

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

MARCH 18, 2015 - MARCH 24, 2015

50 cents



Black history event held, 2

## Little River cleanup plan proposed

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A truck hauls away some of the tires that were recently removed from a portion of the Little River near Five Bridges Road.



BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Agencies have developed a nine-point plan to address water quality issues along the Little River.

The river stretches from the Great Dismal Swamp to the Albemarle Sound and forms a boundary between Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

Over the years, the quality of the water has declined as well as the variety of animal

life. The watershed measures about 86,000 acres and includes eight miles of river that is listed as "impaired" by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Scott Alons, a soil and water technician for Perquimans and Chowan Counties, Dwane Hinson, his counterpart in Pasquotank County and consultant Mark Powell worked on the plan to address the problem.

"What we're trying to do is keep the Little River from

becoming like the Chowan (River)," Alons said last week. "It took 30 years to clean that up."

The first step was cleaning out the fallen trees that were clogging the river and preventing the water from flowing freely. The snags also prevented recreational use. In the process Powell said 400 tires were removed, mostly from areas of the river north of the U.S.

See CLEANUP, 2

## Schools face financial pinch

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

For the better part of an hour this month students and teachers showcased just how they're incorporating new technology in the Perquimans school system.

The occasion was a joint meeting between the Perquimans County Commission and the Perquimans School Board.

But in the end, the message wasn't quite as upbeat.

The school system's reserve fund is low, expenses are up and the school system had to return \$119,000 it got from the state because enrollment wasn't as high as the state projected it to be. The state estimated 1,800 students would be enrolled this year but the actual figure was 1,718.

As of the last audit, the school system's capital outlay reserve fund stood at \$402,000. But \$173,000 of that is restricted. The school board set that aside as the local match to the \$864,000 in Golden LEAF money that provided the iPad technology the school system purchased. The iPads students are using now will eventually have to be replaced, and the school system is setting money aside to pay for it.

Another \$70,000 was set aside to complete a parking lot improvement project at Perquimans Central. There was another \$10,000 that had to be used for an emergency repair to an electrical panel at Central.

That leaves the capital outlay fund at \$149,000.

Aubrey Tynch, the school system's interim director of maintenance also highlighted some unexpected repairs the school system had to

See SCHOOLS, 3



Virginia Tech University student Brian Everett (left) passes a board to Leonidas Parker last week while working on a shed at Parker's new home in Chapanoke.

## Volunteers pour into region, more to come

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

More than 100 volunteers, including 48 from Virginia Tech University, were working on disaster recovery in a three-county area last week and more help is on the way.

"It's really wild right now," said Stephanie Hunt, the disaster coordinator for the United Methodist Church's Disaster Recovery Ministries who is helping coordinate the efforts.

During the winter there were weeks that went by with few or no volunteers. With the arrival of spring break, both adults and students are streaming to the Albemarle area to help out.

"We've got them on Simpson Ditch Road, on Wildcat Road in Edenton, Chowan Beach, Burnt Mill Road and in Chapanoke," Hunt said last week.

If the volunteers weren't doing actual construction they are cleaning up debris, she said. Some of that debris is leftover from tornadoes that came through the area nearly a year ago.

The Virginia Tech students were part of Wesley, a UMC campus ministry. A Baptist church in Edenton provided them a place to sleep and last Thursday some of them were working on the home of Leonidas Parker, a Chapanoke resident. For the students, it was spending their spring break to help others.

For some, it's not the first time.

See VOLUNTEERS, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Brian Everett, (above) a student at Virginia Tech University, works on framing a shed Thursday at the home of Leonidas Parker. Parker's home was destroyed in a tornado in April, and more than 40 Tech students agreed to spend their spring break to help out the Perquimans County resident.

Danielle Maleski, (left photo) a junior at Virginia Tech, chisels away at a board last week. She and more than 40 volunteers from the school were working in the three-county area.



## Spring programs planned

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

If the warmer weather isn't enough, the official arrival of spring on Friday may have residents ready to venture outside again to the garden.

The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service is ready.

The Perquimans County

extension service has programs scheduled in March and May to offer gardeners some tips.

Katy Shook and Master Gardeners from Perquimans County will present a program on gardening March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Perquimans County Library.

Then on May 2, the Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Master Gardener program will hold a spring garden show at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. It runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The Pasquotank Cooperative Extension Center in Elizabeth City will also be offering programs for the general public. The center is located at 1209 McPherson Street. Each of the programs run from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

A program March 23 is on designing and maintaining functional low-maintenance lawns and landscaping. On March 26 the program will focus on growing vegetables efficiently in small spaces.

See PROGRAMS, 2

## Chowan rejects call for moratorium

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Chowan Herald

A Chowan County resident has requested that the county impose a moratorium on wind turbine activity, but county officials are not considering a moratorium at this time.

The county has been advised by its attorney, John Morrison, that there is a very high threshold for imposing a local moratorium under a 2006 state law. The current situation in Chowan County regarding wind turbines does not meet that

threshold for a moratorium, according to Morrison.

A wind turbine project has been proposed that would straddle the Perquimans-Chowan line.

The moratorium has been requested by Peter Lolkema. Lolkema sent the request by email to county commissioners and planning board members, and also made the request in person at Thursday's planning board meeting.

"Please accept, by receipt of this communication, a formal request to have a moratorium be

placed on all wind turbine activity in Chowan County until a comprehensive engineering study can be conducted."

Lolkema said in his statement. "This study should include the impact such turbine installations would have on the safety, health and welfare of me and other residents of Chowan County."

Lou Sarratt, chairman of the Chowan County Planning Board, said this week that based on Morrison's

See MORATORIUM, 4

