

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Relay for Life team plans auction. Page 8 RECEIVED

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 24, 2010 - MARCH 2, 2010

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35 cents

New athletic complex plan set in motion

Board of Education accepts land option

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Education has taken the first step on their journey to create a new athletic complex.

Monday night, board members accepted a five-year option on 33 acres

of farmland across the street from Perquimans County High School. The land will be donated to the school system by Dr. William Nixon for use as an athletic facility.

"The Perquimans County Board of Education has worked diligently to secure an option for the land across from the high school for the students of Perquimans County," said Superintendent Dwayne



Stallings

athletic and other events on this new site, hopefully in the near future."

Public Information Of-

ficer Brenda Lassiter

said long range plans call for the facility to include a football stadium and track, a soccer field, practice facilities for football and soccer, tennis courts, and locker rooms, concessions, and restrooms.

Lassiter indicated that the design and future construction of the complex would include input not only from board members, but from county com-

missioners, high school administration, and the school system's athletic department.

In addition, raising the funds to pay for the project would also be a joint effort between the board of education, county commissioners, and from the community.

"The commissioners are well aware of this project and are onboard," said County Administrator

Bobby Darden.

"We realize the county will be an integral part of the funding process, but it will also include a county-wide community effort."

The option for the land will expire in five years if no action is taken to move the project forward during that time, Lassiter added.

Dr. Nixon, a former resident of the county, graduated from Perquimans County High School.

Benton helped Haitian relief

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Lt. Commander Gregory L. Benton, better known as "Greg" around Hertford, was probably one of the few people onboard the USS Nassau who didn't get to hold her.

But, thanks to Benton, and the other engineers who work under him, their work keeping the multipurpose amphibious assault ship Nassau operational provided a safe haven for a newborn baby who became separated from her mother following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12.

According to the U.S. Navy, she became known as the "baby in the box" after arriving on the ship Jan. 23 in a small box bearing the label "Baby in box-do not throw away". The infant was taken care of by the ship's medical personnel and eventually reunited with her mother Jan. 31 when a Haitian woman came aboard USNS Comfort looking for her newborn baby girl. The baby aboard the Nassau fit the baby's description. Medical personnel on both ships verified through investigation that the woman was indeed the baby's biological mother and a tearful reunion occurred on the Nassau.

"It was probably one of

See BENTON, 2

Scout's honor



SHAWN ROCCO/NEWS & OBSERVER

Aaron Perry, 16, (l-r) from Troop 164 in Gates County, Corby Bunch, 14, from Troop 150 in Perquimans County, and Brad Mattox, 16, from Troop 127 in Currituck County, march on Fayetteville Street in Raleigh on Feb. 8 in observance of the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

Bunch takes part in BSA 100th celebration

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The temperature was in the low 30s on Feb. 8, but 14-year-old Corby Bunch was too proud of his uniform to be concerned about being cold.

The Hertford Boy Scout was chosen to represent Perquimans County and Troop 150 during the recent 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America recogni-

tion at the North Carolina state capital. He and 99 other scouts, representing the state's 100 counties, marched down Fayetteville Street to the capital building in Raleigh where they met with Gov. Beverly Perdue.

"I was very proud to march down the street to the capital in my scout uniform carrying the Perquimans County flag," said Bunch. "It was very cold, but I wanted my uniform to show so I

would not wear my coat."

"It was quite a sight to see," added his mother, Crystal Bunch, who also serves as a scout leader. "It was an overwhelming view to see all of our 100 scouts carrying their county flags. Each scout was asked to bring their county flag to show pride in their county."

Other scouts from the area representing the other six counties in the region included: Eagle

Scout Daniel Godfrey of Troop 158 (Camden), Life Scout Christopher Cartwright of Troop 164 (Chowan), Life Scout Frank Reuter of Troop 182 (Currituck), Eagle Scout Aaron Perry of Troop 164 (Gates), Webelos Scout Bailey Outlaw of Pack 170 (Pasquotank), and Tiger Scout Christopher Pokorny of Pack 117 (Dare).

Following their march, the

See SCOUTS, 4

Hagan meets and greets in Hertford

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

His words were short and to the point, but fiscal conservative Ben Hobbs told U.S. Senator Kay D-N.C., Hagan why he believes jobs are scarce in an area that relies heavily on small businesses.

The Perquimans commissioner spoke went straight to his point during Hagan's visit to the area Friday regarding local employment opportunities, or more importantly the lack of them in Northeastern North Carolina.

"Small businesses are concerned over mandates, over the health care costs, over cap and trade. They are fearful of those things and what the government is doing with them," said Hobbs. "Until that fear goes

away, there won't be anyone hired."

Hobbs also pressed Sen. Hagan on the increasing national deficit that is expected to reach \$1.6 trillion this year.

"The counties are concerned that the state and federal governments will pass the massive deficit that's been created on down to the county," he added. "You know, at some point, the chickens are going to come home to roost."

"Deficit spending that's what keeps me awake at night," Hagan answered Hobbs. "We've got to come to terms with this deficit problem. We can't all of a sudden start cutting and cutting with this recession we're experiencing, but we've got to get this under control."



CATHY WILSON/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley presents U.S. Senator Kay Hagan D-N.C., a ceramic turtle as a symbol of hospitality from the town during Hagan's brief stop at the Albemarle Commission last week.

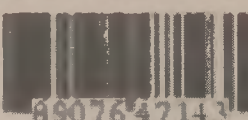
See HAGAN, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 48 LOW: 31
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 48 LOW: 33
CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 49 LOW: 32
MOSTLY SUNNY



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