

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

MAY 21, 2014 - MAY 27, 2014



Forbes, Baccus earn state hunting safety titles - 7

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS  
Nita Jackson (left) and her husband John wait Monday during a hearing at the Perquimans County Courthouse. The two face charges that they knew six of their sons were sexually abusing their sister and did nothing to stop it. They were released on bond.



## BROTHERS, PARENTS FACE SEX CHARGES

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Six brothers appeared in court Monday in Perquimans County and asked the judge to appoint an attorney to represent them on charges they sexually abused their sister.

The Jackson brothers and their parents, John and Nita Jackson, appeared before Superior Court Judge Walter Godwin. The family lived in the 700 block

of Chapanoke Road and the brothers and two sisters were home schooled there.

The parents each face charges of felony child abuse, a crime punishable by more than eight years in prison. Four brothers could be sent to prison for life.

District Attorney Andrew Womble appeared in court Monday. He said additional charges are always a possibility. Judge Godwin said he would withhold asking the defendants for a plea

of guilty or not guilty until after they've had a chance to meet with attorney.

Womble said the next scheduled hearing of is July 14.

The abuse of the sister, who is now 16 years old, apparently stopped four years ago, according to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office.

Womble said having a delay between the abuse and the time

See CHARGES, 8

## Computer program will need support

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The suggestion that parents should be responsible for providing their child with a computer was met with a cool reception last week.

Perquimans County leaders were reminded recently that putting a tablet computer into the hands of 1,400 Perquimans County students — and keeping them there — will require extra help from taxpayers. School officials held a joint meeting with the Perquimans County Commission to go over financial issues, update the county on progress and answer questions.

One of the projects is a one-to-one initiative that would provide a tablet computer to every child in third grade through high school. The computers would remain the property of the school system, but they would be issued to each student for use during and after school.

To make the program possible, the school system is seeking a \$860,000 grant from Golden LEAF. That application and another one that would allow Perquimans County to build an industrial-sized boat ramp have made it through three rounds of a competition and the final decision is expected in June. But that's only the start according to Victor Eure, the school system's director of technology. Computers have a finite life and the first tablets will have to be replaced in the future.

"I can tell you from working with Golden LEAF before, they'll want to see

See PROGRAM, 9

## OAK GROVE UMC CELEBRATES 200 YEARS, CIVIL WAR ROLE



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Garry Riggs, a Civil War re-enactor from Vanceboro, explains the drugs that were available to field doctors during the Civil War, in Chapanoke, Saturday. Riggs and others were on hand for a program on the war and the role Oak Grove United Methodist Church played as a makeshift hospital. The church is celebrating its bicentennial Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon with Bishop Hope Morgan Ward.



Civil War re-enactors Bill Ward (left) from Elizabeth City and Hugh Tarkington of Hertford talk about the advances of the rifled musket to visitors Saturday at the Civil War program at Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

## Winfall stands against executions

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The organizer of a campaign to end the death penalty in North Carolina didn't come to Perquimans County seeking an endorsement from the Town of Winfall, but that's what he got.

Stephen Dear, the executive director of the Carrboro-based People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, visited the area because the group is trying to get at least five businesses in each county to sign the pledge.

At the time, he only had one business in Perquimans County. Since that visit, the group has gotten at least five pledges from virtually all North Carolina counties and six businesses in Perquimans. Twenty businesses in Pasquotank County have signed on.

Six local governments have also adopted resolutions. Winfall is the only one in eastern North Carolina.

Dear said the group isn't lobbying hard to get local governments to sign up. Instead it's focused on businesses.

How Winfall became the first to adopt the measure in eastern North Carolina came to pass is a mix of history, fate and timing.

Dear was born in Elizabeth City when his father, the late David Dear lived there as owner and publisher of The Daily Advance and The Perquimans Weekly. They were part of the family-owned Dear Publications in Radio at the time.

The family moved away in the 1960s when he was three. David Dear's brother, who had run the overall company from an office in Washington D.C. died and David Dear took over.

"I would have grown up in Elizabeth City, instead I grew up in Maryland," Dear said.

Stephen's been back in the area almost every summer since then on his way to the beach.

Dear became very familiar with Winfall in the 1990s when he served as

See DEATH PENALTY, 8

## Churches reach out to storm victims

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

On Sundays they worship in different churches to the same God, but during the week members of different religious organizations are working in Perquimans County to help people suffering from losses from a pair of tornadoes.

"We're still offering help finding long-term housing or a place to rent," said Megan McDonald of the local chapter of the Red Cross. "We

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■ Red Cross sees storm donations drop off - 4

have some partner agencies, the N.C. Baptist Men, United Methodist Church and Catholic Charities who are helping."

Leeanne Thornton, a spokesperson for the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, said their group is in for the long haul.

"We still have some people down there working on Hurricane Irene (damage in 2011)," Thornton said

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## Dozens seek assistance from SBA

From staff reports

Nearly 50 residents have sought help since the Small Business Administration (SBA) opened a disaster center in Hertford.

Ten of those, including two from Chowan County, came by the center in the first six hours of it opening Friday in the Albemarle Commission building on Church Street.

As of Tuesday morning, a total 47 people had gone through the process, including seven from Chowan County.

"We know there are still people out there who had serious damage and we urge them to come out," said one worker from North Carolina Department of Emergency Management.

Jarvis Winslow, Perquimans County's director of emergency management said part of that could be people simply didn't know. The announcement that the center was opening didn't come until Thursday. The center at 512 S. Church St. is scheduled to be open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. through this Thursday. Representatives of the state and non-profit groups like the Red Cross are also on hand.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Small Business Administration staff members Nigel Commock (left) and Martin McKinley work with a client Friday at the Albemarle Commission. Through the first six hours, the organizations there saw 10 residents seeking help with storm damage. The center will be open again today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then again on Monday through Thursday.



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