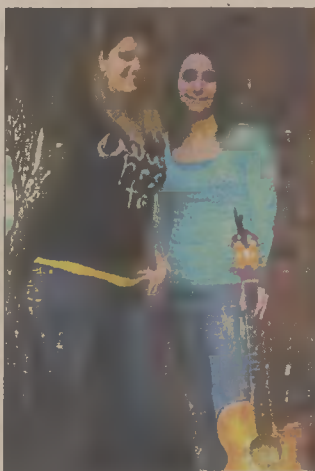


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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"News from Next Door" FEB 02 2011 FEBRUARY 2, 2011 - FEBRUARY 8, 2011



Wynn, Hobbs have faith in music, 4
...also Harvey scores 70 in two games, 9

50 cents

Ground broken on new marine park

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Moving forward even in tough economic times by preparing the area for growth will create future opportunities for this area, said NC Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco last week during groundbreaking ceremonies for the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park.

"Finding your niche within the marine industry, or how it can be adapted to your facility, makes this an exciting time," he added.

Crisco was one of several keynote speakers to address a room full of local and regional government leaders, boat builders, wind energy businesses, and governmental agencies that gathered to kick off the marketing campaign for the park located in the Perquimans Commerce Center adjacent to the Perquimans River.

The 72-acre park, surrounded by 300 additional available acres, will eventually offer a 16 and a half acre 10-ft. deep water basin that officials believe will lead to future boat build-

ing and marine trade industrial opportunities that will provide local jobs. The park is owned and developed by the North Carolina Seafood Park Authority (NCSPA), the same state agency that owns Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park in Dare County.

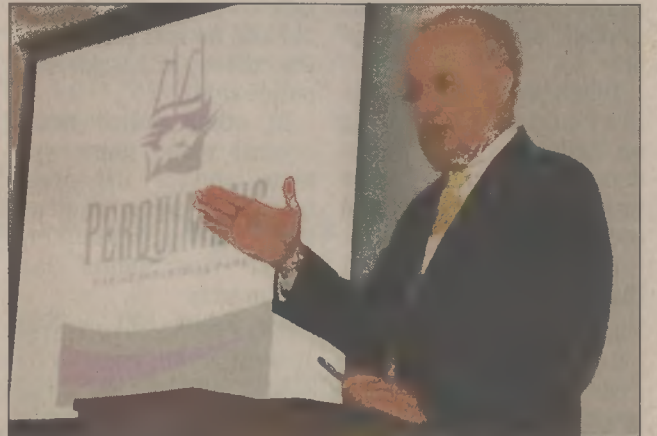
"This is a big deal for us," said Ben Hobbs, chairman of the Perquimans Board of Commissioners. "We're excited to have a place where marine businesses can come and locate. We wish we were using big machines today instead of shovels to move dirt, but

this is a big step for us, and we're glad we are here."

Hobbs pointed out that the park is an economic development project between the county and towns of Hertford and Winfall that depends on federal, state and/or grant money.

"We do wish the state and federal budgets were in better shape, and that the grant situation would be better as far as funding is concerned, but we're moving ahead anyway," he added.

Bob Peele, executive See PARK, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

N.C. Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco spoke Thursday during the groundbreaking for the new Perquimans Marine Industrial Park.

Firm files to build wind farm

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Iberdrola Renewables (IR) filed an application with the N.C. Utilities Commission last week beginning the process of trying to site a wind turbine farm in the flat farmland known locally as "the desert".

IR Spokesperson Paul Copleman said the company is considering creating the Desert Wind Power Project that would include 150 wind turbines on 20,000 acres of flatland that transcends both Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

The 300-megawatt project could generate enough electricity to power between 55,000-70,000 North Carolina homes, would be expected to create more than 400 construction jobs, and up to 20 permanent jobs. If approved, construction on the project could begin as early as the end of this year.

"Iberdrola Renewables has been working with the communities, landowners, multiple state and federal agencies, and conducting various studies on the potential project since 2009," said Copleman in a press release. "The filing today represents the first step of many regulatory reviews that must be completed before Iberdrola Renewables makes a final decision on the project...If developed as proposed, the project is expected to bring substantial economic benefits to the area."

