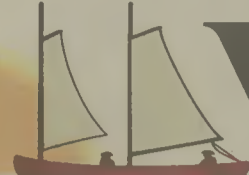


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



INSIDE TODAY



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"News from Next Door"

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Fed Ex looking to expand in Hertford

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS
Heavy equipment prepares the site for an expansion at the Fed Ex distribution center in Hertford last week.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Fed Ex is looking at making a major expansion to its distribution hub in Hertford.

The company is requesting permission from the Town of Hertford to build an 18,723-square-foot building adjacent to the current

location in the Perquimans County Commerce Park on Granby Street.

The company built the present 28,000-square-foot distribution center at the industrial park near the Perquimans County Recreation Center in 2009. The current land, structures and improvements is valued at about \$1.6 million on the tax

rolls. What isn't clear is how the expansion will impact employment at the Fed Ex center.

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said it probably wouldn't involve a lot of jobs.

"It's been a long while

See FED EX, 2

Charter school creates issues

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County schools can't stop the exodus of students to a new charter school in Elizabeth City, but Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said the school system can work to be the best it can be.

Two new educational options in Elizabeth City could siphon off Perquimans County students and the thousands of tax dollars that come with them.

The state has approved the creation of a new charter school — Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies in Elizabeth City. At first it's expected to draw 120 students in grades eight and nine but eventually would expand to include grades 10, 11 and 12.

About 20 of the initial batch of 120 students are expected to come from Perquimans County.

Perquimans also could lose students to Grace Montessori Academy, a new childcare center that will open in the former Winnie Wood Child Development Center building. Initially Grace Montessori will be open to ages six weeks through kindergarten. There

See CHARTER, 4

A FRESH LOOK



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Henry Lovejoy peers through a opening in a stained glass window he was working on at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Hertford last week. A few of the windows date back to when the church was built in 1857. Some windows had to be repaired and the protective outside layer on all the windows will be replaced with clear safety glass.



Henry Lovejoy replaces a protective shield over a stained glass window at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Hertford last week. The outer layer had become cloudy over the years and will be replaced with clear safety glass.

See SCHOLARSHIP, 4

Group raising money for scholarship

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Lewis Smith took his four-year college degree from N.C. State University and went on to work for the next 33 years with the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service.

Now Smith and others are working to give other Perquimans County students a little help in getting that same education.

A BBQ and fried chicken plate fundraiser next month is designed to help raise money for an endowment that will provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a local student who wants to study agriculture at N.C. State. The endowment fund would be named after Smith.

Smith said he didn't have a scholarship when he attended N.C. State, but admits tuition wasn't nearly that high back in the 1970s. Smith figures when he attended State it cost \$300 a semester for tuition and the school didn't have a cafeteria. "It was a great experience," Smith said. "You don't learn everything from the books, but it gives you the ability to learn."

He took that education and put it to immediate use.

"I graduated on May 10, 1980 and started work with

Chamber encouraged by breakfast meeting

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Chamber officials say they are encouraged by the first in a series of monthly breakfast meetings.

About two dozen business people showed up for the event Wednesday at the Perquimans County Extension Center in Hertford.

For Susan Cox, the president of the chamber, the

biggest thing is getting local business leaders together in the same room so can get to know each other better.

"We think we know what businesses need, but what they may need is something we haven't thought about yet," Cox said.

The agenda for the meetings will be driven by the business that are there.

See CHAMBER, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Don Giecek, senior development manager for Apex Clean Energy, speaks to a group Wednesday during a Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting held at the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service office in Hertford.

Turbine project gets a warm response

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

While some Chowan County residents are raising concerns about building wind turbines, guests at a Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting Wednesday seemed to focus on the economic benefits it could bring.

The purpose of "Chamber Conversations Over Coffee"

morning meetings is to get business owners and agencies that work with them together monthly to learn more about what each other does and how they can work together.

The format calls for a speaker to talk for about 15 minutes and then provide the audience time to ask questions. Don Giecek,

See RESPONSE, 4

Sales tax change could help Perquimans, double revenue

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County stands to see a huge increase in revenue from sales taxes if a tax proposal is approved

in Raleigh. Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown, a Republican from Onslow County, introduced a bill on Monday that would redistribute sales taxes on a per capita basis. Right now most of the sales tax stays in the county where the sale is made.

Perquimans County Frank Heath hasn't seen the specifics of the bill, but a news graphic published in

the News & Observer of Raleigh indicates Perquimans County stands to see their sales tax revenue double. Dare County on the other hand would see a 59 percent decrease.

"I won't make a comment on the politics of it, but I will say that it would improve our revenues significantly," Heath said. "The more we

See BILL, 2

INFORMATIONAL SIGN INSTALLED



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Larry Hair stands on a ladder to reattach the top of new informational electronic kiosk for the Town of Hertford at the corner of Church and Market streets. The town used a grant from the North Carolina STEP program to pay for the kiosk.



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