

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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50 cents

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

Schools fill vacant school positions

Jones to lead Central School

Assistant principals hired at PCHS

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Bonita Jones knew she wanted to work with children and she found a way to make that happen.

Now she'll have the opportunity to mold an entire school.

Last week Jones was named principal at Perquimans Central School.

Her road started when she graduated Northeastern High School in 1985. She was accepted to Fisk University in



JONES

Nashville where she attended two years.

"To be honest I always knew I would be doing something with children," she said last week. "I was accepted to Fisk and my intent was to do child psychology, but it's a private school and very expensive."

See JONES, 2

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The management team at Perquimans County High School is back up to full strength.

Two resignations and one reassignment left the principal and two assistant positions vacant in August.

Chante Jordan, the former principal, resigned to take a



JACKSON-HEARD



PERRY

position in Gates County. Guy Webb, an assistant principal, resigned to take a position at a

charter school near Charlotte. Laura Moreland was assigned to the assistant principal's role at Perquimans County Middle School.

The first vacancy was filled by moving Melissa Fields from Perquimans Central School to the high school as principal.

Last week the assistant principal positions were filled

See ASSISTANTS, 6

Chowan wind rules tighten somewhat

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

The Chowan County Planning Board last week recommended a text amendment to the county's wind energy ordinance that imposes stricter regulations but does not include the one-mile setback and other specifics from the board's April proposal.

Both Chowan and Perquimans counties are included in a proposed wind power project.

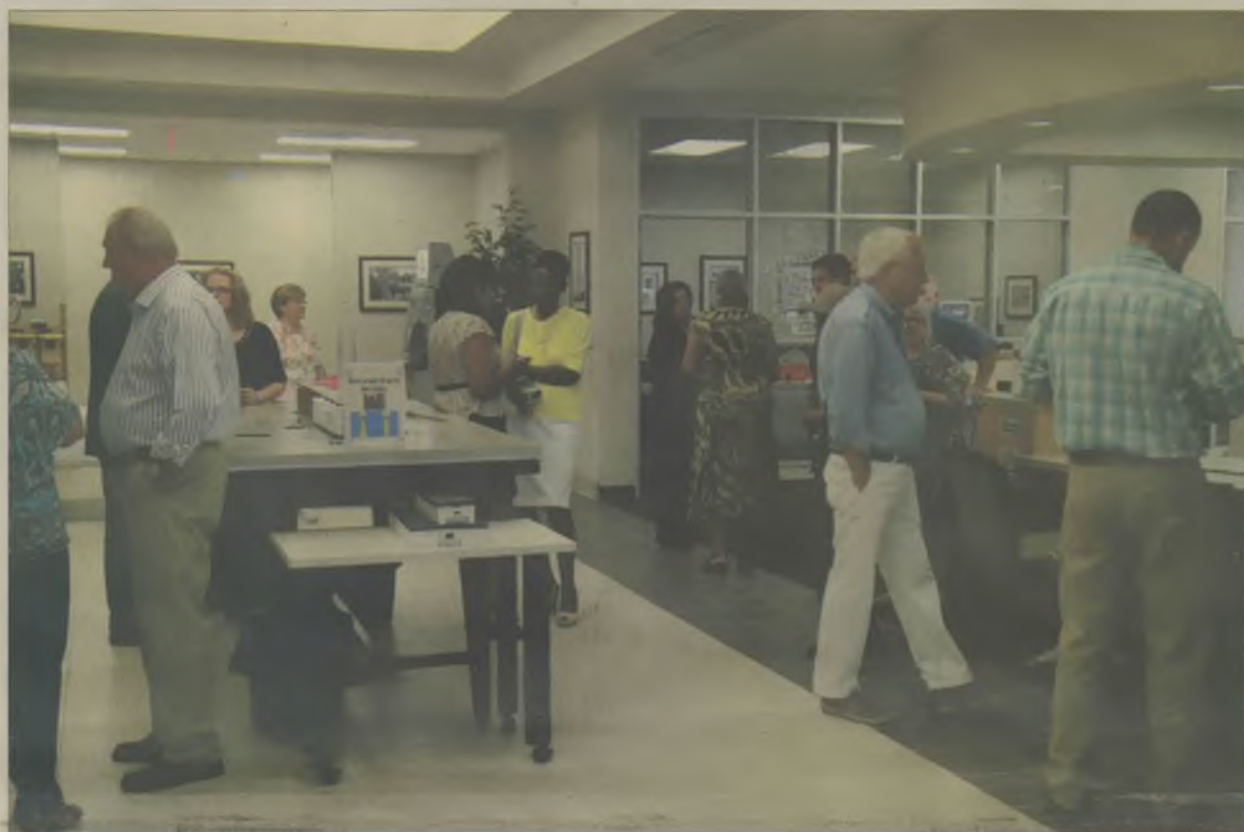
Kevin Chandler of Apex Clean Energy Inc., the company planning the Timbermill Wind Energy project said the company continues to look forward to working with local officials and the community as the process moves forward.