Copleman said under See WIND FARM, 8

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE, SOLD!



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Chamber Director Sid Eley (above, left) and auctioneer Jake Forbes stir up the bidding on a framed photo of baseball legend Catfish Hunter during the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet and auction fundraiser Friday night. Local dentist Dr. Douglas Perry (top photo) surprised Stacey Forbes by giving her a birthday gift — a box of "goodies" valued at \$665. Forbes, whose husband is a patient of Dr. Perry's, was very grateful for the birthday surprise.

Chamber auction raises \$7,000

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Stacey Forbes was celebrating her birthday with family at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet and auction fundraiser Friday night when she received quite a surprise.

Dr. Douglas Perry, a local dentist, bought one of the three mystery boxes auctioned off without seeing what's inside. Instead of opening it to see what he bought for \$450, he gave the box to Forbes as an impromptu birthday gift.

"Oh my gosh. I can't believe

this. That's so generous of you," exclaimed a surprised Forbes as she and Perry both unwrapped the plastic tub that held items valued at \$665.

Inside, Forbes found a weekend pass for an Enterprise rental car valued at \$240, matted artwork, a leather handbag, numerous gift certificates, a carrying case for a laptop, and many other items. It's a birthday present she will remember forever.

Perry, dentist to Stacey's husband Jake, just grinned when asked why he would give the box away, sight unseen.

"I heard it was her birthday, so why not give it to her?" said

Perry.

The three mystery boxes were a new addition to the one and only annual fundraiser held by the Chamber during the year.

Nearly 200 ticket-holders enjoyed a meal catered by Captain Bob's and bidding on donated items during both silent and regular auctions.

Chamber Director Sid Eley said about \$7,000 was raised during the fundraiser to support the Chamber.

Auctioneer for the evening was Jake Forbes whose quick tongue rattled off sales of wood

See CHAMBER, 8

Athletic complex design approved

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Perquimans Board of Education recently gave the go-ahead to start preliminary engineering design work for a new outdoor athletic complex.

Board members gave Albenarle & Associates, Ltd. (AA) notice to proceed on performing site evaluation and assessment, conceptual planning, meetings, cost estimating, and electrical operational cost estimates.

County commissioners have funded \$35,000 for the study that begins the project to be located on property across from Perquimans County High School.

James L. Overton, Sr., president of AA, said he would like to start on the site assessment immediately.

Currently, the school system has a committee working on the project that is expected to be built largely from donations and future fundraisers.

The committee consists of the superintendent and assistant superintendent, the high school principal, athletic directors at both the high and middle schools, the system's director of maintenance, and the county manager.

Overton indicated he hopes to present final conceptual graphics to the board in April.

Last year, the board of education agreed to a five-year option on 33 acres of farmland across from the high school owned by Dr. William Nixon of Wilmington, a PCHS graduate. Plans call for the facility to include a football field and a track, along with dressing and weight rooms.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 46 LOW: 32
LIGHT/FREEZING RAIN

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 37
LIGHT RAIN

SUNDAY
HIGH: 53 LOW: 35
MOSTLY SUNNY



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Head Start bus runs in ditch

No children were injured in accident

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

No children were injured Tuesday morning when a Head Start bus, operated by the Economic Improvement Council based in Winfall, ran into a ditch on Mead's Loop in Hertford around 8:30 a.m.

Hertford Police Chief Joe

Amos said it appeared that the driver of the bus became distracted and simply ran into the ditch. Speed was not a factor in the accident, he added.

Perquimans EMS was dispatched to the scene after the driver, whose name was not immediately available, apparently suffered an anxiety attack, Amos said.

At the scene, seven children, ages 4-5, who were on board the bus at the time of the accident, were seated

in two police cars to keep warm until a second EIC bus arrived to transport them to the Winfall school.

The children, bundled up in winter coats and hats, sat quietly holding their backpacks in the back seat of the police cars, but smiled, laughed and waved through the cars' windows.

The accident was investigated by Officer Allen Peterson with the Hertford Police Department.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A bus operated by the Economic Improvement Council Head Start program based in Winfall ended up in a ditch Tuesday morning on Mead's Loop in Hertford. Seven students were onboard at the time. No injuries were reported, but EMS was called for the driver.