

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Progress
2010

Look for this year's Progress & Review Edition in next week's Perquimans Weekly.

Pettaway is the district player of the year. Page 8



35 cents

"News from Next Door"

MARCH 24, 2010 - MARCH 30, 2010

MAR 24 2010

Bunch named assistant superintendent

SUBMITTED PHOTO

James Bunch, principal at Perquimans County High School, is taking new duties as the system's assistant superintendent.



Search begins for new PCHS principal

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

James Bunch, principal at Perquimans County High School (PCHS), was named assistant superintendent of the school system Monday night.

Members of the Perquimans Board of Education unanimously supported the

move which goes into effect immediately. Bunch will serve in a dual role, continuing his responsibilities as principal at the high school until June.

A search for a new principal at PCHS will begin within the next few weeks with hopes to have someone named by July 1.

"Naming James Bunch as the assistant superintendent is the right choice for Perquimans County," said Superintendent Dwayne

Stallings. "He served as associate superintendent in Hyde County from June 2002-June 2006, immediately prior to his acceptance of the principal position at PCHS. He is a strong educator who is efficient, direct and highly visible. His experience is impressive and his leadership ability will lead our school district to even greater achievements. His calm and decisive manner will continue to serve him well as assistant superintendent."

For Bunch, the move will be bittersweet. He informed his school staff Tuesday afternoon.

"I'm looking forward to my new role within the school system-however it is a bittersweet moment," he said. "I'm going to miss the students and staff at PCHS tremendously. PCHS is a special place where special people work and learn. I'll

See BUNCH, 2

A Barrel of Fun



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Springtime brings out Jacob Craiglow's fancy for playing outside. Craiglow enjoyed the recent warm days jumping over, walking on and rolling over barrels in his front yard.

Budget process looking dreary

Slow economy affecting revenues

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County department heads are expected to turn in their budget requests March 31 for the next fiscal year.

So far, the budget process is looking pretty dreary for the second year in a row.

"It's still early and there are still many unknowns, but the budget outlook looks very bleak for next year," said Bobby Darden, county manager. "We know we have new significant expenses for next year. I haven't found much good news yet!"

Three of those significant expenses facing the county next year will be paying for state-ordered child support

enforcement, state-mandated increased contributions for employees' retirement, and the first full debt service payment on the Albemarle District Jail.

In his budget memo sent out earlier to department heads, Darden described the 2010-2011 budget-crafting process as even more challenging than last year's because of those mandated costs. He expects additional expenses will be shifted from the state down to local governments next fiscal year as well.

One bright spot on the fiscal horizon is the fact that some local real estate and building revenues have slightly increased in recent months, Darden pointed out. However, sales taxes and property taxes, the county's two largest streams of revenue,

See BUDGET, 2

Unemployment rates rise in area

County jobless hits 20-year high

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Unemployment figures increased in January for five area counties including Perquimans.

Currituck County saw the greatest increase in the number of unem-

ployed, jumping 1.5 percent from December's 8.9 percent to 10.4 percent in January.

Camden County followed with a 1 percent jump from 8.2 percent in December to 9.2 in January.

Perquimans County saw an increase of .9 percent. The county's unemployment rate rose from 9.9 percent in December

to 10.8 percent in January, the county's highest rate in 20 years.

Pasquotank saw an increase of .8 percent, rising from 10.1 in December to 10.9 in January.

Chowan County showed the lowest gain during the same time span, but continues to sport the highest unemployment rate in the five-county area. Chowan's rate rose from 11.5 percent

in December to 11.7 percent in January or .2 percent.

The regional rise in rates mirrors the trend throughout the state.

According to the state's Employment Security Commission (ESC), unemployment rates increased in 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties in January.

"The current economy

See UNEMPLOYED, 2

Police investigate report of dogfighting in Hertford

No evidence has been found

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Local police are investigating a report of dogfighting in Hertford involving pit bulls.

Chief Joe Amos with the Hertford Police Department said police received a report of dogs fighting on Railroad Street last Wednesday afternoon, but no one was charged in connection with the incident because of lack of

evidence.

An anonymous caller reported five or six people were seen encouraging and coaching dogs to fight behind a house in the Railroad Street area, police said. When police arrived on the scene, police saw a black male walking out from behind a house with a pit bull on a leash. Police said the male took off running when he saw police and ran through back yards on Dobbs Street. Police apprehended the man on Dobbs Street, this time with no dog.

Police say Joshua Earl

Felton was charged with resist/delay/obstruct in connection with running from police during the investigation. The same pit bull seen earlier ran up to police as they cuffed Felton. The dog suffered several cuts and blood was seen on the dog as well as on Felton's clothing, said Amos.

Both Felton and residents in the area told police that a second pit bull got loose as Felton and his dog were walking by. The two dogs started fighting

See DOGFIGHT, 2



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Chef Sean Taylor removes a fresh, hot pizza from the wood-fired oven at Dockside Cafe and Market.

Dockside opens at the Plantation

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The area's newest restaurant features signature homemade pizza pies baked in a wood-fired oven.

Dockside Cafe and Market opened last week adjacent to the marina at Albemarle Plantation. A huge

1,700 square-foot wrap-around deck allows the casual diner to enjoy breakfast, lunch, and dinner in an outside setting surrounded by the beautiful waterfront scenery. Diners can also enjoy the relaxed indoor setting which in-

See DOCKSIDE, 2

Wet weather delays spring planting

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Area growers need dryer, warmer weather now to help them get back on track after a disappointing fall and winter growing season.

Lewis Smith, county extension director, said some area growers are behind

schedule and still preparing their fields for planting. Large amounts of rain that fell over the fall and winter months caused muddy fields that prevented earlier field preparation.

"They're doing things now that they usually do in the winter," said Smith.

See WEATHER, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 68 LOW: 50
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 66 LOW: 44
SHOWERS

SUNDAY
HIGH: 62 LOW: 43
SUNNY

