

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Albemarle Sounds sings to teacher, 4

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Ice covers a shrub near tennis courts on Grubb Street in Hertford last week.

Weather wreaks trouble

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Ice and extreme cold temperatures closed area schools, damaged power lines and set a new record high for electrical demand last week.

And don't put away those snow shovels yet.

Schools closed early again Tuesday and games were canceled because of the threat of snow.

Temperatures should climb back to the mid-40s Wednesday, then dip down to about 23 Thursday with a 90 percent chance of rain or snow.

That's still warmer than last week.

The U.S. Coast Guard base in Elizabeth City reported a new record low of eight degrees on Friday. The previous record, 18 degrees, was set in 1941.

Perquimans schools were closed Feb. 16 for President's Day and remained closed throughout last week because of ice on the roads posed a danger.

See ICE STORM, 2



A lineman (above) from the Town of Hertford clears away limbs near power lines on Church Street on Feb. 17 after an ice storm.

Bobby Riddick (left photo) shovels ice from the parking lot of the Hertford Post Office on Feb. 17.

Bridge projects moving along

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A project to replace eight bridges in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties should be all but complete by the end of this year.

The N.C. Department is holding off on the last bridge — one on Turnpike Road in northeastern Perquimans County — until early 2016.

DOT is saving the Turnpike Road bridge for last so construction can happen between January 2016 and mid-April to minimize the impact of farmers.

County Manager Frank Heath said Perquimans already has a mutual aid agreement with

See BRIDGE, 2

Chowan debates wind projects

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

Chowan County officials are debating how to handle proposed wind farms, including one that is proposed to straddle the Perquimans County line.

Representatives of the company planning the Timbermill Wind Project in Chowan and Perquimans County noted last week that Chowan's wind energy ordinance measures the maximum allowable height of a

See WIND, 2

State Employees' Credit Union to move soon

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Workers install landscaping around the sign for the new State Employees Credit Union location at 142 Ocean Highway South in Hertford.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A statewide credit union plans to move to a larger permanent home in Hertford by April.

The State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) has operated a branch in Hertford since May 2008. The current branch is located in a shopping center that once housed a Bi-Lo Grocery store.

The new location is across Church Street and has direct access to U.S. 17 South. It will also have

an on-site automatic teller machine and more drive-through lanes.

"SECU is looking forward to completion of the new building to better serve Hertford area members with a larger branch, easily accessible location and on-site ATM for additional convenience," said Dale Jones, vice president of SECU's Hertford office.

Construction on the new office started in May 2014 and is expected to be complete by April. The credit union declined to discuss the cost of the project.

The credit union has nearly 2 million members statewide and about 5,000 are located in Hertford.

The local branch will offer the same products and services at the new location, but the new office will be 6,658 square feet, about 1,000 more than it has now.

The new branch will employ about eight people, the same as at the current location, but Jones said there is the potential to grow. The new location will also have three drive-through windows, vs. the one window at the current site.

Local photographer looking to tackle new project

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Ed Leicester's latest project is to photograph old buildings in Perquimans County, but there was a time when his big project was focusing on staying alive.

For 29 years, Leicester

worked for Sprint, the phone company and for 20 years, he was a volunteer on the Hertford Fire Department.



LEICESTER

Then in 2002 he was diagnosed with corticobasal syndrome, a progressive neurological disorder that may involve the motor system, cognition or both. He

was given four to five years to live.

He didn't hide his illness but he also didn't broadcast it.

At the time, Leicester was the state prayer coordinator for the group N.C. Baptist Men and the group was having a regional meeting at Hertford Baptist Church. Not many people knew of his illness.

"During the meeting, we took a break and the top



PHOTO BY ED LEICESTER

Local photographer Ed Leicester is looking for public input on a project to capture images of old buildings in Perquimans County and learn some of their history. This barn is in Bear Swamp.

See PROJECT, 3

