

PLAYGROUND RIBBON CUTTING



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Commission Chair Janice Cole, Rep. Bob Steinburg and Bland Baker of Trillium cut the ribbon opening up a new playground last week at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Bright Ideas grant deadline looms

From Staff Reports

Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants from Albemarle EMC's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit their application by Sept. 23. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and more information on the Bright

Ideas grant website at www.ncbrightideas.com.

The grants will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, art, language, English and history. Last year, Albemarle EMC awarded more than \$12,000 for classroom projects.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project,

a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proof-read carefully.

"Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$10.2 million for 9,800 projects benefitting more than 2 million students across North Carolina," said Chris

Powell, coordinator of public relations for Albemarle EMC. "We are committed to local communities, and we believe there's no better way to contribute than by investing in the education of our youth."

Albemarle EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have allocated close to \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2016-2017 school year.

SCORES

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Instruction. The school now has a "C" grade.

Moreland had a clue that the grade might be higher, but she wasn't sure until the state report came out. Eighty percent of the letter grade is based on how students scored on tests — their knowledge of the subjects. Moreland said she knew that data. The other 20 percent was based on growth — how much each student grew academically that year. Some students may start seventh grade, but they aren't at the seventh grade level yet.

"I knew the 80 percent, but we don't know the 20 percent for growth until the results came out."

"When I started I told everybody we were going to be a 'C' and I'm not sure who laughed and now I say we're going to be a 'B' my staff said 'that's great.'"

Moreland said her staff took pride in the fact that PCMS got a "C" but were equally happy that PCMS was the only middle school in the

area that exceeded growth.

The turnaround happened fast. Moreland only took the principal's job in January, so she didn't have much time to get students ready for the end of grade testing.

"To do the same thing over and over and to expect a different result is the definition of insanity," Moreland said. "We had to change our frame of thought and we had to change our master schedule."

"It came down to a process of monitoring students," she said. "When I started we had insufficient data on which to base anything on so teachers had to be very intentional. We literally changed the master schedule, which is crazy to do in the middle of the year, but we had to be very deliberate."

It also meant extra work for staff and students. Twice the school held a "Saturday Academy." It involved three hours of test prep for students. As a reward, those who participated could play in a basketball tournament that followed.

It worked.

"We had 120 kids give up there time on a Saturday morning to come out," More-

land said. That represents a third of the entire enrollment in the school.

"We learned being data-driven works, being intentional works, and now instead of starting it all of the middle of the (school) year, we can start it in August."

Moreland said she and Jason Griffin, the principal at HGS and Melissa Fields, the principal at the high school have great relationships. It's Griffin's students that feed the middle school and it's Moreland's middle school that feeds the high school.

"With Jason we had to offer two accelerated math classes at the middle school because so many kids were coming in at such a high level. It's reciprocal. Hopefully we sent Mrs. Fields some awesome ninth graders." And Griffin had something to celebrate as well. HGS earned "B" grade this year, the first time a Perquimans County has done that.

"This is a huge accomplishment," Griffin said. "When you look it, probably out of all of them, 25 percent are 'B'. So that means we're in the top 25 percent. That's a huge deal.

This year we're going to focus on getting an 'A.'"

To earn the "B" Griffin said the school had to focus on every student.

"There are meeting with teachers to put interventions in place for each student, and our board of education, our school board has been really supportive."

The past 12 months has seen massive change in leadership in the school system.

When Chante Jordan resigned at Perquimans County High School in August 2015 and Melissa Fields was brought over from Perquimans Central to fill the void. Bonita Jones was moved from the middle school to Central to take the principal's job there.

Then a few months later, Andrea Greene, the principal at Perquimans County Middle School announced she would step down at the end of December. That elevated Moreland from being assistant principal to principal in January. And at the top, long-time superintendent Dwayne Stallings retired in December, and Matthew Cheeseman was named to replace him.

FIRE TRUCK

Continued from 1

and closed in September," said Town Manager Brandon Shoaf. "That's a very quick turnaround."

If the town were to order the same model from scratch, it would be about 300 days before it could be delivered. Since it was a demonstration model, the town could get it quickly and for less money.

The town agreed to take

\$200,000 from its reserve account to help pay for it. It also got a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development fund. USDA is financing the remaining \$439,950. Had the town not acted when it did, USDA funds would have run out until sometime next spring, said Monica Thornton, the USDA representative that worked with the town.

Before the town could take possession there was a closing on the loan. Once all the paperwork was done, Mayor Horace Reid expressed his thanks to Fire Chief Drew Woodard and those in the department.

"Thank you for what you do and your staff," Reid said. "Hopefully this will help. There are many things you do that nobody knows about."

Assistant Fire Chief Rob-

bie Reed offered his thanks to the mayor.

"This truck means more to us than getting paid," Reed said.

Before the new truck gets placed into service, firefighters will need to go through training on it. Woodard said a three-day class is being scheduled.

The town could have just bought another engine, like the one it is replacing, but the fact that the ladder truck can serve two functions gives the fire department more flexibility.

