

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates confident after second straight win, 7

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

Sheriff: Economy driving up burglary rate

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County saw a spike in burglaries and an increase in cases of aggravated assault in the latest crime statistics released by the federal government.

Last year the number of burglaries increased from 66 in 2011 to 95. The

number of cases of aggravated assault rose from two to eight. A crime moves from a basic assault to aggravated assault if a weapon is used or if substantial harm is caused.

The Uniform Crime Statistics are compiled across the country and measure the most serious crimes.

What the numbers don't show at first glance is that the number of offenses

that were cleared also increased, Sheriff Eric Tilley said last week.

The sheriff's office cleared nine aggravated assault cases last year compared to zero the year before. The number of cases rose from two to eight in that period.

The department also cleared 15

See BURGLARY, 9

"Every area has (crime) problems, but we're no way as bad off as some. Everybody has problems. Our economy is still not well. People steal to survive, they don't steal to get rich."

Eric Tilley

Perquimans sheriff

Softball, walk to raise ALS money

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County will host two events this month that combined have raised about \$700,000 to fight the disease that struck baseball legend and Perquimans native Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter.

The ALS Softball Tournament will be held Sept. 27-29 at the Jimmy Hunter Fields in Winfall at Perquimans County Middle School. There will be an ALS Walk that Saturday that starts at Perquimans County High School and travels to the S-Bridge in downtown Hertford.

Helen Hunter, the wife of Jimmy Hunter, coordinates the walk. She estimates the effort started in 2000 has raised about \$400,000 for efforts to find a cure for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. It is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Walkers at the event are asked to raise money before hand.

"I do a letter writing campaign before it starts," Hunter said. "I try and send letters to people who live away from here so you won't be asking the same people to do double (donations). I've had good luck with it."

She expects about 125 people will show up the day of the event to walk. Most of them can make the loop from the school to the bridge and back to the school in about an hour. On the way back, the route takes walkers past Hunter's grave at Cedarwood

See ALS MONEY, 2

GREAT GRAPES



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Walker Rayburn speaks to visitors about how to grow muscadine grapes, at the Newbold-White House, on Saturday. Rayburn, his wife Marjorie and Erin Eure, an Extension service specialist, put on the program for about two dozen people. An effort started in 2007 has now produced 90 grapevines at the historic home. The program was sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association and the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.



County sees rise in solar requests

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County could be home to five solar power projects in the immediate future.

The first — Solar Green LLC — has been in the planning stages for three years. It would generate about 17.5 megawatts from a 100-acre site off U.S.17 near the Chowan County line.

Three more are being considered tonight in a special 7 p.m. meeting of the Perquimans County Planning Board. According to officials, construction could start on two of those soon.

SOLON Corp. is working to get permits from the state for two of the three on the agenda tonight. Of the three, one is on Two Mile Desert Road in Winfall the other two on Belvidere Road near Bagley Swamp Road.

SOLON Corp. is in the process of running legal notices for a certificate of public necessity from the N.C. Utilities Commission for the Winfall project and a 97-acre on Belvidere Road. People have until 10 days after the last publication on Oct. 2 to submit comments to the utilities commission.

Solar Green has completed that process with the utilities commission for the project on U.S. 17.

The third SOLON project involves 155-acres on the northeast corner of Belvidere Road and Bagley Swamp Road. No legal ads have been published for it.

The fifth project would also be developed by Solar Green. The site was not

See SOLAR POWER, 9

Farmers may have above average year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County farmers may not see the profits they did last year, but the 2013 harvest won't be a bad one overall, according to area extension director Lewis Smith.

"When all is said and done when you look at the last 10



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years in terms of profitability, it will be better than average. It won't be a banner year like last year. Last year was a perfect storm in terms of prices and good yields. But I do think corn may be better than most."

Farming and forestry are largest industries in the county.

"I'd say its the second most leading source of income is probably state employment," Lewis said. "You have the schools,

See FARMERS, 9

State: Perquimans population growing

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County's population grew during a period from 2010 through 2012 while surrounding counties saw their numbers decline.

The N.C. Office of Management and Budget estimates show Perquimans' population hit 13,660 in July of last year, an increase of 1.5 percent.

The growth was spurred by an influx of people moving in from outside

the area. The number of births in that period (290) was less than the number of deaths (373) in the same period.

The increase in Perquimans bucked a trend for northeastern North Carolina. Only Currituck, Perquimans and Dare saw population gains. In addition to Perquimans' neighbors, Camden, Hertford, Bertie, Washington Tyrell, Hyde and Northampton counties saw population declines.

See POPULATION, 9

Firefighter finds new challenge

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Michael Cartwright didn't set out to be a firefighter.

But in 1980 he graduated Perquimans County High School and joined the Inter County Fire Department because a friend from Woodville thought it would be fun.

In 1983, he joined the Elizabeth City Fire Department and made it a job.

Now he's retiring as deputy chief in charge of operations and training for the ECFD and starting a new career as a teacher in Perquimans County. Cartwright will head a new program designed to give



CARTWRIGHT

See CARTWRIGHT, 9

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