

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

JUN 12 REC'D



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"News from Next Door"

JUNE 12, 2013 - JUNE 18, 2013

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## Shoaf: Expanding business may retain local dollars

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Existing Perquimans County businesses may be able to capture some of the dollars that are flowing to neighboring counties by expanding what they sell.

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf told business leaders last week that it may not be practical to expect to stem all of the lost revenue. He spoke as well as Dave Goss, the economic developer for

the county and Jennings Gray, a retail development specialist for Electricities in Raleigh.

"Maybe some of the leakage is not enough to justify a new business, but if you're an already established business, you could look to expand," Shoaf said. One example was in the area of



Shoaf

sporting goods. That's something that is a market where people are forced to go outside the county. There are others.

One of the largest areas of leakage is in the area of motor vehicles and parts. One study estimates Perquimans County misses out on \$17 million in sales in that department alone. Gray, quoting a newer study, said the true figure may be closer to \$6.3 million. But luring a new car dealership to Perquimans Coun-

ty is not likely to be in the cards. Sid Eley, the executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, remembers when Hertford had three new car dealerships.

"But people aren't buying a new car every year like they were then," Eley said. "I think the key is for a business to say, hey, I sell wing nuts, but start stocking some sporting goods."

Goss pointed out that car dealerships of today are vastly more

strict when it comes to who can get a car dealership and where. He offered no encouragement that Hertford would be a target.

The updated figures presented by Gray estimates Perquimans County can supply only about \$52 million of the \$115 million in local demand for retail goods, food and drink. But even the new numbers may be flawed. The 2012 report by Dun and Bradstreet and Esri shows Perquimans with no gasoline sales.

## Chief gives security tips to area businesses

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The old rules of business security still apply, but Hertford Police Chief Douglas Freeman said there are new things people need to be concerned about.

Freeman spoke to a gathering of city leaders and businesses recently at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking to businesses about security isn't new to Freeman. For four years when he lived in Onslow County, that was his full-time job with law enforcement. Twenty years ago it talks about the need for solid locks and extra lighting. Those are still important, but computer security now is a large issue.

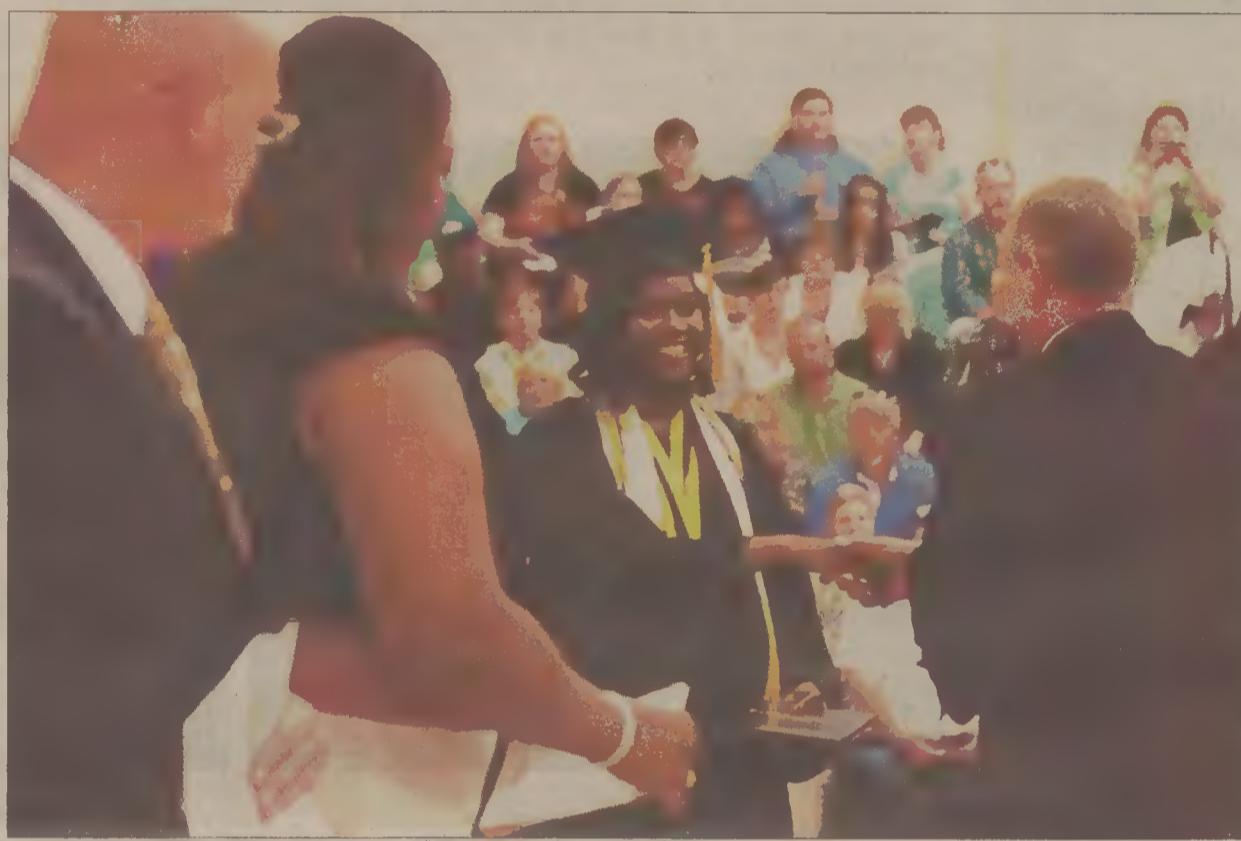
Freeman urged businesses to have employees agree to a code of conduct. The wording can be what the employer wants, but it gives workers a clear understanding of what is expected from them and what rules they need to abide by.

