

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Backcourt twins bring distinct flair; 7

"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 15, 2014 - JANUARY 21, 2014

50 cents

Homeowner may get answer on fate of home

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

In September, Nancy Theodore stood in the Perquimans County Recreation Center and pleaded with the N.C. Department of Transportation for an answer. Was she going to lose her home or not?

She didn't get the answer then, but she might get one after Thursday.

The N.C. Department of Transportation plans to sit down with other state and federal agencies on Jan. 16 to present its recommendation for a replacement for the S-Bridge. DOT is leaning towards a new fixed bridge

that extends through what is now Theodore's house. The home was built in 1952. "We love the house, we love the town and we want to stay, but this is what town officials want," Theodore said last week.

Town officials and the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce did go on

record as favoring an option that would keep traffic flowing down Church Street.

Unlike some road projects that require the massive relocation of dozens or even hundreds of residents, the options for replacing the S-Bridge in downtown Hertford would require the relocation of just one hom-

owner — Nancy Theodore and her husband.

She's frustrated by the entire process. When they bought the house in 2009 she didn't have a clue that she could be losing it less than 10 years later.

"The real estate agency said they were talking about replacing the bridge, but that

they'd been talking about it for 15 years and there was nothing definite."

Even though she said she knew there was talk of replacing the bridge, Theodore said in her mind she thought that meant just that — replacing the bridge. She

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WINTER BRINGS BITTER COLD, WIND

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The savage arctic cold front that blew through last week had electric meters spinning and may have heads spinning too when the next power bill arrives.

The temperature started falling Jan. 6 and by early the next day temperatures were in single digits in some places. The wind chill made it feel like it was below zero.

That sent energy use soaring. Albemarle Electric Members Cooperative reported a new record peak demand of 77 megawatts early the morning of Jan. 7. The previous peak was 68.5 megawatts set in December 2010. The day before the new record, the peak demand was 50 megawatts.

Individual figures for Hertford were not available, but the agency that provides power to the town also reported record demand.

Between Duke Power and the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency reached a peak load of 13,918 megawatts Tuesday. That shattered a previous record of 12,738 megawatts set on July 2012.

See COLD, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

High winds flattened a barn owned by David Riddick at 438 Turnpike Road Saturday but left a new metal building intact. Riddick, 57, said the barn had been there as long as he's been alive. The winds also destroyed a car port.

High winds destroy barn in Belvidere

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

High winds Saturday destroyed a barn in Belvidere but caused no apparent injuries.

Northeastern North Carolina and much of the central part of the state was under a tornado watch late Saturday afternoon. A 50-year-old woman in Raleigh was killed when wind blew the top of a

tree off and it fell on her. A 30-year-old Charlotte man was also killed in an accident there that was blamed on the storm.

According to Duke Energy Progress, over 46,000 customers statewide were without power at the height of the storm. As of 5:30 p.m. Sunday, fewer than 150 homes were still in the dark. Most

See WINDS, 2

Man robs gas station

From staff reports

A Hertford gas station was robbed Saturday morning by a man who then sexually assaulted the store clerk.

Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman said the same man might have robbed the Andy's restaurant in Winfall the week before.

The clerk at the Wilco Hess station on Church Street told police that the man walked into the convenience store about 6 a.m. with either a shotgun or a rifle. He was wearing a gray hat with a black hooded sweatshirt turned inside out.

The clerk said the man told her not to move or he would shoot her. He incident report said he then got her into a back room where he told her to take her pants off and the assault took place.

Surveillance cameras in the store captured the robbery. The suspect, described as a black male about 5-foot-9 weighing about 230 to 240 pounds. He was wearing jeans with a white design on the back pockets and white Nike tennis shoes. A police officer was able to get a print of a Nike-brand shoe and other evidence was collected.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call the Hertford Police Department at 426-5587. If no one answers, the answering service will have an option to leave a message. Contact can also be made through Perquimans County Dispatch by calling 426-5751.

The police department in cooperation with Wilco/Hess is offering a \$5,500 reward to anyone leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved.

Food pantry reaching those who can't get to them

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Winfall-based food pantry that has been serving Perquimans County residents since 1980 will start reaching out to those who can't reach them.

Open Door Food Pantry will partner with the ICPTA bus system starting Feb. 3. Clients who have trouble getting to the pantry in the Appletree Mall shopping center can call the Thursday before and schedule to have the bus pick them up. There will be no charge.

For now, the service will only be offered on the first Monday and Wednesday of

each month. Some of the details are still being worked out.

Rosemary Smith, who operates the pantry, said the plan is to service areas north of U.S. 17 one of those days and serve the area south of U.S. 17 on the other day.

People in need can only use the Winfall pantry once a month. They receive what amounts to three days of food for those in their household.

