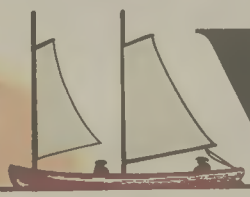


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Local FFA Alumni forms, 7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 SEP 3 0 REC'D

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DOT presents projects

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation unveiled conceptual plans for Perquimans County pedestrian, bike and highway improvements in an open meeting in Winfall last week.

Angela Welch, coordinator for the Albemarle Commission's Rural Planning Organization (RPO), said the meeting was simply to get public input. The turnout — six people — was actually higher than she's seen at similar events. It's the only such meeting that will be planned for now. The next time the public sees the projects is when public hearings are held after funding is approved.

"This is very high level planning," Welch said. "The planning with the actual designing of roads won't be done until the projects are funded. For now its just lines on a map, nothing more."

The RPO has been looking at a number of projects, but funding hasn't been provided.

The most expensive project by far — and one that may be 25 years out there — is updating U.S. 17 to Interstate standards.

While it's four-lane throughout Perquimans County, U.S. 17 has two stoplights, about 20 intersecting roads and perhaps 200 curb cuts for driveways. As a true interstate, the traffic lights would have to go and any roads intersecting the new highway would be very limited.

Another thing that would have to go is farm equipment. Tractors are combines aren't allowed on Interstates. Farhan Jarhan, a transportation engineer for DOT in Raleigh, admits there would have to be accommodations elsewhere.

See DOT, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Walkers parade down Edenton Road Street Saturday for the annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Walk. More than 150 people signed up, despite the threat of rain. A three-day softball tournament to benefit the local foundation will kick off Friday in Winfall.

ALS tourney set for this weekend

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Organizers of the annual ALS walk in Hertford carried on with the event last weekend despite a little rain, but the 18th annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS softball tournament was postponed.

Now those workers have their fingers crossed the weather will cooperate this weekend.

"We're freaking out a little bit looking at the weather forecast, but hopefully we'll be OK," said Guy Webb, one of the organizers. "With deer season, we're running out of time."

Many of the players in the tournament are also deer hunters, Webb said.

"Once deer season starts, it's over for us."

Last year the tournament raised

just short of \$30,000 for the local foundation that helps ALS patients. The tournament is named for Hunter who suffered from the disease.

The tournament is played at the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ball fields on Wiggins Road in Winfall.

The tournament had a full slate of 20 teams when it was scheduled for Sept. 25-27.

See TOURNEY, 3

Sales tax revenue to grow

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County and the two municipalities will have a new stream of revenue but it won't be coming soon and when it does there are restrictions on where the money goes.

A new sales tax distribution formula was adopted by the General Assembly this month. It creates a new pot of money that will be shared with smaller counties and those without a lot of retail sales outlets.

For the first year — Fiscal 2016-17 — Perquimans County stands to get another \$349,000 under the formula. That's on top of the \$1.6 million it was already expected to get at that time.

Hertford stands to gain \$55,000 and Winfall will get \$15,000.

The new sales tax formula was a compromise. The old plan based more of the distribution on the point-of-sale of products. An alternative would have put more weight toward

See REVENUE, 3

Motown sound coming to Hertford on Oct. 10

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Rotary Club members hope a little Motown music will delight the crowd and help raise money for Perquimans County students at the same time.

The Hertford Rotary Club will host the musical group "The Difference" Oct. 10 at Perquimans County High School at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and \$18 for reserved seating. The price for students is \$8.

The annual concert is one of the big events Ro-

tary holds each year to raise money for the scholarship fund, said Sandy Stevenson, the president of the club. The club has about 45 members.

"All the money we raise with this goes to our scholarships either directly to students or it goes into our foundation which will provide a buffer for scholarships in future years," Stevenson said. "We don't want to have to tell students 'gee, we've run out of money.'"

