

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



DOT chief Tony Tata defends rural road spending, 2

"News from Next Door"

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Solar projects still active

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An agreement reached last month between Duke Energy and solar power developers did not include projects in Perquimans County but that does not mean they won't be built, according to a spokesman for one of the developers.

Frank Marshall said FLS Energy still intends to move forward with two of the projects near Winfall. The \$500 million deal reached last week involved Duke agreeing to buy three projects in Duplin, Wilson and Bladen counties. Duke also agreed to buy power from five new projects, including one being developed by FLS Energy in Richmond County.

Marshall said the Perquimans County projects were not being considered in the same way as the 48-megawatt Richmond County site.

In making the announcement, Duke said the commitment culminates the company's requests for proposals (RFP) issued in February for new solar capacity.

Marshall said FLS is working with a number of companies on solar projects.

"We have a whole other pipeline of projects," he said Monday. "Some we're self developing. That (Richmond County project) is not the end

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LEADING TO VICTORY



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Gevin Nixon dresses up like a Pirate to lead Perquimans County High School's volleyball team onto the court last week against Camden. The Lady Pirates defeated the Bruins in four sets. For more, see page 6.

DOT looking at other option

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation has agreed to take another look at the most expensive option to replace Hertford's S-Bridge, however the agency's top official maintains the cheapest option is also the best one.

DOT Secretary Tony Tata was responding to letters from the towns of Hertford and Winfall requesting more study of the option known as Alternative B.

DOT has been looking at a long-term fix for the causeway for more than 11 years and has been heavily working to find a replacement for the S-Bridge for more than four years. At one point there were seven different options being considered.

The option that appeared to have the most traction was a fixed bridge that would extend off Church Street and wind up at Winfall Boulevard. At \$19.3 million, Alternative D-Mod was the cheapest of the final three choices and it eliminated the need for a bridge tender. It also would keep the link between Hertford and Winfall open except for a period of four to six months.

However critics of the plan claim DOT never truly did give serious

See BRIDGE, 7

Hertford police officers reaching out to kids

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Police Officers David Hill (left) and Eddie Gilbert talk recently off Market Street in Hertford.

When Ricky and Sam Douglas broke their curfew, it wasn't because they were hanging out with the wrong crowd.

They were hanging out with Hertford police officers playing a pick-up game of football. They even had a note to prove it.

It's not part of some new Town of Hertford policy. Hertford Police Chief Douglas Freeman said it's simply cops doing what cops can when they have the time.

"As long as we have the available manpower to answer calls for service, the officers are encouraged to go throughout the town and participate in activities they may come across," Freeman said recently. "It isn't part of a new program that has been instated, but has more to do with now that the police department is fully staffed we have more opportunity to do community oriented activities."

The note from the officers read: "To whom it may concern/Mom," and con-

tinues asking her to excuse the boys for being late. It was signed by Hertford Police Officer David Hill.

Hill, an Elizabeth City native, and Officer Eddie Gilbert were the officers that played an impromptu pickup game of football with the Douglas boys.

"When we realized what time it was, my senior officer suggested that a note be written," Hill said of Officer Gilbert.

Hill admits his service in the military helped change his views on law and law enforcement. He served a tour in the U.S. Navy. He's a graduate of Northeastern High School. Gilbert went to Perquimans County High School.

"The little game of football meant a lot to the boys, said Cathy Goodwin, a friend of the family who lives with the Douglas family since the boys' father died in June. Their mother and the boys moved to a house on West Academy Street in Hertford.

The twin 12-year-old brothers lost their father in June to lung cancer.

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Business Expo should have clear sailing on Thursday

From staff reports

Organizers of "Sailing Into Success" Business Expo should have clear skies and smooth sailing Thursday for the event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

For the past two years, the Expo has been held despite bad weather including a tropical storm that deluged the area with heavy rains.

The business expo, the first of the events, will be held from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. It will feature more

than 35 businesses, organizations and services from throughout the Albemarle area. A second event will feature food from area vendors and will run from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Included in the early events will be demonstrations on sausage-making, crafting pretzels, and how the solar energy grid works. There will also be displays of the Air Methods medical helicopter, boats, cars, the Periauger, and heated duck blinds and deer stands.

A free spa corner will be offered with chair massage, glitter art and manicures. Entertainment for the afternoon will be pro-

vided by the Perquimans Senior Citizens Bell Choir and the Hertford Grammar School Panther Chorus. There will be pets available for adoption, boats and cars, and a live remote by Dixie 105.7.

That evening there will be samples of food offered from 15 area restaurants and caterers. Tickets to that event are \$10. Brent Elliott will entertain on the guitar. Gift certificates and door prizes will be awarded and raffle will be held for a Kameleon ring with a turtle pop inset.

The Business Expo is sponsored by Northeastern Workforce

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Perquimans wins three trophies at Edenton's Battle of the Bands

BY REBECCA BUNCH
The Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Perquimans County High School came away with three trophies last weekend from the 39th annual Battle of the Bands competition at John A. Holmes High School.

The Marching Pirates finished in third place in terms of percussion, general effects and music.

The Marching Knights of Currituck County High School walked away with three major awards. The band, directed by Lynn Dale, was named the winner of the Band of the Day Award given to the band with the



PHOTO BY BECKY BUNCH

The Perquimans County High School Band performs last weekend at the Battle of the Bands competition in Edenton. The Pirates came away with three trophies.

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