"We haven't yet evaluated the full recommendation, but we do look forward to working with the community throughout the next steps in the process," Chandler said when asked about the planning board's recommended text amendment.

The company's website says that Apex is "exploring the feasibility" of the project. No formal building

See WIND RULES, 7

CREDIT UNION HOLDS GRAND OPENING



Visitors tour the new State Employees Credit Union office in Hertford last month.

PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Bill Ross, an advisory board member for the State Employees Credit Union, cuts the ribbon opening the new office in Hertford on Aug. 26.

Agency to look at bridge plans

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A federal advisory council wants a role in discussions about building a new bridge in Hertford.

The N.C. Department of Transportation wants to replace the S-Bridge with a fixed span that is 33-feet high.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was created with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to identify and assess the effects of their actions on historic resources.

The advisory council "hopefully will expedite the (106) process instead of slowing it down," said Bruce Milhans, a spokesman for the council.

The council got involved when the U.S. Coast Guard — the lead federal agency on the project — issued a finding that DOT's plans will have a negative effect. North Carolina's State Historic Preservation Office asked the council to intervene.

The findings of negative impact were anything but new. The N.C. DOT has long acknowledged anything it does will have a negative impact on the historic district because anything it does will involve removing the historic bridge. The S-Bridge was built in 1928.

The question remains how to mediate that impact.

Last week Jay McInnis, the lead DOT engineer on the project, was a little unsure just what happens next.

"This is where it's a little fuzzy to me," McInnis said. "I've never had a project where the advisory council got involved. I've had

See BRIDGE, 2

Algae blooms prompt warnings from state

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

State officials continue to urge people to avoid contact with potentially harmful algae blooms that have formed in the Albemarle Sound due to hot weather.

Staff in the N.C. Division of Water Resources' Washington Regional office have tracked and evaluated the blooms as they

have been reported by residents. North Carolina has had no reports of adverse health effects in people associated with these algae blooms, which have formed in recent months covering coves, open water and along shorelines in the Albemarle Sound.

The agency first issued a warning on July 23. Division staff received complaints of algae blooms described as

being like "smelly, green pea soup" through the Albemarle Sound and Chowan River areas near Queen Anne's Creek.

While it is safe to boat or fish in the affected areas, the N.C. Division of Public Health routinely encourages the public to avoid contact with large accumulations of the algae and prevent children and pets from swimming or ingesting wa-

ter in an algae bloom.

Susan Massengale, a spokesman for the N.C. Division of Water Resources, urged people to be careful around algae.

"It's a plant and it's going to grow under the right conditions," Massengale said.

Algae itself is not a bad thing, she said.

"It's an important thing to support fish and other aquatic life. It's not like al-

gae is inheritably bad," she said.

Massengale swims often, in swimming pools and lakes and rivers. She just urges common sense. Don't swim or come into contact with water unless you're healthy.

State health and water quality officials reiterate the following steps to safe-

See BLOOMS, 2

16th annual Hunter ALS walk to take place Sept. 26

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The 16th annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Walk on Sept. 26 is expected to again draw hundreds to Hertford for the day to join together

to fight the disease. For Helen Hunter, the campaign never ends.

The widow of the Major League Baseball pitcher visits an ALS support group in Edenton each month and sends letters seeking donations to people far away from Hertford to raise money to fight the progressive neurodegenerative disease. Last year the walk and the letter writing campaign raised \$28,000 to help pro-

vide help to people in the region who are suffering from ALS.

"The support group meets on the first Monday of each month and we go and meet together. They'll say if they need help, and we've been able to provide them wheelchairs, and remodel a bathroom or provide a wheelchair ramp. Some need different things."

See ALS WALK, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The U.S. 17-Bypass bridge was renamed last week in honor of the late Jim 'Catfish' Hunter.



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Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford

CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, BEER GARDEN & MORE

Free Street Dance Friday Night - The Main Event

Sept. 11th, 6 to 10:00 p.m.

Sept. 12th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.