That can include a dress code and guidelines for how to greet customers. Some potential employees who might be borderline may see such rules and pass.

"It helps you weed out people you really don't want," Freeman said.

See SECURITY, 7

## Graduates face new challenges



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County High graduate Tierra Knight shakes hands with school board member Steve Magaro and glances over to school Principal Chante' Lassiter Friday night.

## Storm forces ceremony indoors

Valedictorian Amber Winslow adjusts the microphone before speaking Friday at the Perquimans County High School graduation.



By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A journey of more than 4,700 days ended Friday for 114 graduates of Perquimans County High School.

Valedictorian Amber Winslow touched on the milestone in her graduation address. She also looked at the future and urged the class to embrace the uncomfortable change that will come with growth.

"We've been going to school for the last 13 years of our lives," Winslow said. "Whether we like it or not, it's become a habit, something we do every year, Monday through Friday. Oh, we get breaks for summer and Christmas, but otherwise we were full-time students. We're comfortable being students in high school. It's not necessarily been the most awesome thing in

See GRADUATES, 6

## County offers lean budget

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Clearly, it's not a budget that made everybody happy.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley wanted an additional deputy and five new vehicles. He got three vehicles and no personnel.

No department got new personnel, but the flip side is they also didn't lose any through layoffs.

The school system wanted \$2.5 million in operating funds and \$726,950 in capital. They got \$2.2 million in operating funds and \$215,000 in local capital money. They also got agreement from the county to draw down \$340,000 in lottery funds held by the county for Perquimans County.

The way Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath views it, the schools are getting \$50,000 more in operating funds than it got last year.

"What they do with it is up to them."

The slow economy has left Perquimans County with very little wiggle room when it comes to spending. Property tax revenue was virtually flat and sales tax revenue is projected to rise slightly.

"But that's projected," Heath said. "I don't know

See BUDGET, 2

## State, local jobless rate drops

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The unemployment rate fell in Perquimans County and most of North Carolina in April.

The local rate dropped from 10.1 percent in March to a 9.4 rate in April. Statewide the average fell from 8.9 to 8.5.

But the Perquimans County rate is no better than it was a year before. Statewide 68 counties still had rates of between 5 and 10 percent.

Still economists are saying the picture is getting better.

Mike Walden, a professor at N.C. State University, provides an economic outlook every six months. In his latest report for the summer he sees both the national and state economies growing over the next two years.

The bad news is the growth is likely to be in places that have already seen growth — the metro areas like Raleigh and Charlotte.

"The economic divides in North Carolina likely won't close in the near future," Walden concludes in his report. "Economic trends and technologies appear to be favoring metropolitan areas over non-metropolitan regions. As growth continues, metropolitan areas will likely expand their geographic

scope — hence, counties designated as metropolitan will likely increase in the future. Challenges will persist for bringing economic growth to all regions of North Carolina."

While the North Carolina economic picture is rosy, it is rosier in some places than others. The Asheville, Durham-Chapel Hill, Charlotte and Raleigh-Cary areas have seen the greatest economic growth and are likely to continue to see the most growth and lowest unemployment rates over the next year and a half. Walden expects less growth and higher jobless rates in the Fayetteville, Hickory and Rocky Mount areas.

Things are looking

See JOBLESS, 2

## SUMMER IS A BREEZE



PHOTO COURTESY CHUCK PAGELS

Wayne James (left), on the trumpet, and Chris Bittner on the saxophone perform during the Summer Breeze concert series kick-off event sponsored by the Newbold-White House on Sunday. Both are members of the band Connected. The next concert Summer Breeze concert is July 14 with Banjo Island. Concerts are normally held at the house, but Sunday's event was moved to the Perquimans County Recreation Center because of weather. About 105 people attended.



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<p>Forbes Realty &amp; Auctions, LLC NCRL#22873 NCAL#9180 252-426-1380 • www.forbesuc.com</p>	<p>FORECLOSURE</p> <p>806 Four Mile Desert Rd, Hertford</p>	<p>10.01 +/- Acres</p> <p>House Built in 2005</p>	<p>2700 - 2800 +/- Square Feet</p> <p>House Freshly Painted</p>	<p>4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths</p> <p>Large Master Bedroom</p>	<p>2 Car Attached Garage</p> <p>Listed at \$254,900</p>	<p>Featured Property of the Week</p> <p>www.forbesuc.com 252-426-1380</p>
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