

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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FEBRUARY 9, 2011 - FEBRUARY 15, 2011

FEB 09 2011

Lassiter recognized by Perdue for Making a Difference, 7

Also ... Inmate escapes from work crew, 3

50 cents



County to pay school's electric bill

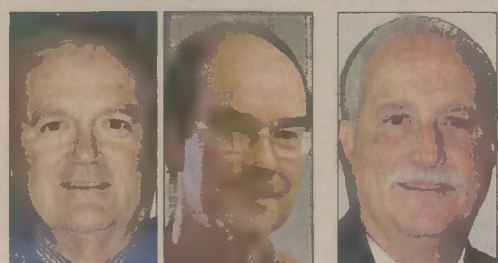
Negotiating teams resolve dilemma

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford, county, and school officials have resolved the high school's \$260,000 outstanding electric bill that occurred when the school was under billed for electrical usage for over two years.

Monday night, county commissioners agreed to pay the town \$195,000 after extensive statistical analysis by school employees and consultants showed the schools could have saved \$4,564 per month during the 14-month period had the school been able to put utility-savings measures in place during that time.

Negotiating teams for the county and town met late Thursday afternoon and de-



Christensen Hobbs Stallings

termined that the \$63,896 in savings should be applied as a credit to compensate the schools for the improv-

er billing. That left a net under billing of \$195,000.

The Board of County Commissioners is thankful for the Town of Hertford for providing options to repay the underbilled amount, and for allowing

the county and schools time to adequately review the alternatives," said Commissioner Chairman Ben Hobbs. "The commissioners are satisfied with this resolution."

Hertford council is expected to pass the resolution at the Feb. 14 meeting.

For Hertford Manager John Christensen, the negotiated end result is a positive move for all involved.

"I feel the negotiating

teams did a good job," he added. "They came up with a solution that pleased everyone."

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings says the school system is satisfied with the settlement, and finds it reassuring as the schools prepare for what is expected to be a very challenging school budget for the 2011-2012 year.

See BILL, 2

State says juvenile center will not close

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners have been reassured by the state that the Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center will not close because of the state budget crunch.

Monday night, Commissioner Chairman Ben Hobbs said Secretary Linda Hayes with the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention called him personally after receiving a letter from commissioners expressing concern over the possibility of the center's closing due to possible state budget cuts.

"She said she had received our letter and thanked us for our concern," Hobbs said. "She assured me it would not close."

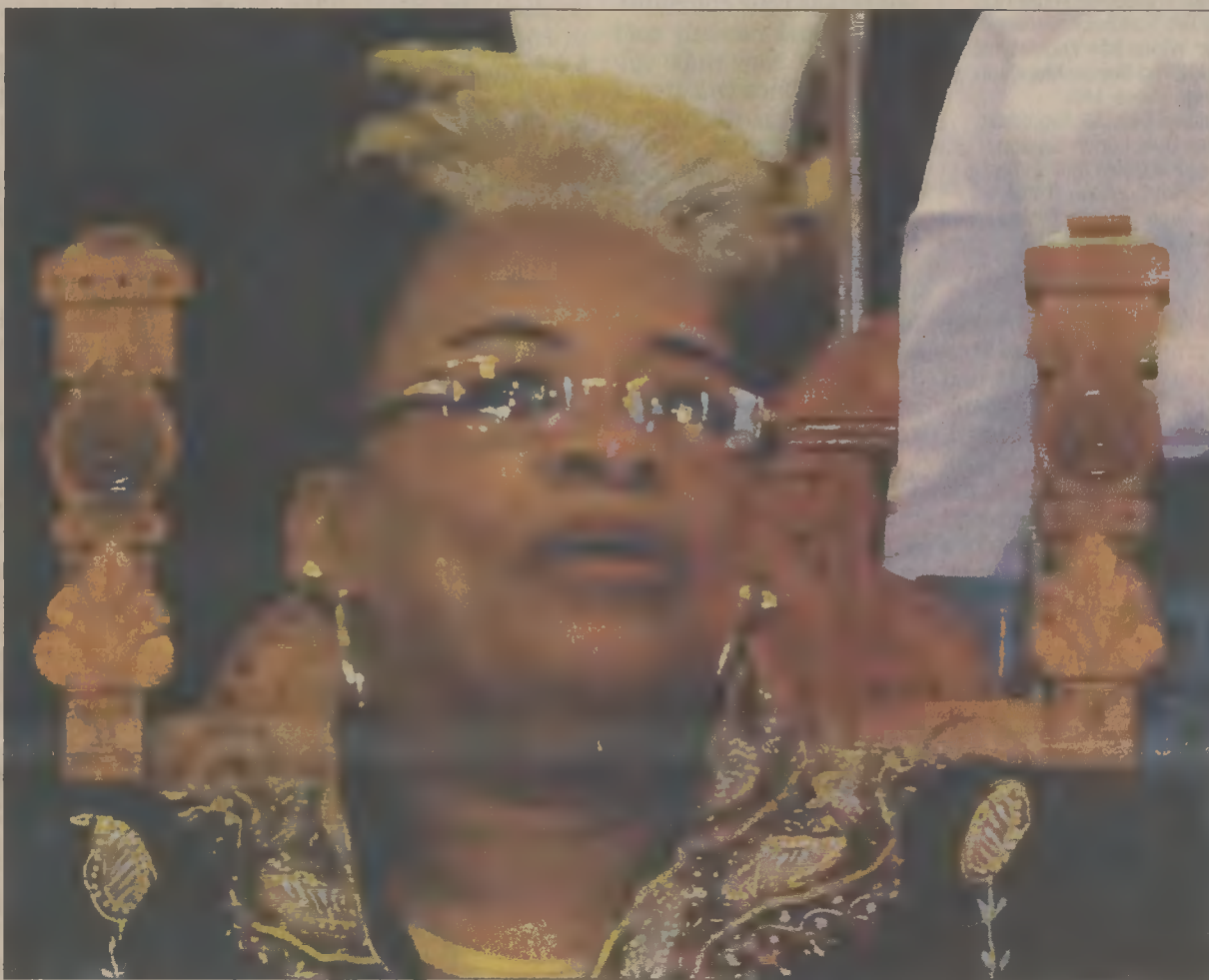
State departments participated in a desktop budget scenario exercises recently, figuring out where cuts could be made if the overall budget was cut in increments of five, 10 or 15 percent. During the exercise, the local juvenile detention center located in Winfall was listed as a possible casualty in the 10 percent or above cut.

