# THE ERQUIVIANS VEEKLY



Interact Club pitches in to help, 3

### "News from Next Door" Plantation to host May pro tourney

#### **BY PETER WILLIAMS** News Editor

Professional golf scheduled to return to Albemarle Plantation in May for what should be a far larger tournament with a \$200,000 purse.

The Plantation teamed up with the NGA tour for the first pro event in June. Volunteer turnout and corporate sponsorship was strong, but the field of golfers fell far short of expectation. Instead of 100 golfers, just 13 showed up. By the weekend, golf pro Kenny Saunders had rustled by a field of 50 players.

For the event May 25-31, another tour — eGolf — will be providing the talent.

We decided not to go with them (NGA) again because we weren't sure if they could recover so quickly," Saunders said. "They didn't do anything wrong, it's just that they didn't guarantee purses and everybody bailed and jumped ship to other tours.

"In our view it was a total success other than the number of golfers," Saunders said. "The sponsors were all happy and there was a buzz around the Plantation and the Food Bank was happy because they got \$7,500 and it was fun.'

Once again Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC will be the big corporate sponsor.

**DECEMBER 31, 2014 - JANUARY 6, 2015** TAYLOR PERFORMS AT CAROLINA MOON



## County makes solid progress

50 cents

**BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor** 

Perquimans County was able to complete or at least start some long-awaited projects in the past year.

The New Year holds the promise for even more.

The school system was able to put tablet computers into the hands of hundreds of students in 2014 thanks to a \$864,000 grant from Golden LEAF.

The county got \$308,000 from the Golden LEAF as well and is in the process of securing the permits to build an industrial-sized boat ramp near the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park. That project should be completed by the end of 2015. The ramp will benefit both recreational boaters as well as smaller marine industries that need a way to get larger boats in and out of the water.

The Town of Hertford is wrapping up construction on a new nine-slip marina behind town hall with money from the STEP Program. The project should be complete in January.

Potentially the biggest news of 2014 was the award of a \$1.5 million grant to the county to start phase one of the marine industrial park. The county hopes to use that money as leverage to raise the remaining \$4.5 million needed for the first phase.

Both the NGA and eGolf are considered third tier tours. The top level is the Professional Golf Association (PGA) and Web.Com is considered as the second level. One thing that may play in the Plantation's

See TOURNAMENT, 2

Joel Taylor performs a song in December at the Carolina Moon Theater in Hertford. In the background is a video screen which was added this year to add to performances at the theater. See full story on page 2.

### Town: Expert to look at Duke power deal

#### **BY PETER WILLIAMS** News Editor

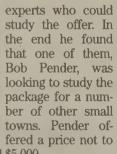
The Hertford Town Board agreed this month to hire an expert to look over a deal that would allow the town to sell its share in Duke Energy-Progress power plants to get out from some of the debt.

Hertford and 31 other cities and towns in eastern North Carolina own shares in five Duke Power generating assets.

municipalities to charge a rate higher than what customers of Duke and Dominion Power pay Duke is willing to

pay \$1.2 billion for the shares owned SHOAF by the North Caro-

lina Eastern Municipal 'exceed \$5,000. Power Agency (NCEMPA). Hertford, Elizabeth City and Edenton are all members of the agency.



"It comes down for mon-

ey for us," Shoaf said of Pender's fee.

Pender, a Florida resi-Hertford Town Manager dent, has 35 years of experi-The combined debt of Brandon Shoaf said he ence in dealing with utilities

experts who could a management role. For 19 because they saw it as a way study the offer. In of those years he was a prin- to lock in cheap power. It cipal and senior director for R.W. Beck. Edenton has

also hired Pender. Shoaf said the town hopes to wrap up Pender's tude toward nuclear power, study by the first of March, but he said it could be 2016 before customers start seeing some rate relief.

The deal cleared one major hurdle when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the plan.

The towns and cities origabout \$1.9 billion forces the looked at some industry as both a consultant and in inally got into the agreement

didn't work out that way.

PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Instead with the 1979 nuclear accident of Three Mile Island and a changing atticosts soared as did municipal power bills.

The \$1.2 billion deal with Duke Power is designed to ease the debt burden and bring rate relief to electric customers. To make sure that's actually going to be the case, Hertford is hiring

See DEAL, 2

The industrial park is designed to bring hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars of investments to the county.

On the local political front, there was some musical chairs. A Hertford town board member left that board to take a seat on the local school board and a school board member opted not to seek another term there and instead ran for and won a seat on the county commission.

Anne White opted to give up her seat on the Hertford town board in favor of seat on the school board. Sid Eley, a former Hertford council member and mayor, was appointed to fill White's seat.

White took her seat in July along with Amy Spaugh, a former school board member who opted to return after taking some time off and Ralph Hollowell who sought a second term.

The Perquimans County

See COUNTY, 2

### **Developer sees bright future** for more solar projects in area

#### **BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor**

the two being developed in will be phased out in favor all power that's generated common in the not so distant customers they serve. future, predicts a spokesman projects.

Frank Marshall believes that as the U.S. electrical



energy network becomes ing away." decentralized and better Solar power projects like on line, larger power plants

Perquimans County may of smaller, greener power be become more and more sources that are closer to the

That's a stark change from for the company building the the past 100 years where the model has been to build large coal or nuclear power plants and then transmit power to tures. the customers that may be hundreds of miles of way.

> centralized power distribu- to say that utilities have tion anymore," Marshall said. "It has served us well up until this point, but it's go-

The U.S. Energy Inforbattery technology comes mation Administration estimates about 6 percent of is loss during transmission. The further it goes, the more energy is lost in the process.

> And Marshall thinks solar can play a role in the future energy system, especially once battery technology ma-

"We have great relations with Duke, not that we "We can't afford to have haven't had disputes. I have done an exceptional job

See SOLAR, 2

#### STALLINGS RECEIVES TDA HONOR



Amber Stallings hammers a shot over the net in a match this year against Northeastern High School. Stallings has been named The Daily Advance's 2014 Volleyball Player of the Year. See full story on page 7.

hi.