

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Man, 29, linked to 2012 murder

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A 29-year-old Stokes County man was arrested last week as an accessory after the fact in the murder of a Perquimans County man last year.

Brian King, Breezy Lane, King, was arrested Thursday after Perqui-



Colson King

mans County deputies went to the Stokes County

Sheriff's Department to interview him. Another man, Michael Helms of Myrtle Beach, S.C. was arrested last February and charged with the murder of Chad Austin Colson.

A Perquimans magistrate's warrant, prepared last week, alleges that King tried to help Helms escape arrest and avoid detection

by cleaning a vehicle and destroying evidence.

Colson, 28, of Hog Neck Road, Perquimans County, had multiple cuts to his upper torso, Colson's body was found lying in a ditch on Holiday Island Road by a person riding a bicycle on Feb. 21, 2012.

At the time, Tilley said the sheriff's office suspect-

ed that Colson had been killed elsewhere and the body dumped on Holiday Island Road. Helms stepped forward and accepted responsibility for the crime, Tilley said.

Tilley said he doesn't expect any more arrests in Colson's murder. King was arrested because deputies have continued following

leads. "We believe there were several things that Mr. King was involved with after the murder. They were all working with the same construction group out of South Carolina," Tilley said.

According to the sheriff,

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GETTING READY FOR THE BIG SHOW



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Chelsea Farrar, (top photo, left) playing Queen Agravain, works with fellow student actors Dalton Winslow and Amber Winslow during a rehearsal for the Perquimans County High fine arts production of "Once Upon A Mattress" at the school last week. The musical comedy will be performed April 11-12 in the school's auditorium.

Amber Winslow (bottom photo) still dances while others have collapsed in one of the scenes during the rehearsal. For more on the play, please see story page 9.



Chamber leaders look for solutions

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County has the tools to tackle its problems, but it lacks a coordinated effort to use them.

That was the attitude expressed by some leaders at a brainstorming session held last week at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Newly elected chamber president JoAnne Jones asked for the meeting. She said she didn't expect all the problems would be resolved, she simply wanted to get more people working on the solutions.

"I just want to see the town come together," Jones said.

Jones sought ideas on something she called "Christmas in Perquimans." It wouldn't be so much adding new activities, but tying together many of the ones that are already happening and focusing everything that weekend around that.

"I know the idea is much bigger than me," Jones said.

Jobs — or the lack of them — seemed higher on a lot of agendas.

David Goss, the county's economic development director, said he thinks the economy is on the rebound.

"The economy has turned around, and I think there will be more opportunities for small businesses," Goss said. "I think you're going to be more hiring soon, but do we have the workforce for those jobs? If the chamber would take a strong role, I will do everything I can. If

See SOLUTIONS, 6

County, schools eye joint package

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County is poised to be the first county in the state to make a joint effort between the local gov-

ernment and school system to tackle wasted energy.

The county commission and the school board are looking at working together on a performance contract.

The agreement would look at what energy needs are now and what can be done to reduce them in the future.

See PACKAGE, 6

Weather service seeks volunteers

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County spans 247 square miles and from tip to tip, some 25 miles long and 15 miles wide.

But when it comes to reporting rainfall data to a national volunteer database, it all comes down to Leon Pace.

The 75-year-old Belvidere resident is the lone member of the National Weather Service's Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network. The group known as CoCoRaHS, is now the largest

provider of daily precipitation observations in the United States.

To fill in the gaps and in the spirit of March Madness, the weather service is doing a contest to see which state can recruit the most number of CoCoRaHS volunteers. As of March 20, Texas was in first place followed by North Carolina in second with 82 new volunteers.

Pace said a lot of those new volunteers are really needed in north-



Pace

eastern North Carolina. "Pasquotank County has a lot of them, but the rest of us have little to none. I've tried to talk it up in the community, but people say they're too busy."

Pace figures he spend about 10 minutes a day to compile and send the information.

"Once you get your rain gauge set up, it's just a matter of going out there at a specific time of the day, getting the measurement and then going back to the computer and putting in the information.

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