

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Couple designated as Special Friends of the County. Page 2

"News from Next Door"

MARCH 17, 2010 - MARCH 23, 2010

35 cents

More students are staying in school

System dropout rate has fallen

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The number of high school dropouts in Perquimans last school year was the lowest it's been in four years.

Twenty students dropped out of school in the 2008-2009 school year, giving the

school system a dropout rate of 3.56 percent.

In years past, 31 students dropped out of school during the 2007-08 school year, 30 in 2006-07, 47 in 2005-06, and 36 in 2004-05.

School officials believe the school system is keeping more students in school thanks to the creation of the Accelerated Learning Center/Parent Resource Center, and the hiring of a dropout prevention coordi-

nator.

The center offers an intensive counseling component to the school system's "at-risk" students and their families, explained Brenda Lassiter, public information officer.

"Available to the students and their families are the drop-out prevention coordinator, the school social worker, the school counselor and the school psychologist," she said. "The team

of school officials work together to help students find success in the classroom and to become productive citizens."

Last year, the school system received a \$150,000 dropout prevention grant used to provide focused intervention and prevention goals and objectives as a vehicle to implement an innovative dropout prevention program that targeted at-risk students from grade

six through 12.

According to Superintendent Dwayne K. Stallings, these are important components that have been missing in the past.

"Understanding why students opt to drop out of school is one of the most difficult problems school officials have to deal with," said Lassiter. "Some withdraw because of personal or physical problems, some to go to work and some get be-

hind and feel overwhelmed. Others find it difficult to function in a regular classroom setting. There are numerous factors that play into a student's decision to drop out of school."

Stallings admits that one dropout is too many and continues to seek alternative funding and resources to target the "at risk" population.

"Identification and in-

See SCHOOLS, 3

Special delivery



CATHY WILSON/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Postmaster Angela Cowell holds up several of the 2010 U.S. Census forms to be delivered across the county this week. Census officials are urging citizens to fill out the forms and mail them back in as quickly as possible.

COUNT ME IN: Census forms arrive

Forms delivered here this week

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The 2010 Census forms have arrived.

Hertford postal carriers started delivering them on Monday.

Census Bureau officials ask you to fill out the form and mail it back immediately in the provided, postage-paid envelope.

"Every North Carolina resident should fill out

and return the census questionnaires. It's easy, it's important and it's secure," said Gov. Bev Perdue. "An accurate count of our population is critical for the future of North Carolina. As a fast-growing state, we must count everyone to get our fair share of the billions of federal dollars distributed each year based on the census."

The Census counts everyone residing in the United States, both citizens and non-citizens, as required every 10 years

by the Constitution. In addition to the local households in the county, residents in local nursing homes and the juvenile detention center located in Winfall will be counted as well.

Much is determined by the numbers gathered during the Census including the number of seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives and figures used during local and state voting redistricting. Federal funding to programs such as school lunches,

senior citizen centers, and new construction for highways and hospitals are also determined by population data collected during the Census.

The questionnaire does not include banking information or social security numbers.

The questions include address of the residence, whether the unit is rented or owned, names of residents, genders, ages, and races of those living in the household. A phone number is requested in case handwriting is not

legible.

If you don't fill out the form and mail it back in, a replacement questionnaire will be sent out in mid April in an effort to get as many questionnaires returned as possible. Census takers will begin visiting households that don't return questionnaires May 1.

"If the people of North Carolina complete the census form and return it quickly, then we won't have to go out and knock on

See CENSUS, 3

Public workshop set for Causeway

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Citizens and local officials will get the chance to comment to transportation officials on what to do with the historic S-bridge and Causeway during a workshop scheduled for April 6.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold the workshop at the county recreation center from 4-7 p.m. Citizens may ask questions and offer input (verbally or in writing) during the informal workshop.

"This is an important part of the process," said Joseph Miller, project development and environmental analysis with NCDOT. "We can't do it without them (citizens)."

Areas in the causeway are sinking from settling and have been for years, despite repeated repairs and rebuilding by NCDOT over the years. The movable-span bridge has a low sufficiency rating, and now many parts that might need replacing are no longer readily available and must be special ordered and custom made instead. In addition, the existing bridge does not meet current codes including the radius of the curves, the width of the bridge, and the width of the causeway.

"The bridge was built in 1929," Miller pointed out. "It's gotta go."

NCDOT has poured over \$1.8 million into repairing the Causeway and \$900,000

See CAUSEWAY, 3

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 44
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 65 LOW: 44
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 64 LOW: 42
SHOWERS



Bucks needed for big bangs in Perquimans

July 4th fireworks donations needed

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Donations are currently being accepted to fund fireworks for this year's July 4th celebration that can be seen in both Hertford and Winfall.

Diane Stallings, treasurer of the county fireworks committee, said the fun-filled, exciting July 4th holiday event falls on a Sunday this year and

will be held at Missing Mill Park. Fireworks are shot over the Perquimans River and can be viewed by citizens in both Hertford and Winfall.

"July 4th is quickly approaching. We appreciate all of your support in the past and we are once again asking for your help to raise money for this year's show," she said.

"We would greatly appreciate your consideration of a donation to help fund the fireworks."

The local Ruritan clubs are answering the call for

chicken holding a barbecue dinner in April to help raise money for the fireworks.

Chicken plates, \$7 each, may be picked up at Parksville Ruritan Club on April 16, 3:30-6 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner may be purchased from any Ruritan or from the Perquimans Chamber.

"The cost of our wonderful fireworks display has increased and your contributions will help make sure we have a great

See FIREWORKS, 5



CATHY WILSON/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
Donations are currently being sought to help pay for the fireworks display scheduled to highlight this year's July 4th celebration in Hertford.

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