

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates find ways to win in Coastal 10 conference, Page 7

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 - FEBRUARY 17, 2015

50 cents

## Jackson parents face new charges

FILE PHOTO

Nita Jackson and her husband John sit in the Perquimans County Courthouse waiting for their case to come up last year.



BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The father and mother of six brothers charged with sexually abusing their younger sister are back in jail on multiple counts of being an accessory after the fact and felony child abuse.

John Jackson was re-arrested Feb. 3 by Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputies and jailed under \$400,000 bond. Nina Jackson, 55, was arrested Feb. 5 after being pulled over on a traffic

violation.

Both John Jackson, who will turn 66 years old on Feb. 27, and his wife had been freed on bond shortly after they and their sons were arrested in May. Both parents were originally charged with felony child abuse. And was released on \$15,000. His wife Nita was originally charged with child abuse/sexual act and also had been released under a \$15,000



JACKSON

secured bond.

The new charges are six counts of felony accessory after the fact and three counts of felony child abuse-sexual act.

Sheriff Eric Tilley saw the District Attorney's office filed the additional charges after the Grand Jury met last month. District Attorney Andrew Womble could not

See CHARGES, 8

## School test grades released

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Two Perquimans County schools scored a "C" and one earned a "D" in a new grading system rolled out by the state last week.

Even before the grades were released Thursday, local school officials were already critical of the formula that was used to create them.

The state-mandated grades only count a student's growth for 20 percent of the score. The majority is based on how students perform on academic tests.

Across the five-county Albemarle area, 19 schools earned a "C", nine earned a "D" and five earned a "B."

Perquimans County Middle School received a "D" and Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans County High School earned "Cs." Perquimans Central was not graded because students in grades kindergarten through second grade aren't tested in the same way older students are.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings defended the strides made by the school system and repeated his belief that the scoring system doesn't paint an accurate picture.

In the case of Hertford Grammar School, the letter grade is largely based on how students performed on three tests taken over four days of a 183-day school calendar and not so much on how much students grew academically during the other 179 days of school.

"As educators we want to

See GRADES, 8



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A cow rests in a field above the former landfill for Perquimans, Chowan and Gates Counties off Perry's Bridge Road. The counties have started a pilot program to allow cattle to graze there instead of having to pay to have the 26-acre site mowed several times a year.

## Cows take over mowing duties

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A small herd of cattle are now doing what tractors have done for the past 20 years at the old landfill in Perquimans County.

And they're doing it for free.

The landfill officially closed in 1991 and a layer of dirt was spread over the

26-acre site. Monitoring wells were installed and are periodically checked for problems and grass covers the site now to keep the soil in place.

But grass needs to be mowed.

Brad Gardner, the manager of the site, estimates it's been costing nearly \$1,000 each time to bring a contractor in to do the

work. Depending on the weather, the site needed to be mowed up to 10 or 11 times a year.

Gardner and Jared Harrell, a N.C. State Extension Service agent who deals with livestock, thought there had to be a better way.

The old landfill and the adjacent 74 acres that make up the current waste

transfer site is a joint operation between Perquimans, Gates and Chowan Counties. Today trash and recyclables from the three counties comes to Perquimans County, and then trucked to a permanent home in Bertie County. The site is operated by Albemarle Regional Health

See COWS, 8

## DOT moving forward

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation is moving forward on plans to replace the S-Bridge in Hertford with a new high-rise span despite some concerns it would harm the visual character of the residential historic district.

The state historic preservation office submitted a written objection to the plan last month. The document concludes that a 33-foot-tall concrete bridge would damage the nature of the district. The groups also opposed building another swing bridge downtown.

While the objections will be taken into consideration, they won't derail the plans to proceed with what is known as Alternative D-Mod, said project manager Jay McInnis.

"The question of which alternative (to build) is behind us now," he said Tuesday. "The question now is what can we do to improve alternative D-Mod."

That's fine with some downtown merchants who

See DOT, 8

## County chamber to hold outreach meetings

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will kick off a monthly program Feb. 18 to reach out to the business community.

The hour-long sessions start at 8:30 a.m. and will be held on the third Wednesday of each month in the conference room of the Perquimans County Extension Center, 601-A S. Eden-

ton Road St.

"Truthfully, the businesses that are here, a lot of them are struggling just to keep the doors open," said Susan Cox, the president of the chamber. "We want businesses to give us their concerns on how we might help. We want the input."

"We want to try and help area business find ways they can work together. The idea is to bring businesses in, chamber members or

not, to exchange ideas."

Each of the "Chamber Conversations Over Coffee" sessions will include a speaker.

"That will take about 15 minutes," Cox said. The meetings won't last more than an hour.

"At 9:30 we can all go to work," she said.

Both Cox and Sid Eley, the executive director of the chamber, said most Perquimans County businesses

are small and need support from local consumers.

"For every dollar spent locally, 68 cents stays in Perquimans County," Cox said. "When you go to Wal-Mart none of that comes back. When you buy at a big box store, you've lost it. In a small town with small businesses you get good service. We're trying to see what we can do and how we can all benefit."

Eley said Perquimans

County has things to offer, but people need to know about them.

"With Hertford and Perquimans County frankly we've done a poor job selling ourselves," Eley said. "We don't promote ourselves. We have people who don't know we have a chamber and they don't know we have a Jimmy Hunter Museum."

See CHAMBER, 9

## Windfall mayor Yates honored by Gov. McCrory

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

When Windfall Mayor Fred Yates accepted an invitation to attend Gov. Pat McCrory's State of the State address last week he had no idea the governor would single him out for praise from the gallery of the Legislature. Or

that he'd receive a standing ovation from state lawmakers.

But both things happened.

Yates, Windfall's mayor since 1993, was one of four special guests personally recognized by McCrory during his annual speech to a joint session of the House and Senate in the Legislative Building.

Referring to Yates' and other area officials' actions in wake of devastating tornadoes that struck the

region in April, McCrory called the Windfall mayor a "true leader in a crisis."

"It was unexpected, and I thought it was great," Yates said. "I was invited to be present at his speech but I wasn't told he was going to single me out. I've never had the whole General Assembly give me a standing ovation."

Yates' appearance in the gallery Wednesday night stemmed from a meeting

See YATES, 9



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gov. Pat McCrory (left) and Windfall Mayor Fred Yates embrace last year in Chapanoke at the scene of a tornado.



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