Sid Eley, a town councilman and a firefighter also said the ladder trucks typically have a working life of 30 years. A fire engine's usual lifespan is 20 years.

"We'll be using this one long after I retire," said Assistant Fire Chief Reed. He's been on the department 15 years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY

■ Storytime

The Perquimans County Library will host storytime every Wednesday at 11 a.m. The library will hold movie for adults at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY

■ Prostate Screenings

Vidant Chowan Hospital will offer free prostate screenings for men Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 999 Pender Road.

■ Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive Thursday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Albemarle Plantation.

■ Bingo

American Legion Post 126 hosts bingo on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. at their building at 111 W. Academy St.

■ Movies at the Library

Every third Thursday of the month, the Perquimans County Library will offer a movie geared toward adults at 10 a.m.

■ Weight loss

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) holds weekly support group meetings on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Perquimans County Senior Center. Call 426-2022 or visit www.tops.org.

SATURDAY

■ Grape Picking

Now through Sept. 17 there will be table grapes, and ripe wine, jelly and juice grapes available for picking at the Newbold White House. Walker Rayburn will be on-site from 9-12 on Saturday mornings for those who want to learn how to pick the grapes properly. The price for pick-your-own will be \$3 for quarts, \$10 for gallons and \$40 for five gallons. Pre-picked quarts cost \$5.

■ 5K Run

The Junior Women's Club of Perquimans County will hold its second annual Strides for Scholars 5K run Saturday at the Perquimans Recreation Center. Registration is from 8-8:45 a.m. with a kid's fun run at 8:45 and the 5-K run/walk at 9 a.m.

■ Greenwing Day

The Jim "Catfish" Hunter chapter of Ducks Unlimited will hold its fourth annual Greenwing Day on Saturday at Camp Cale. For more information call 312-6252 or 337-5195. The registration fee is \$20. The day starts with registration at 10:30 a.m. and lunch at noon. The activities take place from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

■ Cale Fundraiser

Camp Cale will host "an Evening At Cale" on Saturday from 6-9 p.m. There will be music, entertainment and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$25. For more information call Camp Cale at 264-2513 or Kelsey Gray at 339-6274 or e-mail kelseygray@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY

■ Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers will meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Hertford United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. Call 331-5426.

SEPT. 20

■ Gardening Course

The Extension Service will offer a five-week gardening course on Tuesdays from 3:30pm to 5:30pm in Agriculture Center, 730 N Granville St., Edenton starting Sept. 20. The course is free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, call 482-6585.

SEPT. 21

■ Curious George

The Perquimans County Library will hold a special storytime on Sept. 21 at 11 to celebrate the 75th birthday of Curious George.

SEPT. 24

■ ALS Walk

The annual Jim "Catfish Hunter" ALS Foundation walk will be held Sept. 24 starting at Perquimans County High School. Registration is at 8 a.m., an opening ceremony at 8:50 a.m. and the walk starts at 9 a.m. For more information contact Helen Hunter at 426-7998.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2

■ "Catfish" Hunter ALS softball tournament

The 18th annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS softball tournament will be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 at the Jimmy Hunter Fields in Winfall. For more information, call 252-340-0210.

OCT. 1

■ Rotary Show

The band "The Difference" will present an evening of Motown music Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Perquimans County High School auditorium. General admission tickets are \$15 and available at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Carolina Trophy, Hertford Hardware or from members of the Hertford Rotary Club. Reserve tickets are \$18 and are available by calling 426-5246. All proceeds fund Rotary Club scholarships.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Perquimans County Board of County Commissioners will continue the Quasi-Judicial Hearing on Monday, September 19, 2016 through Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 5:30 PM each night in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex Building located at 110 North Church Street, Hertford, NC (next door to the Historic County Courthouse), to consider Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-16-01, by Timbermill Wind, LLC, c/o Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC, for a Large Wind Energy Facility in the Bear Swamp and Centerhill Communities (to include Tax Parcel Nos. 3-0039-00011B; 3-0047-00001, -00002, -00014 and -00028; 3-0048-00001 and -00003; 3-0049-00009, -00024A, -00025, -00026, -00038 and -00039(part); 3-0058-00004(part), -00007 and -00013; and 3-0059-00012A(part)), and extending west into Chowan County.

Property owners, residents and other interested parties may review this item during normal business hours before the quasi-judicial Public Hearing at the Perquimans County Planning & Zoning Office, 104 Dobbs Street, Hertford, NC, or call 252-426-2027 or email dgodfrey@perquimanscountync.gov for more information.



PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold 2 public hearings on September 19, 2016, 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Municipal Building located at 114 W. Grubb Street. The following items are on the agenda:

- Consider approval of a proposed subdivision of land at 1300 Don Juan Rd, the Brian Center.
- Consider approval of a proposed subdivision of land at 1010 Harvey Point Rd.

Any information regarding this may be obtained from Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, at the Municipal Building, or by calling 426-1969 x. 9. You may also submit comments regarding this by mail no later than 5:00 PM Friday, September 16th.