

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PCHS volleyball team roars past Gates, 7
Christmas comes in August, 9

50 cents

"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 25, 2010 - AUGUST 31, 2010

Back to school: Students, staff get to work

2010-2011 school year starts today

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Positive is the key word for this year's school year which began today (Wednesday) as the Perquimans County Schools opened their school doors welcoming nearly 1780 students.

Over 300 school employees were pumped up last week during Opening Day Convocation in preparation for the students' return following summer vacation. In addition, local groups and ministries have provided free school supplies, free clothes, and free parental advice to lo-

cal students and parents as the new school year gets underway.

"It seems like just yesterday we were sending our graduates off to their next phase in life, and now it is time to start the 2010-2011 school year," said Superintendent Dwayne Stallings. "Each new school year brings new challenges, excitement and new beginnings. Although we celebrated many successes during the 2009-2010 school year, we cannot rest on those successes. School employees are ready to push forward for even greater achievements for our students. I believe our students are the greatest resource we have as a school and a community and we are ready to wel-

come them back to another great year in Perquimans County Schools."

For school employees, opening day convocation turned into a celebration as school officials highlighted accomplishments from past years.

Stallings gave data for the school district that showed the highest academic scores seen by local students in the past five years.

Keynote speaker Dr. Kim W. Brown, senior pastor of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, known as The Mount, challenged employees to make all A's during the new school year.

"I'm not talking about A's in reading, math and

See SCHOOL, 9



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Free bags of school supplies were distributed Saturday afternoon at First Baptist Church as part of a back-to-school parent forum.

Courthouse grounds may be smoke free

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County officials are considering making the historic county courthouse property smoke free.

County Manager Bobby Darden said the county's safety committee, made up of county employees, is working on a proposed no-smoking policy for the grounds and parking lot of both the county courthouse and annex area.

Smoking is already prohibited inside all county buildings.

Visitors step outside, however, and light up on the courthouse stoop and lawn. Outside smoking is especially heavy on court days during breaks.

"The smokers like to hang out right at the front door of the courthouse, especially on cold or rainy days," explained Darden. "Then when the doors are opened, the smoke enters the courthouse and rises upstairs to the county administration offices. After a while, it begins to smell like a smokestack."

A new law that went into effect January 1 of this year prevents smoking in restaurants, but also allows public grounds to be smoke-free, Darden explained. Before that, only the grounds of health departments were deemed smoke-free.

Area school grounds are

See COURTHOUSE, 4

Welcome, Governor



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Gov. Bev Perdue discusses options for the S-bridge and Causeway during last week's visit to Hertford. Listening to the governor are (l-r) Joan Bielski, Chris Lane and Harriett Woodard.

Perdue makes stops in Hertford, Winfall

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Gov. Beverly Perdue thoughtfully stroked her chin as she listened intently to the two ladies who spoke passionately about saving the historic S-bridge in Hertford.

Hearing words like Causeway, bridge closings, and construction options, she made no promises; yet, the tiny but powerful lady who leads the state vowed to ask questions about the S-bridge and the state's plan to replace it when she returned to Raleigh.

See PERDUE, 4



Gov. Bev Perdue looks over the plaza area located at the intersection of Market and Church streets. Hertford Mayor Sid Eley points out the town's official logo set in the brick plaza that was created as part of the Main Street program.

Parker is new principal at PCMS

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A school administrator from Williamston is the new principal at Perquimans Middle School.

Norris Parker, 41, began his new duties at the school on Monday following the resignation of Jamie Liverman who left Perquimans County Schools for a principalship in Washington County.



Parker

"Perquimans County Middle School is already a terrific school," Parker told members of the Perquimans Board of Education (BOE) Monday night.

"It's my goal to help take us out of our comfort zone at times and work to improve the curriculum."

Parker began his career in education in the mid 1990s, serving over the years as a teacher, Gear Up Coordinator in Martin County, and as assistant principals in Washington High School, EJ Hayes Elementary School in Martin County, and lastly for two years at Williamston High School.

In addition, he has served as a varsity tennis coach, and assistant coach in football and basketball

See PARKER, 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH: 84 LOW: 65
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY

HIGH: 85 LOW: 68
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY

HIGH: 84 LOW: 69
PARTLY CLOUDY



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Hertford begins work in NC STEP

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hanging in front of the Hertford Town Office is a colorful banner announcing that the town is now a North Carolina Small Towns Economic Prosperity (NC STEP) community.

Last week, the town took its first step in doing the work required to participate in the two-year program through the Rural Center.

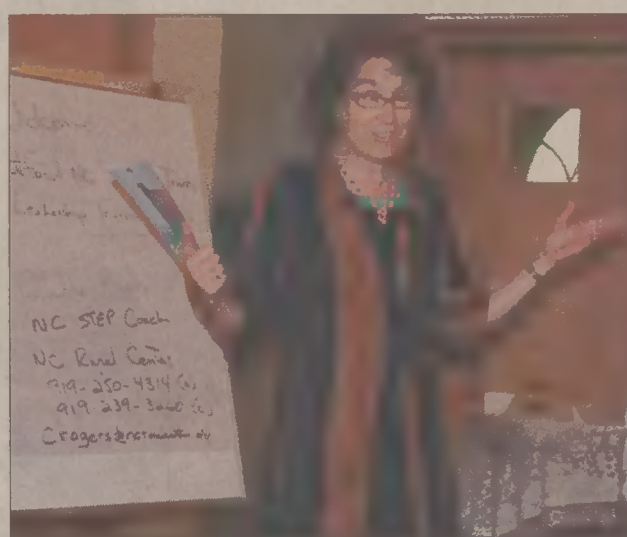
About 60 community leaders joined forces Thursday night to begin work on identifying critical needs and community assets, developing potential economic de-

velopment strategies, prioritizing projects, and seeking out financial resources to help revitalize the town.

"My job is to guide and motivate you in the planning process," said Chilton Rogers, who serves as the town's NC STEP coach. "The work, however, is yours."

"Everything relates to economic development," she added as she began guiding the community leadership team into the long-term process of spurring growth in the area. "You will learn to think strategically, long term, and

See STEP, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON
Chilton Rogers, NC Step coach for Hertford, presents information at the leadership team's first meeting.