PERQUINANS YEEKILY

"News from Next Door"

APRIL 3, 2013 - APRIL 9, 2013



Rotary students announced, 3 Softball team gets first 4 Rivers win, 6

50 cents

Students debate gun control

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

bate the future of guns in is," Castle said. American, 125 Perquimans County students voiced their views last week.

under teacher Mike Castle, and math students taught by Robert Spruill, formed

against it and some were in favor of it, but for the peo-Social studies students ple who were on the fence, deficit. I think it really was an eyeopening experience."

teams to make arguments freshman to seniors. They didn't have a firm stance were encouraged to ask in the U.S. is obesity. They

for or against gun control. were grouped in teams on the gun issue. The requestions. social studies side. It was "You had some who were the second such cross discipline effort. Last fall students studied the federal

The students ranged from up of students who really

"I think they got a deep- of four with two students mainder were pretty much er understanding of how coming from the math side equally divided between al things I heard was there While lawmakers de- big an issue gun control and two students from the those who were in favor of or opposed to gun control.

Members of the community, including Sheriff Eric Tilley and staff from the central school office came Castle estimates the in to judge the presentalargest segment was made tions. Students themselves also judged their peers and

"One of the more unusua place in Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, where there is a requirement that you have to have a gun in the home," Castle said. "After they did that, they had a 89 percent decrease in crime. Another group argued that in many ways has gun the leading cause of death

made the argument that gun death made up only a small percentage.'

A team with Grant Walker, Scotty Collins, Jessie Howard and Sam Terranova looked at among other things the cases of gun violence in Canada. The neighbor to the north

See DEBATE, 2

Tourney to benefit research for ALS

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

A batch of sugar cookies isn't a batch of sugar cookies to Joan Hunter. Neither is a bottle of catsup.

Hunter sees much more. She sees them as a way to a cure Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

She's the niece of baseball great Jimmy Hunter and brother of Gary Hunter. The two men share two things. They both died of ALS and they both loved to

play ball. Gary Hunter died at age 42 in 2006. He'd worked for United Parcel Service for about 20 years and was a native of Perquimans County and graduate of Perquimans County High School. He later went on to play baseball at Chowan College. He left behind his wife Sherry and two sons,

Ryan and Wayne. Hunter Joan can't change their fate, but she is working on a men's softball tournament later this month that she hopes will raise money to find a cure for the disease known to many as Lou Gehrig's Dis-

The event April 27-28 is a one-pitch men's softball tournament at the Jimmy Catfish Hunter Complex in Winfall.

There has been a tournament each fall for the past 14 years to honor Jimmy Hunter, but the one this month is named for Gary. One fundraiser associated with the fall tournament is a golf ball drop. It's being moved to event this month.

Joan Hunter has no illusions that the new event will ever come close to the success of the September event. But she's hopeful.

"This September for the Catfish ALS tournament will be our 15th. This one for Gary, my brother, isn't going to be as large. We know that. Last year we raised \$21,000 at Jimmy's tournament. If we raise \$5,000 or \$6,000 or \$10,000 we'd be very happy for Gary's tournament.

And that's where the sugar cookies and catsup

See TOURNAMENT, 2

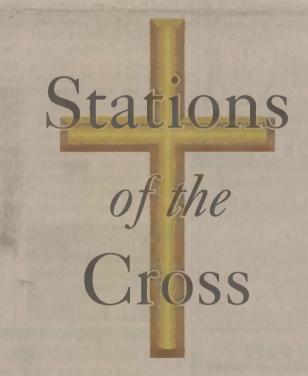




STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Pastor Larry Bowden reads the passage for the first station of the cross Friday during a ceremony near Hertford United Methodist Church.





Mark Rossnagel carries the cross during a Stations of the Cross event down King Street in Hertford, Friday.

Auction could drag on

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Last week's foreclosure auction of more than 1,500 acres in and around Albemarle Plantation didn't close the books on the sale.

That chapter might not be written until next week or perhaps sometime this spring.

Some 54 residential lots and 1,500 acres of undeveloped property went for sale. But the sale is subject to a 10-day period where bids can be raised. The clock started Monday when Perquimans County received the notice of sale.

Clerk of Court Todd Tilley said the process can take time.

"Every time there is an upset bid, the clock starts again." Tilley said. "I've seen these things go on for six or eight months or more. It doesn't happen often, but it does seldom happen."

The new bids will have to be 5 percent more than the original bid or \$750, whichever is more. If a property sold originally for \$20,000, and somebody bids \$21,000, the clock starts again.

Tom McInnis, the auctioneer last week, said some people are already ready to bid more.

"They're already chomping at the bit," McInnis said Monday from his office in Rockingham.

Charlie Ward, a former commissioner, county bought five parcels last

See AUCTION, 2

Higher prices may bolster cotton crop

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

farmers may be planting more cotton than the prices are rising, according to Lewis Smith.

Statewide the USDA is projecting there will be 23 percent fewer acres in Perquimans, is expectof cotton planted in the state this year. Smith, the extension agent serving Perquimans County, had heard the figure would be lower. But he said the local farmers he's been talking to are more bullish now on cotton.

"A month ago cotton prices started climbing

back. I'd heard that cotton was going to be down as much as 35 percent, Perquimans County but the latest figure I've heard is 20 percent.'

Across the U.S., cotton projections show because acreage is projected to be down 19 percent from 12.3 million acres to 10 mil-

Soybeans, the top crop ed to be stable nationally and down only slightly in North Carolina. Soybeans represent about 30,000 to 32,000 acres in Perquimans.

Corn, the number two local crop, is thought to be stable in the U.S. and

See COTTON, 2

BROWSING FOR EGGS



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Featured

Property

of the Week

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Aniya Lyons, Luke Smith and Alex Engnell race to find eggs Saturday during an Easter Egg hunt at The Brian Center in Hertford. About 25 children participated in the hunt.



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