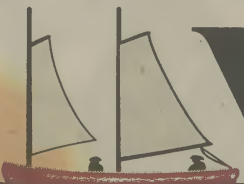


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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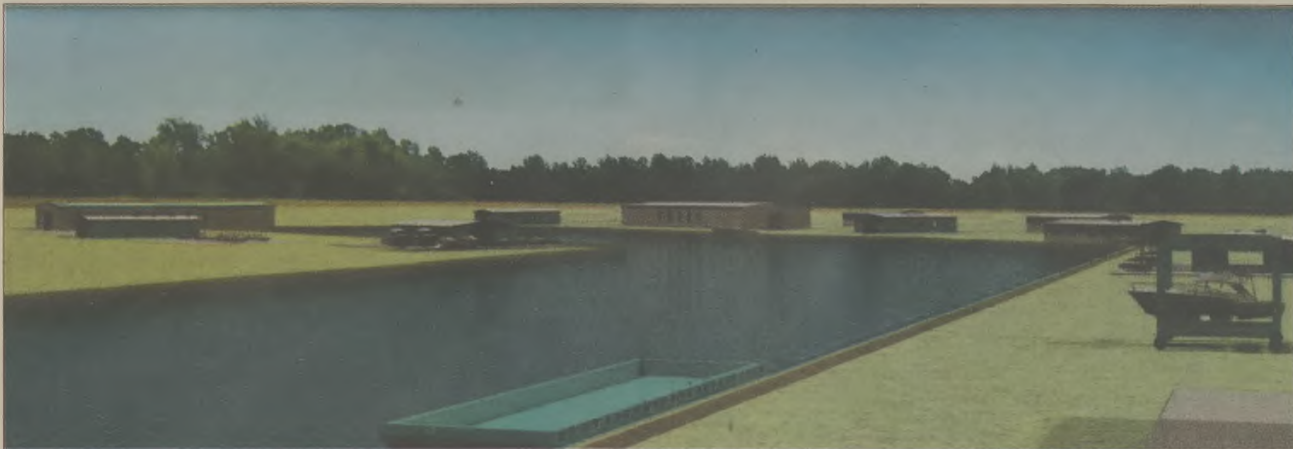
Santa Letters are going out, 1B - 8B and 7A - 8A

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 24, 2014 - DECEMBER 30, 2014

50 cents

County industrial park gets a boost



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A computer-generated image shows what the boat basin at the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park might look like.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County is eligible for a \$1.5 million grant from the state if it can come up with the rest of the money for the first phase of the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park.

Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker made the announcement Thursday in Raleigh.

The total cost of developing the 72-acre project is \$20 million, but the first phase is expected to cost

about \$6 million. Thursday's announcement comes with a 180-day deadline, which means the remaining \$4.5 million will have to be raised in the next six months.

Dave Goss, Perquimans County's economic development consultant, believes getting the commitment of a major company to locate at the industrial park is "achievable" now. With that commitment from an industry, Goss believes finding the \$4.5 million will

See PARK, 2A

Quakers to help with area recovery

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second part of a two story series).

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A team of Quakers from across North Carolina and Virginia will join the legions of church groups that have reached out to families suffering from the tornado that hit Perquimans County in April.

Early next month a Quaker group will be staying at Up River Friends Meeting in Belvidere while working to build a new home for Leonidas Parker.

Parker, his 43-year-old daughter, and two grandchildren were staying in the home when the tornado hit.

Efforts to rebuild the home were complicated by preexisting rot and termite damage. The decision was made to demolish the home and build a new one.

The Quaker group will be leaving Jan. 4 from the Yearly Meeting office in Greensboro. They'll return

See RECOVERY, 2A



PHOTOS BY CHUCK PAGELS

All Saints Episcopal Church Rector John Bonner (above, left) listens as John Ernst explains the history of the stain glass windows in the church Friday during a 18th Century colonial home tour and progressive dinner. The event was sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Leslie Erickson (left) performs on the violin and Steve Raisor played the acoustic guitar Friday during a performance at Hertford United Methodist Church. The duo provided the closing program for the second annual Eighteenth Century Christmas Home Tour and Progressive Dinner.



Work starts on solar projects

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After years of talking about renewable energy, two solar power projects are under construction in Perquimans County.

FLS Energy has started building one project in the 900 block of Belvidere Road and another one on Two Mile Desert Road outside of Winfall. Construction should be complete by March.

Renewable energy proposals date back to 2010 when there was discussion about building a 20,000-acre wind farm in the "desert" of Perquimans and Pasquotank counties. Last week the Perquimans County Commission approved a two-year extension to the Desert Wind project and agreed to give the company flexibility to make it smaller than the original plan.

The first proposed solar project, a 100-acre site near the Chowan County line, was presented in mid 2011.

The FLS projects now

See SOLAR, 3A

Perquimans farmers learn to LEAD in program

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Robert Eure Jr. (left) and Rena Eure were honored by N.C. Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten in Greensboro this month.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A husband and wife team from New Hope just completed a two-year program designed to better equip them to be a voice for farmers.

Rena Eure and her husband Robert Eure Jr. were honored in Greensboro this month during graduation for Leadership, Education, Activity and Development (LEAD) participants.

The LEAD program is designed to develop and enhance the leadership skills of N.C. Farm Bureau members be-

tween the ages of 36 and 52. Rena Eure said there is another program for farmers between 18 and 35.

The program allowed the 16 participants to meet with elected leaders in Raleigh and Washington D.C. and visit the World Ag Expo in California. The group met four times a year for the past two years.

"I hope it's a bright future for farming, and we have to learn to adapt to what people want," Rena Eure said earlier this month. "A lot of people don't know where food comes from. Being with Farm Bureau means

you have a voice and this LEAD program helps us learn how to speak out about farming. People want to hear your story."

The Eure's story goes back through generations of farmers.

"It's a different kind of lifestyle," Eure said. "You don't have week-to-week paychecks. But if I had to do it over again, I'd do it over again. I'm married to a farmer and my grandfather was a farmer."

But loving to farm and being successful don't always go hand

See LEAD, 3A

DOT bridge video now online

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A computer-generated video showing what the proposed replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge will look like is now available on-line.

About 100 area residents in a standing-room only crowd got a chance to view the latest video in Novem-

ber during a special meeting held at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Now anybody with a computer and an Internet connection can view it by going to the project's web site <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/US17BusinessNC37Improve/>

The video shows what it would look like to cross over the bridge into Hertford from a driver's point of view in a car. It also shows aerial views soaring over the bridge and around portions of Hertford's historic district.

There are no plans to put video of another option, Alternative B, online, according to DOT engineer Jay McInnis, who is working on the project. The Alternative B video was created only after residents said they wanted to see that as well after DOT unveiled the D-Mod version.

A year ago after years of study and more than six public meetings, DOT concluded that an option known as D-Mod would be the best choice to

See BRIDGE, 2A

KINDERGARTEN CLASS SINGS



STAFF PHOTO
BY PETER WILLIAMS

Students from Helen Lane and Lynn Woodell's kindergarten classes sang Christmas songs last week on the Perquimans County Courthouse green. Pictured are (bottom row, left) Carlie Phelps, Colton Allmendinger, Julian Dance, Ja'Shasti Nelson (top row) Dallas Williams, Tyler Byrum and Kelsey White.

