

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Coston's 25 points leads Lady Pirates to victory
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"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

Some aspects of gun plan debated

By **PETER WILLIAMS**
News Editor

Perquimans County officials offered mixed reviews on President Obama's plans to limit gun violence.

Both Sheriff Eric Tilley and local school officials

embraced any plan that would provide more funding for police officers in schools. But Tilley was somewhat skeptical that some of the other recommendations Obama made last week would make a difference.

"The only thing about

new gun laws is it is going to restrict those who are already going to abide by the day," Tilley said last week. "People are going to get guns regardless of what the law says."

Obama's plan called for more police, tighter restriction on gun purchas-

es, more coordination between agencies and better mental health programs.

Perquimans schools are in the enviable position in that they have four people on staff devoted to mental health. Grants, not the federal or state government are paying their salaries

but one of the grants is set to expire.

An \$185,000 grant from ECBH is at the end of its three-year cycle and can't be renewed. It has paid for a staff psychologist. The school system got a second \$275,000 grant from the K.E. Reynolds Trust. It is

a two-year grant and pays for two mental health specialists and one psychologist. The grant expires this year, but the school system is seeking an extension.

"There has been an improvement as far as access

See **GUN PLAN**, 7

SENIOR CENTER, ALMOST



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS
Bits of drywall and equipment (above) sit in the middle of one room of the future senior center on Harvey Point Road. The center will be located in the Perquimans 2020 building, which was originally designed as a business incubator.

An unidentified worker appears to be doing carpentry work inside the site of the future senior center on Harvey Point Road.



County to talk water rates

By **PETER WILLIAMS**
News Editor

A new water line connecting eastern Perquimans County with a reverse osmosis plant in Pasquotank County will give the county a new source of superior drinking water, but it will come at a cost.

Perquimans officials plan to discuss rates this spring as part of talks on the new budget.

The agreement will require Perquimans purchase 150,000 gallons a day from the Pasquotank facility for the next 20 years. The water is better quality than the water produced using conventional methods in Perquimans County, but it also comes with a slightly higher price tag. Perquimans will pay \$5.34 for each 1,000 gallons. Current customers pay \$6.

Perquimans also has to pay off the \$1.5 million it will spend building the line and other improvements.

County Manager Frank Heath said the benefits are worth the cost, but the county needs to take a look at water rates. The last time the county adjusted rates was in 2007. The current water budget is \$1.8 million. Just the new water charges from Pasquotank will be \$328,000.

"It's something we will be discussing," Heath said.

He's also not concerned that some Pasquotank customers have higher levels of lead in their water because of the RO system. The lead isn't coming from the water Pasquotank

See **WATER RATES**, 7

State senator makes Hertford his first stop on town hall tour

By **PETER WILLIAMS**
News Editor

Sen. Bill Cook, fresh off an election victory, held the first of what he hopes to be many town hall forums in his district Wednesday night.

Cook, a Republican from

Chocowinity, spoke to about 15 people gathered at the Perquimans County Courthouse. District I covers an eight-county area from Dare west to Gates and from Currituck and Camden south to Beaufort and Hyde.

"It's important to me to find out what's on people's minds," Cook said Thursday as he drove to Dare County to look at the infrastructure there. "This is one of the things I'm going to try to do more of."



Cook plans another forum in Gates County on Jan. 24 and is looking at

doing perhaps two more in other counties before the General Assembly session

THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

State Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort, speaks with constituents during his first Town Hall meeting in Perquimans County, at the county's courthouse, last Wednesday.

starts on Jan. 30.

Dianne Layden, the chairwoman of the GOP in Perquimans County, welcomed the visit and said it was rare that an elected official visited for a forum when they weren't actively

running for office.

"I can't remember having a town meeting like this," Layden said. "When you look at this district, it was Marc Basnight who was in office for 20 zillion years and he never came to small things like this. Then Stan White was appointed to fill his position and he didn't come for things like this."

Perquimans County Commissioners Ed Muzulin was happy to be able

See **COOK TOUR**, 7



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