

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Pirates start strong in Easter tourney, 8
APR 3 2 REC'D 50 cents

STAFF PHOTO
BY PETER WILLIAMS

Participants in an upcoming NGA pro golf tournament at Albemarle Plantation discuss plans on a balcony that overlooks one of the holes at The Sound Links, last week. Pictured are Rick Durrent Jr., vice president of Biggs Cadillac-Buick-GMC, Todd Barbee, tournament director for the NGA, Harry Umphlett, a sales consultant at Biggs and Kenny Saunders, the golf pro at The Sound Links.



Pro tourney gets sponsor

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An Elizabeth City Cadillac dealership has signed on as the title sponsor for the NGA pro tour's tournament at The Sound Links at Albemarle Plantation.

Biggs Cadillac-Buick-GMC cited their long bond with the Perquimans County golfing community in announcing the decision. The tournament will be held June 23-29 and should bring more than 150 young pro golfers to the area.

"We realized 20 years ago what this development would involve and that started

a relationship," said Rick Durrent Jr., vice president of the dealership.

"Over the years we've probably sold hundreds of cars to residents down here and serviced far far more. Service is a big thing for us. When we heard of this opportunity to be title sponsor we jumped on it. We're glad to give back to community."

Todd Barbee, the senior tournament director for the NGA, said landing a title sponsor for any event is key. The NGA is based in South Carolina.

"It sets a precedent and the tone for the

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Number of workers is down

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Monthly statistics notwithstanding, there were 107 fewer people working in Perquimans County in February than there were a year ago.

That's the number Larry Parker finds most disturbing.

Parker was talking about the latest figures by the N.C. Department of Commerce. Parker is the public information officer for the Department of Employment Security.

On the surface, the Perquimans jobless rate of 8 percent in February was 2.7 percentage points lower than that it was the year before. The latest February figure was one tenth of a percentage point higher than it was the month before, but the figures aren't seasonally adjusted and the Department of Commerce discourages month-to-month comparisons.

But February numbers compared year to year with 2013 show the number of people employed is down by 107.

"Overall there are 107 less people employed in the county. That's in a labor force of 5,000. Year-to-year the rate dropped 2.7 percentage points, and I can't say it's a good or a bad thing."

Some people may view a drop in the unemployment rate as a good thing. It can be, but in some cases it can be a negative sign.

Unemployment can go up or down based on several factors. The rate can decline if the labor pool remains the same and the number of

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EGG HUNTING SEASON



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Dozens of children took part in an Easter Egg Hunt at The Brian Center in Hertford, Friday. The hunt also included a bounce house and tours of a fire truck and rescue vehicle. Jeb Roberts, 2 months (top), sleeps through all of Friday's activities at The Brian Center.

County forms 10-year plan

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Building a new library and merging the emergency management and EMS services should be two of the goals for Perquimans County over the next 10 years.

The recommendations come from a retreat held by the Perquimans County Commission on Feb. 1. The board holds a retreat every other year. The board reviewed the final report on the retreat last week.

The six-member board looked at four core areas that all contribute to enhancing the quality of life in the county. One looks at infrastructure needs, one looks at sustaining county leadership and personnel development, a third focuses on economic development and job creation and another looks at funding educational facilities and programs.

In a 2012 retreat, the board looked at the same four areas and set some priorities. At the time, the county had seen improvement since 1998. Back then the county ranked 92nd in terms of population and in 2012 it was 90th. The property tax rate was 23rd lowest in 2012 and it 1998 it was 86th. Per capita income was the 96th lowest in the state and by 2012 the figure was up to 56th.

County Manager Frank Heath, who was interim county manager in 2012 the last time a retreat was held,

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Church to dedicate its new sanctuary

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Bagley Swamp church will hold a dedication Sunday for a new sanctuary to replace one used by the church for the past 100 years.

Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church will gather to celebrate the opening of their newly constructed, 12,000 square foot facility at 402 Bagley Swamp Road at 4 p.m.

The celebration includes a dedication service and open house. Pastor James

Spaugh said the event is designed for the whole family and the public is encouraged to attend.

"Ten years ago, we dreamed big dreams, prayed bold prayers, and took some significant steps of faith toward this building project," Spaugh said. "I'm praying a lot now about our next steps, about what the next 10 years might hold. I envision using the new facility as resource for the whole community, as well as a powerful ministry tool."

The congregation has roots going back to a Sunday school and camp meeting in 1905. It was officially organized in 1914. It's located in an area between Winfall and

FRIDAY NIGHT SINGIN' AND STROLLIN'



PHOTO BY PAM HADDEN

The band Passion for Christ performed Friday night in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse as part of Friday Night Stroll. The monthly Chamber event is on the third Friday of the month in downtown Hertford through October. Pictured are Jeff Balduf, lead singer; Brent Elliot, guitarist; Tony Turner, sax; Leon Overman, steel guitarist, and Crystal Seymour, drums. The May event will include a street dance and start at 5 p.m.



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