants to improve Hopeline's shelter and its programs for abused women and children in six counties. Individual donations to the organizations cannot be used for this purpose.

Many contributors to United Way designate their gifts to a specific agency. The remainder of the contributions go into the general fund, which the United Way's allocation committee uses to fulfill the member agencies'

See SUPPORT, 9

### WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 47 LOW: 31  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 49 LOW: 35  
MOSTLY SUNNY

SUNDAY  
HIGH: 48 LOW: 37  
PARTLY CLOUDY



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