

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Fall sports season in swing — Page 8

"News from Next Door"

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COUNTY TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT FOUR SCHOOLS

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County is moving forward on security improvements at four schools. Three should be complete

by November and Hertford Grammar School should be finished by the end of the year.

Eure & Sons Construction was the low bidder on a plan to remodel the entrances to Perquimans County High

School, Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans Central School. The \$70,880 bid was \$7,588 lower than one offered by A.R. Chesson Construction.

But the layout of Hertford Grammar School will

require much more renovation and remodeling. School officials hope they can have it finished by the end of the 2013-14 school year.

The plan is to provide a single sealed off entrance for visitors to enter and leave

each school after school starts. The idea is that would prevent an incident like the one at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December.

The work at PCHS and PCS should be completed no later than Sept. 20 and

the work at PCMS should be completed no later than Nov. 8. In that case there were material delays that were beyond the control of the contractor.

See SECURITY, 5

Bridge hearing set for Sept. 17

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a hearing Sept. 17 to debate the replacement of the S-Bridge in Hertford.

The Tuesday event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center starts with a pre-hearing and open house from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The formal public hearing starts at 7 p.m. followed by a question and answer session.

Teresa Gresham, a consultant working on the project, said DOT will be updating a website on the project in the next few weeks. The address is (<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/US17BusinessNC37Improve>).

The state has narrowed it down to three choices.

* Alternative B, a 15-foot swing span bridge near to where the current bridge is.

* Alternative D-Mod, a 33-

See HEARING, 2

Felon faces drug, gun charges

From staff reports

A 39-year old man was arrested at his home Aug. 2 and charged with a number of drug charges and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Marvin Moore was charged after Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputies served a search warrant on his home in the 1700 block of Harvey Point Road.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said Moore immediately posted a \$35,000 secured bond and was released.

Moore faces charges of maintain a drug dwelling, felony possession of cocaine, possession of a stolen firearm and possession of a firearm by a felon. He faces additional charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, Schedule II narcotics and marijuana.



MOORE

BREEZY EVENING



PHOTO COURTESY CHUCK PAGELS

The band Sojourner performs at the Newbold-White House on Sunday as part of the Summer Breeze concert series. The band will perform in downtown Hertford on Sept. 7 at 10:30 a.m. as part of Indian Summer Festival.

Graduation rate soars higher

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County saw a 5.3 percentage point increase in the graduation rate last year and a huge improvement for black students.

The 2012-13 rate for all students was 89 percent, compared to 83.7 percent the year before.

The rate for black students climbed from 79.5 percent to more than 95 percent. Statewide last year, just 77.5 percent of black students graduated within four years.

"It's something we can be very proud of," said Superintendent Dwayne Stallings of the across the board improvements. "It shows the dedication of Principal (Chante) Jordan and her staff at the high

See GRAD RATES, 5

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES			
SCHOOL DISTRICT	2013 (PERCENT)	2012 (PERCENT)	2013 BLACK GRAD RATE (PERCENT)
EC-Pasquotank	83	84.1	83.9 ↓
Camden	84.7	85.5	95 ↑
Currituck	87.7	87.4	88.9 ↑
E-Chowan	81.5	78.3	79.4 ↑
Perquimans	89	83.7	95 ↑
State	82.5	80.4	78.7 ↑

↑↓ DENOTES INCREASE/DECREASE FROM 2012 SOURCE: N.C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

'Cowboy' to spin tunes at festival

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

If you've got a song in your head, there is a good chance that Adam Evans has it on his laptop.

The man better known as DJ Cowboy has 76,300 tunes on his computer at last count. He has to, because at least three times a month he plays some of them at events like weddings and private parties.

On Sept. 6-7 he'll be spinning his tunes at the Indian Summer Festival for the second year.

The 40-year-old Chowan County

native got into the DJ business 18 years ago.

"I had another DJ take me in under his wing and show me the ropes," Evans said Monday.

He started doing the work seriously about 12 years ago. His man job is director of technology for Colony Tire.

Evans says he's always been interested in music. He played in the drum line at John A. Holmes High School and grew up listening to music.

Being a disc jockey isn't quite as easy as it looks Evans says.



EVANS

"A lot of people just think I have it on iTunes and hit play," he said. "A lot of it watching to crowd and seeing how they respond and playing what they want."

His equipment may look like an old-fashioned vinyl record player, but the music is digital. But it adds something that modern plays have tried to remove — white noise. That hiss or pop that many older people associate with listening to old records.

See 'COWBOY', 5

College program reaches out to kids, parents

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County parents visit a dorm room at East Carolina University during a recent tour of the campus. The visit was made possible by the GEAR UP program. The idea is to get both students and their parents interested in the prospect of attending college.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Convincing a teenager they have what it takes to go to college is one thing.

Getting the parents to buy in is equally critical.

The Perquimans County Schools has been working for the past year on doing just that through a program called "GEAR UP."

The project is designed to increase the

See COLLEGE, 5



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