Commissioners took a proactive approach in an effort to keep the facility that houses up to 24 juveniles open. In addition to sending a letter, commissioners also prepared to pass a resolution encouraging the state not to close the facility, and was planning to gather support from surrounding localities as well.

Monday night, however, commissioners decided not to consider that resolution since Hayes assured Hobbs the local facility would not close.

See CENTER, 4

CALLED TO LEAD



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Millie Jordan, of Belvidere, will serve as president of the Fellowship of Churches in Perquimans County.

Fellowship president makes history

First female to earn position for organization

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

For the second time in her life, Millie Jordan is making history as she follows her calling to preach the Word of God.

The Belvidere woman is the first female president of the Perquimans County Fellowship of Churches, an organization that has represented 12 area churches for the last 40 years.

As pastor of Riddick's Grove Missionary Baptist Church, she first made history about seven years ago when she was the first female to pastor through Roanoke Baptist Association.

Her vision for the group of churches as a whole this year is to focus on youth, pull the local ministers together to assist one another, and to help other women

become involved in ministry. "I would like to see us pull the youth together and see what's on their mind," said Jordan. "I'd like to get them involved and find out what they want to do."

As a woman who served her home church as an associate minister for five years before filling the position as pastor, she serves as a role model for other women who may be interested in entering the ministry one day.

"I had a yearning to know more about God. I would search and see what the Word has to offer to me," she remembered when talking about why she first entered the ministry. "I had a tugging in my spirit to go forth and do something different than what I normally see in churches."

Jordan says her passion in life was to evangelize rather than serve as a church pastor. But the Lord had other plans.

"Being an evangelist, I could go places, preach, and then go home. I

never wanted to pastor, but I knew that's what God ordained me to do," she smiled. "Being a pastor is stationary, being there every Sunday, dealing with all types of people. It may not have been what I originally wanted to do, but God knew that doing this would help change me into the image of Christ."

A project she hopes the fellowship will make happen this spring is to hold a Youth Explosion, a gathering that allows the area's youth to get together and communicate with each other for a common goal to create change.

"We need to help them realize that change has to come from within...not from the outside," she added.

The Perquimans County native lives in Belvidere and has one married daughter, Nicole and Eric Spencer, also of Belvidere. Jordan graduated from Perquimans County High School and studied at the Roanoke Institute.

Trooper in Taser death transfers

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

A North Carolina highway patrolman who used a stun gun on a motorist who later died has been reassigned to a desk job and is currently working in Pitt County.

Trooper W.A. Hardison was transferred from the patrol station in Elizabeth City to one in Greenville on Jan. 3, patrol spokesman Sgt. Jeff Gordon said.

Hardison requested the transfer, Gordon said. He did not know the reasons why the trooper made the request.

Hardison was reassigned to administrative duties following a Dec. 2 incident in which a Perquimans County man, Clayton Earl James, died after the trooper used a Taser on him three times.

Noelle Talley, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Justice, said the State Bureau of Investigation's probe of James' death is continuing. The results of the investigation will be turned over to District Attorney Frank Parrish for his review, she said.

According to law enforcement, Hardison tried to stop James' car on old U.S. Highway 17 in Pasquotank County on Dec. 2 after Hardison observed the vehicle cross the center line a number of times.

After crossing into Perquimans County, James stopped his vehicle on Nursing Home Road. After exiting his vehicle, he got into a scuffle with Hardison.

The trooper used his Taser weapon on James to subdue him, but the mo-

See TRANSFER, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 44 LOW: 31
RAIN/SNOW

SATURDAY
HIGH: 50 LOW: 32
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 55 LOW: 37
SUNNY

Perquimans, Chowan receive \$550,000 grant

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans and Chowan county schools will receive a \$550,000 Golden Leaf grant to help students succeed in science, technology, engineering and math.

Victor Eure, technology coordinator for Perquimans County Schools, announced Friday that the Northeast STEM Consortium, composed of the two area school systems, received the grant that will be used in grades 4-9 over the next three years.

The schools plan to part-

ner with the College of the Albemarle and other agencies to implement the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Connect project (STEM) to increase student success and participate in STEM-related careers.

"We want teachers, students, counselors, and administrators more aware of STEM careers and more prepared to fully participate in STEM careers, particularly in the regional focus areas such as biotechnology, etc," he said. "This means not only promoting the careers and giving stu-

dents and teachers hands-on opportunities to do real world science and math applications related to STEM careers, but also increasing the rigor to ensure that students are prepared to take higher level math and science courses in middle school, high school, and college."

The funds will help increase enrollment in middle school Algebra I courses, increase access to math and science technology and equipment, decrease the number of students



PCS PHOTO
Victor Eure wrote the STEM grant for Perquimans County Schools that resulted in a \$550,000 Golden Leaf award.

See GRANT, 4



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