

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates Roundup: Marriner on a tear lately for Lady Pirates, 7

"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 28, 2015 - FEBRUARY 3, 2015

50 cents

Steinburg to head agriculture committee

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Edenton) has been named chairman of the House agriculture committee and a member of six others.

The appointments were made Monday.

The last local lawmaker to head the agriculture com-

mittee was Vernon James who served in Raleigh from 1945 to 1949 and then again from 1973 to 1995.

James started in agriculture as young boy on his family's



STEINBURG

farm in Weeksville in Pasquotank County. He died in 2002 at the age of 92.

"This is an appointment I asked for above all others," Steinburg said of the agriculture appointment. "This wasn't just something I got at random."

Steinburg said he hopes to use the position to help the state's farmers, especial-

ly those in the northeastern part of the state. His district includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Tyrrell counties.

"What I am focused on, and have been even as vice chairman, is trying to see if we can get some processing facilities here for all the things that we grow here. As

chairman I may be able to have a little bigger say and can help market the area.

"It (the chairmanship) opens doors. I can talk about all the wonderful things about this region. We can grow almost anything here. If there is a demand for a certain product, we can grow it."

"As chairman I can be a

voice for the farmers, for farmers in District I and for farmers across the state. I'd like to meet with them at least on a quarterly basis."

Steinburg was already scheduled to be in Perquimans County Feb. 6 to tour area schools.

"Perquimans County has

See STEINBURG, 3

Combs named to sports hall

From staff reports

Freddie Combs, a standout athlete at Perquimans County High School and N.C. State University, will be one of 10 new members inducted to the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.

The announcement was made Tuesday morning. Combs joins Jim "Catfish" Hunter, another Perquimans native who has been named to the hall of fame.

Also named to the hall Tuesday was Jerry McGee, a standout player from Elizabeth City who went on to play for Duke and then became athletic director on the college level.

Combs starred on the Perquimans County High School team that captured the 1963 Eastern Division Championship. He excelled in both football and baseball at N.C. State University, being named All-America in football as a senior and leading the Wolfpack to the College World Series in 1968.

The other new members include Jeff Bostic, Joe Bostic, John Clougherty, Rick Hendrick, Gene Littles, Lenox Rawlings, Charlotte Smith, and Andrea Stinson.

They will be enshrined during the 52nd annual induction banquet May 15, at the Raleigh Convention Center. An afternoon news conference will be held on May 14, at 4 p.m. at the N.C. Museum of History, located at 5 East Edenton Street in Raleigh.

Ticket information for the banquet is available at ncsportshalloffame.org or by calling 919-845-3455.

"The achievements of this year's class of inductees enrich North Carolina's remarkable sports heritage, and they certainly earned the honor of joining the 309 men and women who have been previously enshrined," said Fredrick Reese, president of the Hall. "This is our 52nd class, and we look forward to celebrating this

See COMBS, 2

DUSTING OF SNOW FALLS



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A dusting of snow covers trees and shrubs in front of Hertford Baptist Church on Tuesday morning. The weather did not impact the opening of Perquimans County Schools.

Member quits workforce board

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Perquimans County member of a regional workforce development board has stepped down because of concerns that the board isn't accomplishing what it set out to do.

"The key thing that is lacking is accountability," Steve Magaro said.

The workforce board oversees a multi-million budget and covers a 10-county region. It is staffed by the Albemarle Commission, and run by a consortium made up of one county commissioner from each of the counties served. The consortium in turn appoints the workforce board.

Magaro said there is a severe problem in the way the board it made up and with the attitudes of those who run it.

See MAGARO, 2

Anonymous donor issues pledge for foundation

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools Foundation could receive up to \$10,000 from an anonymous donor if others will match that amount by April 1.

Brenda Lassiter, the executive director of the foundation, said the money would not be restricted to a specific use. Instead it

could be spent on administrative resources and funding programs for students and staff.

"We get grants and the money is specifically earmarked for a project, like Water Turtles or STEM projects," Lassiter said. "Very rarely do we get any money for administrative costs."

About 10 years ago, a board member on the

Foundation issued a challenge during a golf tournament that he and his wife would match funds raised in the golf tournament up to \$10,000. The golf tournament raised \$10,000 and the board member contributed another \$10,000, making it the largest fund-raiser for the foundation ever.

"We are excited today that a couple from the community has issued the same

type of challenge," she said. "These dollars will be unrestricted, meaning they can help with administrative costs, teacher grant requests, swimming lessons, governor's school or any other project."

The foundation administers about 15 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. In 2013-14 it also funded nine other projects including a \$2,000

communications station at Perquimans County Middle School, \$750 for math learning centers at Hertford Grammar School and \$1,000 so Perquimans County High School students could attend a state vocal music competition.

Scholarships aside, one of the largest things supported by the foundation is

See DONATION, 8

Debate rages over Chowan herring harvest

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — State fisheries managers continue working to help the river herring population rebound as frustration grows in some circles over the maintenance of a moratorium on the river herring harvest.

Commercial fishermen as well as people who want to catch a few herring for their own supper expressed disappointment with the moratorium during last week's public hearing in Edenton before the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

"I was raised on dried beans and herrings," Lloyd

Jones of Roper in Washington County said during the meeting Jan. 20 at Swain Auditorium.

Jones, 78, said he didn't believe state officials had looked at the "whole picture" on river herring.

"You took the poor man's steak right off the table," Jones said.

Herring is being caught in the ocean, which has contributed to the decline in the river herring population, he said.

"I think y'all can do something about it if you want to," Jones said. "Y'all can do this. Y'all can help us."

"There's a whole lot of them out there," Jones said.

It's at that point where fisheries managers really start to disagree.

Chad Thomas, a fisheries biologist with the Inland Fisheries Division in the Elizabeth City office of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, told the

See HERRING, 8

Camp Cale conference center paid off two years later

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Two years after opening, the 9,200 square-foot conference center at Camp Cale is now free and clear of debt.

The center opened in January 2013. Most of the \$900,000 it took to build it was raised before hand,

but the Chowan Baptist Association borrowed some. Camp director Matt Thomas said last week the association met and decided to pay off the remaining \$40,000 balance.

"That takes a lot of pressure off of me," he said.

The camp has hosted visitors since 1963. James Cale donated the original 50 acres. He later provided 26 more acres and today the total is about 100 including wetlands which can't be developed. It's run by the Baptist Association, a group

that covers 10 counties and 68 churches.

Until construction of the conference center, the facilities at Cale could best be considered "rustic."

The center features full Internet capabilities and can accommodate about 450 people for meetings and about 240 for sit-down meals. It and the other facilities at the camp are available to rent by churches that are part of the Baptist association as well as organizations

See CAMP CALE, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A rendering shows the Camp Cale conference center which was completed two years ago. The mortgage on the building has been paid in full.

