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Statement fuels rumors of AP's second phase

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Chinese investors may end up developing the 1,400-acre second phase of the Albemarle Plantation, but officials in Perquimans County say it's not a done deal yet.

Last week the top economic development official in Pasquotank County made announcement in a meeting of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission. Wayne Harris is executive director of the group.

"A group of Chinese investors have purchased Phase II of Albemarle Plantation," Harris said. "That is 1,400 acres and they will be announcing their specific development plans in September." Harris said he got the

information from a "very reliable source, but second hand." Dave Goss, the economic developer in Perquimans County, did not dismiss the chance that such a development may occur, but said it's not to that point yet.

"I think that's a little premature," Goss said about the statement by Harris. "I'm really shocked somebody would be making an announcement like that." What is true is 1,500 acres adjacent to Albemarle Plantation is being sold through

a foreclosure auction. The sale started in March and includes a 10-day upset bid process. As of last week, a Greenville company was the high bidder on most of the

See 2ND PHASE, 2

STROLLIN' DOWNTOWN



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

People walk down Church Street in downtown Hertford Friday night during the monthly "Friday Night Stroll." Vendors were on hand with items to sell and music was provided on the courthouse lawn. The next Stroll happens July 19.

Melanie Owen (left), Katie Toney and Bill Toney sing Friday night during the downtown stroll in Hertford. Also performing was a group from Lighthouse Tabernacle.



Efforts vowed to protect river

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Some property owners in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties could get a small property tax break if they take steps to keep pollution out of the Little River.

It may be a part of the river that not a lot of people see. The northern part is near Parkville.

But what happens there impacts the quality of the water downstream, and environmental officials want to take small steps now so they won't have to tackle a bigger problem later.

The initiative was launched in February to reverse loss of vegetation and the creation of unfiltered drainage from decades of farming and development.

Dwayne Hinson is a wetland specialist working on the plan.

"It takes a long time to mess it up and it takes a long time to clean it up," Hinson said. "It's not to the point where it's a significant impact, but I guarantee you if it gets to the point the Chowan River did where people wouldn't even use the river, people will speak up."

In the 1970s the Chowan River was in trouble. Steps were taken to reverse the damage and they have helped. Hinson doesn't want to see the Little River get to that point.

"We've got measures where we can have our cake and eat it too."

The problem with Little River isn't coming from one source.

"Everybody plays a role in it," Hinson said.

The problems have impacted animal populations, weakened flood mitigation and led the U.S. Environmen-

See PROTECT, 2

Student wins state essay contest

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A rising sophomore at Perquimans County High School won the top prize offered by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners for her essay.

Moniqua Gallop, a student of Brandon Young, wrote the winning submission on the topic of the importance of local government. With it came a \$500 cash prize.

She did so after Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath came and spoke to all three of Young's classes.

Young said Heath's effort really made an impact.

"A lot of the kids didn't understand the importance that local government plays," Young said last week. "Mr. Heath spoke on things like the recreation center, the senior center and the public library. These aren't things that local government has to provide, but he told the students that the county did it to make our lives better. You could see it in their eyes that the kids were interested."

students who tended to think it was only decisions made in Raleigh and Washington that mattered.

"I think it opened up the eyes of a lot of ninth and 10th graders," Young said.

All three classes were assigned the task of writing an essay, and the top five from each class was chosen to advance.

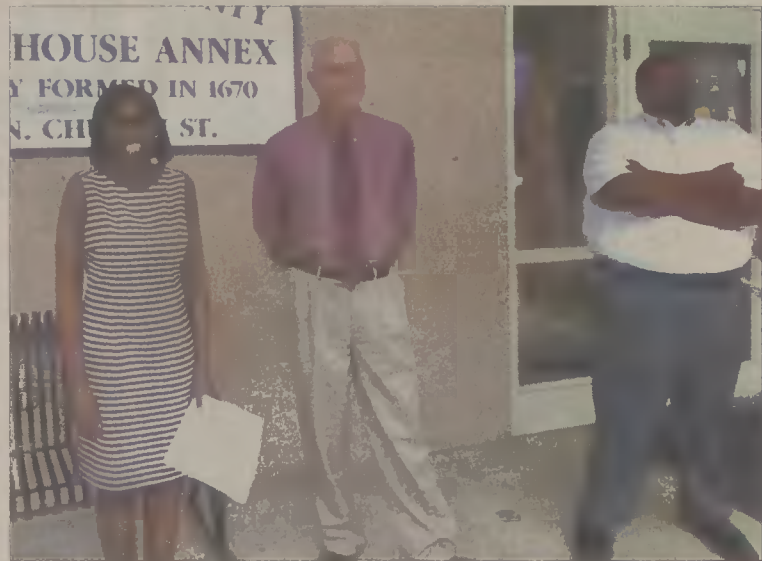
"When I told Moniqua she won, she was happy, her family was happy and I was happy for her."

Young said she plans to set the money aside for college. Her goal, he said, is to be a pediatrician.

Heath said he was happy to

The speech hit home to many

See CONTEST, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Moniqua Gallop (left) stands with Perquimans County School Superintendent Dwayne Lassiter and teacher Brandon Young outside the courthouse annex after last week's presentation.



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