

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JUNE 4, 2014 - JUNE 10, 2014

50 cents



PGMS awards student-athletes, 7

## DA amends charges against two brothers

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BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

HERTFORD — The original charges against the two youngest of six brothers charged with having sex with their sister have been dropped and the pair are facing new charges.

District Attorney Andrew Womble said the original charges were inappropriate given that Aaron and Benjamin Jackson were not more than four years older than the victim.

"When we realized that, we

quickly moved to change the charges," Womble said Monday.

Aaron Jackson now faces five counts of second-degree sex offense. He had previously been charged with three counts of statutory rape and his bond set at \$150,000. The new charges carry the same bond.

Benjamin Jackson, now faces three counts of second-degree sex



A. JACKSON



B. JACKSON

offense and two counts of second-degree rape. He had previously been charged with three counts of statutory rape. The new charges carry the same \$150,000 secured

Chapanoke Road.

All six brothers and their parents, John and Nita Jackson, had their first court appearance on May 19.

All eight Jacksons have asked the court to appoint a public defender to represent them. The request was approved by Superior Court Judge Walter Godwin.

The new charges facing Aaron and Benjamin Jackson are Class C felonies that carry a sentence of not more than 279 months in jail for each count. Given that they face five counts, if convicted on

the maximum charge they each face more than 116 years in prison.

The Jackson brothers and their parents are expected to make their next court appearances during the next session of Superior Court set for July 31.

Womble said the administrative hearing will allow the judge to ensure the Jacksons have been appointed attorneys.

Womble said the actual trial could be a year or a year and a half down the road. He said he's hoping it will proceed faster than that.

## DOT: No further hearings planned

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation hopes to have revised plans for a replacement bridge in Hertford completed by the end of the month but there are no plans right now to hold another public hearing.

DOT Engineer Jay McInnis said any changes won't be significantly different than what was presented to area residents last year. But if for some reason they were, DOT would likely take those changes back to Perquimans County residents in the form of another public hearing.

The plans to replace the 86-year-old S-Bridge in Hertford with a new fixed span hit a speed bump earlier this year when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers raised concerns that as it was first designed it was about a foot lower than the U.S. 17 Bypass Bridge.

The Army Corps is one of about a dozen agencies that has to sign off on the bridge design before it can be built. DOT had narrowed down the list of replacement options to three and determined that one labeled, as "D-Mod" was the best choice. The bridge uses Church Street and extends over the Perquimans River to the same spot on the Winfall side that the other two

See HEARINGS, 9

## HOME SWEET 'HABITAT' HOME



A Habitat for Humanity volunteer watches as a crane positions a roof truss onto a home under construction at 317 Dobbs St. in Hertford last week.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

## New Habitat House taking shape

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

It's safe to say that they just don't build Habitat for Humanity houses like they used to, and that's probably not a bad thing.

Construction started on a new home at 317 Dobbs St. in Hertford in May. Habitat volunteer Jim Robison estimates it should be complete by early July.

The time span between the laying of the plywood flooring to the setting of the roof trusses was measured in a few days, not weeks.

The difference is the components, like walls and the trusses came in preassembled. Gone are the days of cutting and nailing single 2x4 studs to create a roof truss or a wall. The components can be built



Volunteers Frank Elfring, Don Locascio and Skip Matthews lay flooring on a new Habitat for Humanity house on Dobbs Street in Hertford last month.

See HABITAT, 4

## No tax hike in Heath's budget

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath is proposing a new budget that won't require an increase in taxes, but will use up \$328,000 of the reserve fund.

Heath made the proposal Monday night to the Perquimans County Commission.

Water rates would remain the same, but the annual solid waste fee would increase from \$120 to \$130 to pay for required improvements at the transfer station and improvements at two convenience sites.

A public hearing and a vote are scheduled for June 16.

The general fund amounts to \$13,454,278. The water fund totals \$2,120,269 and the solid waste account amounts to \$879,480.

Overall, Heath said there are signs the economy is improving in some areas and holding the line on raising taxes has been something the county has been able to do for the past four years. Perquimans' rate of 44 cents per \$100 in value is 24 cents lower than the rate in Chowan County, 19 cents lower than Pasquotank and

See BUDGET, 8

## Lone Summer Breeze concert scheduled for this Sunday

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

After 14 years, Perquimans County's Summer Breeze concert series will be down to just one performance, not three.

Dee Ponte, a volunteer

with the Perquimans County Restoration Association that puts the show on, said it simply came down to an issue of scheduling. The only show this year will be held Sunday from 6-8 p.m. The band "Connected" will perform as well as the cho-

rus from Hertford Grammar School. Connected has performed five times at Summer Breeze since 2007.

The performances are traditionally held on a Sunday evening on the grounds of the historic Newbold-White House on Harvey Point

Road. Bands are brought in and crowds bring their own chairs for the free performance. In the event of rain, the event is moved to the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Ponte said finding a date to hold the concerts didn't

used to be so hard, but there are more and more things going on in the area. The concerts typically draw from Perquimans County residents and people from Edenton and Chowan County. Some come from Elizabeth City, which Ponte

said "has something going on all the time."

The restoration group's annual garden party, traditionally the biggest fundraiser of the year, is usually held on the third Saturday in

See BREEZE, 9

## School lunch prices headed higher

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County students that pay for lunch will be paying a little more next year to comply with federal rules regarding child nutrition.

The price of a meal at Perquimans Central will increase from \$2.15 to \$2.25. The cost at the three other schools that serve older students will

increase from \$2.40 to \$2.50. A la carte prices will also be increased to reflect the increased cost to purchase and prepare meals.

The child nutrition program in Perquimans County is a \$1.1 million operation that is largely funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The USDA pays for lunch for families that otherwise might not be able to afford them. The federal government also subsidizes those that pay cash for lunch to the tune of 36 cents per meal.

In Perquimans, about 40 to 45 percent of meals are paid in cash and the



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Michael Boyce stands on the skeet range at the NC Shooting Club just outside of Hertford last week. The club will host a two-day event this weekend to raise money for tornado victims.

## Shooting club to open for charity

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A Hertford shooting club that closed briefly in early 2013 will open back up to the public this weekend for a benefit to raise money for local tornado victims.

The North Carolina Shooting Club now operates the shooting range located behind the Duck Thru location at 964 Ocean Highway South.

The range was developed in the 1980s when the property was owned by W.D.

See CHARITY, 4



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See LUNCH PRICES, 9