Over the last two years,

See ROTARY, 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The three-member group "The Difference" will be performing Motown songs Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in a concert at Perquimans County High School. The Hertford Rotary Club is putting on the event to raise money for scholarships. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$18 for reserved seating and are available at Carolina Trophy, the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and any Rotary member.

Bonner retiring from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

John Bonner, the pastor of Hertford's oldest church has retired after nine years at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The pastor of Hertford's oldest church has retired after nine years at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

The Very Rev. John Bonner took the helm of the now 167-year-old church in 2006. Piney Grove Friends is the oldest church in Perquimans County.

Bonner, who turns 68 in December, gave his farewell address on Sept. 27.

"After 28 years in the ministry, I sort of took a trip

down memory lane," Bonner said Monday.

He selected three hymns, "How Great Thou Art," "Love To Tell The Story" and "Come Labor On."

"I broke down what those hymns meant to me during my 28-year journey and what it's meant to me and my wife."

His tourney started in his native Tennessee. His first church was in South Pittsburg, Tenn. He spent 15 years there before moving to Alabama for three years. His next stop was Hertford.

Since he came, the congregation has grown by about one third. It has 145 members and about 90 of them attend each week.

He said the church has tried to reach out to a broad range of people.

"When I think about the ministry, I think about everybody," he said. "We've tried to get as many people involved as possible. We have programs for women, we have programs for men, we had things for couples,

See BONNER, 2

Perquimans senior crowned at fair

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

A Perquimans County High School senior put her decade and a half of dancing experience to good use Saturday night, claiming the title of Miss Chowan County Regional Fair 2015.

Samantha Jordan, 17,

daughter of Wayne and Susan Jordan of Hertford, was crowned queen of the fair at the end of a pageant held in the show barn at the Chowan County Regional Fair. Eight young ladies from Chowan and four nearby counties participated in the pageant.

First runner-up was Madison Nance, 17, of Edenton, daughter of David and Ann Nance.

Second runner-up was Isabella Marie Kelly-Goss, 14, of Elizabeth City, daughter of Rob and Robin Kelly-

Goss. The other contestants were Laura Chappell, 17, of Belvidere, daughter of Mark and Lisa Chappell; Chelsea White, 17, of Edenton, daughter of Jay and Lori White; Adrain Ellis, 17, of Windsor, daughter of Dana and Ginger Ellis; Gabriella Branham, 17, of Edenton, daughter of Carlos and Christina Valentine; and Layah Fauth, 14, of Columbia, daughter of Michael and Miriam Fauth.

The event Saturday night at the fairgrounds was

Jordan's first pageant. She said she became interested in the Chowan County Regional Fair pageant through a friend, Grace Swain, who participated last year.

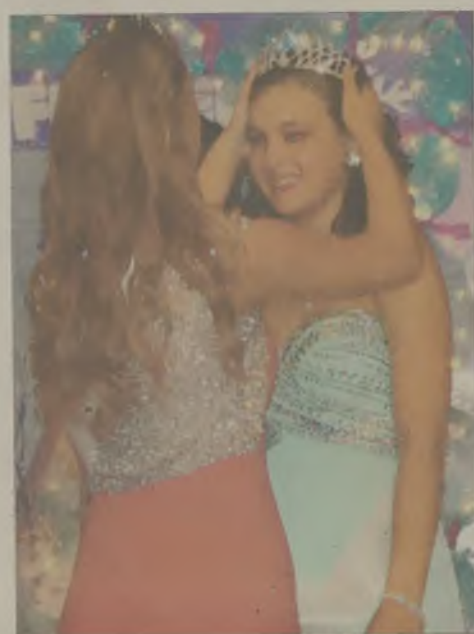
"She said it was really fun," Jordan said.

She found her friend's recommendation to be right on the money.

"I really enjoyed it," Jordan said.

She said she would be encouraging her younger friends to try the pageant.

See FAIR QUEEN, 2



REGGIE PONDER/ CHOWAN HERALD

Samantha Jordan is crowned 2015 Miss Chowan County Regional Fair by Rebecca Brinson, 2014 Miss Chowan County Regional Fair.



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