Smith doesn't expect a large number of people will use the service, but hopes that it will serve a segment of the population that doesn't have transportation. "Our goal is to reach peo-

ple we haven't been able to reach before," Smith said.

A lot of the clients are senior citizens on fixed incomes.

"This way we can bring them to open door for free," she said. "A majority of the people who come are on food stamps. They get by, and some get by better than others."

The pantry serves about 250 households a month. The number has been rising since late summer when government started tightening down on the SNAP food program.

The number to call to schedule an appointment with ICPTA is 338-4477.

Smith said she was approached by Herbert Mullen of ICPTA after a similar pilot program in Elizabeth City was considered a success.

Given the size of the buses and the frequency, Smith knows the program won't create a huge influx of new clients.

"The number won't be huge, but we have some people who have to pay other people \$5 or \$10 to bring them here. Maybe it will help them. I know we have one client who may visit us every three or four months, and we know she needs the help more often than that but she can't find anybody

to give her a ride."

Not only is driving from places like New Hope or areas of northern Perquimans County difficult, once at the shelter clients have to wait to get their food. For some, that may take 30 minutes. If however new clients come in, they have to be processed and that takes manpower away from food distribution and the wait could be an hour.

For the trial run with the buses, Smith will know which clients will be on the bus and can have the food packed and waiting for them.

"We'll have a whole new team recruited to get the

food packed and the files pulled and we'll actually be able to bring it out to the bus. They won't even have to come inside. The only thing that would slow us up is if we had somebody who is brand new. In that case we could get the baseline information over the phone and when the person arrives we could have somebody go out to the bus and complete the application."

For February service ICPTA must be contacted by Jan. 30.

The pantry obtains food from the regional food pantry in Elizabeth City. It's funded by donations, including a number of churches.

Schools rolling out Parent Portal website

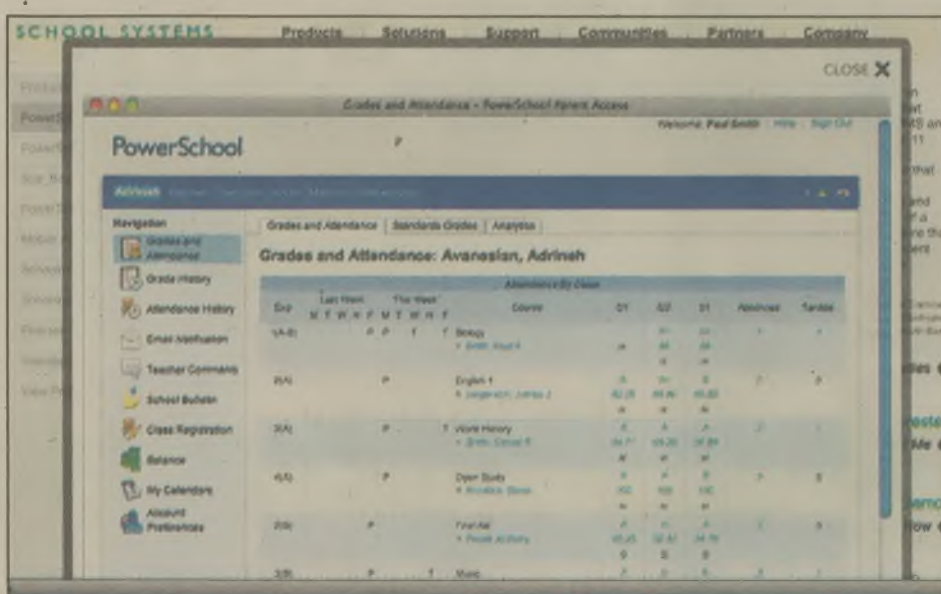
BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Since the dawn of time when schools started handing out assignments for students to complete at home, parents have been asking their kids the age-old question — "do you have any homework?"

Sometimes a child's answer may have been, well, less than 100 percent honest.

Now parents will have

See WEBSITE, 2



SCREEN CAPTURE FROM ACTUAL WEBSITE

Perquimans parents soon will have online access to their child's classroom progress.

King to be honored Monday

From staff reports

Organizations from throughout Perquimans County are invited to participate in a motorcade Monday as part of a program to honor the late Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King on his birthday.

The event starts at 11 a.m. at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. At noon the motorcade will proceed down Harvey Point Road through downtown Hertford, across the S-Bridge to Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Winfall.

Laura Aples of Emmanuel Church will be the keynote speaker.

The executive board of the local NAACP branch includes Gilbert Vaughn, president, Fred Yates, vice president, Peggy Moldin, secretary, Mae McGee, assistant secretary, Vera Murrill treasurer and Shirley Skinner, assistant treasurer.

The NAACP is asking every organization in Perquimans County to be represented with at least one car or float with the organization's name or logo displayed.

