PERQUINANS INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPERTY OF T BRAY

HABITAT **HONORS** TOP VOLUNTEERS. PAGE 4

"News from Next Door"

APRIL 2, 2014 - APRIL 8, 2014

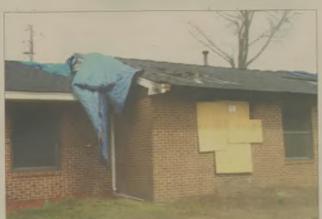
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Fire damaged apartments will be repaired

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Plywood covers a window and blue tarps still cover holes in the roof of a four-unit apartment that was damaged by fire in February. The interior of the unit off Wynne Fork Road will be gutted and restored in the coming months.



BY PETER WILLIAMS **News Editor**

A four-unit apartment complex heavily damaged by fire in February will be repaired and the 18 people who were displaced have been or soon will be resettled elsewhere.

The actual cause of the blaze was never determined. Repairs are expected to cost upwards of \$200,000 and will be covered by insurance.

At least 30 firefighters from departments in Hertford, Winfall and Bethel responded to the blaze at the Hertford Housing Authority complex on Wynne Fork Road.

Barry Overman, the fire marshal for Elizabeth

IN A RELATED STORY

■ Cause of King Street fires unknown — Page 2

City and Camden County was called in to inves-

"We had people go in and do some work,"

Overman said last week. They were able to determine that the fire started in a bedroom of a unit at 222 Wynne Fork

"Unfortunately we didn't have enough left in

See DAMAGED, 4

Slow, steady growth

BY PETER WILLIAMS **News Editor**

The Albemarle region as a whole grew in population between 2010 and 2013 despite losses in two of the five

Perquimans County added 148 more people during the period, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While that amounts to a jump of 1.1 percent — a third of the statewide average — the growth along with more people in Camden and Currituck counties more than made up for the 747 people that were no longer counted in Pasquotank and Chowan counties.

Slow and steady growth is a good thing according to Perquimans County Manger Frank Heath.

"I think good, steady growth is the kind we like to see. Explosive growth can overwealm you," Heath said.

The county manager said new homes are being built in Albemarle Plantation as well as elsewhere in the county.

"We're not to where we need to be for residential, but growth has been starting to trickle in," he said.

Too much growth too quickly can overwealm the infrastructure. The growth Perquimans County has been seeing can easily be accommodated with the existing water utility.

The agency used a base figure from the April 1, 2010 Census to start with. Population was then estimated every July 1 for the 2010, 2011,

See GROWTH, 4

County: KICKIN' AND SCREAMIN'



Perguimans Recreation Center, Saturday. It was the third annual event and drew participants from a multi-

Patrick Stapel of Rock Hill, S.C. performs his routine during Saturday's Taekwondo competition.

Schools pitch traffic solution

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Officials propose spending \$81,000 to ease a traffic problem that is impacting Perquimans Central School and anybody who is passing through on the road that connects downtown Winfall with Hertford at the wrong time of day.

The plan is in two phases and calls for asking the Perquimans County Commission for \$31,000 in capital money in the 2014-15 budget to pay for the second phase.

"We want parents to know we really are trying," said Brenda Lassiter, a spokesperson for the school system.

Traffic snarls in the early morning and mid-afternoon are typical on Winfall Boulevard — a link between Creek Road and Winfall's Main Street.

The school is home to 488 students, and typically 315 ride a bus. The rest - more than 170 of them --- are picked up by family members in cars. When the weather is bad — as it's been a lot this winter - car ridership increases.

The current traffic pattern routes the cars through a traffic circle in front of the school. The new pattern will take the cars around to the back of the school and move the school buses from the back to the north side of the site.

The school system has been working on the

See SOLUTION, 4

Some road projects threatened

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

The failure to pass a federal highway funding bill would impact 108 road and bridge projects in North Carolina, but replacement of the S-Bridge in Hertford is not one of them.

Last week Gov. Pat McCrory and his transportation secretary told members of the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce that



the state is at risk of stalling \$1.1 billion worth of highway and bridge projects next fiscal year.

McCrory called on Congress to renew a 2012 law that provides federal money to transportation projects across the country.

the S-Bridge with a fixed-span bridge will require federal money. On federal projects, the state the rest is covered by the federal

beyond the scope of the 2014-15 federal budget. At this point,



MCCRORY

spokeswoman for the N.C. DOT, said that The \$20 million to replace means the S-Bridge project falls after the 2014-15 federal highway bill. Projects that are scheduled to start in 2014-15 will pays 20 percent of the cost and be impacted, but those that are already underway - like the bridge replacement project in The Hertford project falls downtown Elizabeth City, would

See PROJECTS, 4

Program urges more grads to attend college

From staff reports

ton campus will host a program on Sunday aimed at getting local teens in Perquimans and Chowan counties to start thinking about pursu-

ing an education after high school. More importantly, the event will get local seventh-, eighth- and 12th grade students, and their parents, thinking about how to pay for col-

"It's a program about college savings and ways to pay for it," said Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, dean of COA's Edenton-Chowan cam-

pus, referring to the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Un-College of The Albemarle's Edendergraduate Programs, or GEAR UP event, set for 6 p.m. April 10 in COA's Culinary Arts building.

The GEAR UP event is supported by the GEAR UP North Carolina initiative and is funded by a \$28.6 million grant from the Department of Education. Perquimans and Chowan County public schools are part of the 46 middle and high schools included as part of the GEAR UP North Carolina initiative and they are two of 11 school districts served

See MORE GRADS, 4

April 5th, 2014 9 am - 3 pm
Perquimans County Recreation Center, Granby St., Hertford, NC
Free Show Admission - Fun & Educational Children's
Programs - Gardening Demos & Lectures Vendors, Plant Sale, Bake Sale. Ask a Master Gardner Booth. Call 252-482-6585 for more information Raffles-50/50 Breakfast/Lunch available

ALBEMARLE MASTER GARDENERS oring Garden Show