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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

MAR 08 REC'D

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017



Donations for Byrum scholarship top \$10K, 2

50 cents

## Sewer district looking to Hertford for help

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The operators of a small sewage treatment plant that serves the camping area at Holiday Island have approached the Town of Hertford to see if it can hook up with that municipal system.

Building an eight-mile distribution line plus internal improvement at Holiday Island could cost upwards

of \$5.5 million.

The Minzies Creek Sanitary Sewer District has been operating under a Special Order by Consent (SOC) from the state since 2015. The system was designed and built in the 1970s, and does not adequately treat the waste created by the 85 trailers and homes that are located there.

Frank Page, a member of the Minzies Creek board,

said the group has tried three or four other options to treat the sewage on-site without success. They hope to get a grant to pay for linking up to the Hertford system.

Page has been living at Holiday Island for the past 25 years.

"The plant is aging and we have no place to get rid of the wastewater," Page said. "We can't have direct

discharge at this point. We're trying to get a grant to pay some of the cost and we would pay some percentage. We've been working hard to find a solution."

Gary Hartong, an engineer with the Wooten Company, is working with Minzies Creek on the situation.

"The biggest issue is their current method has three lagoons that were designed back in 1992 and they were

improperly designed for the amount of precipitation eastern North Carolina gets," Hartong said last week.

Hartong said getting 85 new sewer customers could be a plus for Hertford. The town expanded its sewer plant and has excess capacity and new customers would bring in new revenue. So far Hertford officials have said they'd like to see details of

the plans before agreeing to anything.

Hartong said just building a line from Holiday Island to Hertford wouldn't be enough.

"Right now they have a gravity sewer system that leaks and they have infiltration, which isn't a big deal but as soon as you start pumping that water

See SEWER, 2

## Town looks at electric rates

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Town of Hertford plans to pay a consultant up to \$8,650 to determine how to best to pass along a reduction in wholesale electric costs.

The town and other municipalities buy power from the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency. In February NCEMPA announced a 4.5 percent rate decrease because Duke Energy Progress lowered what they charge.

The Hertford board agreed to hire UFS, a consultant, to conduct a study.

"Myself and Electricities staff have met with UFS already and have provided data they will use to

See RATES, 2

## Weird weather threatens bees

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Tiny little honeybees have to deal with a lot in their short life, and the sudden surge in spring like weather this year could be devastating to a hive, according to Paul Newbold, a Perquimans County beekeeper and member of a regional bee group.

"It's been warm and that can be the biggest threat to honeybees," Newbold said.

"Their life's work is preparing all summer long to feed the brood and make enough honey to survive the winter."

A worker bee may only live about 42 days. The queen's lifespan is two to three years, and when she's laying, she can lay 1,500 to 1,800 eggs a day.

Only about a third of bees in a hive survive colder weather. Newbold said he leaves about 60 pounds of honey in each hive to keep the colony fed.

But when the weather turns warm too soon the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Paul Newbold tends one of his bee hives.

queen is fooled.

"She starts laying eggs like crazy." That means more mouths to feed and

the honey storage gets depleted.

A sudden return to normal cold weather may

choke off the supply of incoming pollen and bees

See BEES, 2

## Jones may run for judge

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A House bill that would make District and Superior judge elections partisan again has at least one local attorney eyeing a potential bid for judgeship next year.

Kyle Jones, an assistant district attorney and chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, said Saturday he may run for District Court judge in 2018.

Jones, 31, a registered Republican, won re-election last November to his county commissioner seat. But he says he's being encouraged

See JONES, 3

## Former sheriff Tilley returning as courthouse bailiff

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Nobody's going to have to train Perquimans County's newest bailiff.

Eric Tilley spent his career in law enforcement — the last 18 years as Perquimans County Sheriff. He retired at the end of January, but new Sheriff Shelby,

White reached out to Tilley to see if he'd help out part-time.

White confirmed Friday that he asked Tilley to help out. Typically there are three bailiffs, but two retired when Tilley did, leaving the department two short.

One new bailiff has been hired in addition to Tilley, putting that department at



FOWDEN TILLEY

full staff. White has also promoted one of his depu-

ties, James Fowden, to the position of investigator — the job White held before he was named sheriff. All this brings the office up to speed in terms of balliffs, but down one position in terms of deputies, which is something White is working on.

Tilley said he doesn't mind working under White. "He asked for some help,

and it's the least I can do. I'll help out for a while. Besides I love to drive, and I said I'd be happy to handle any transports. I just said I'll handle the metal detector (in the lobby of the courthouse), but I don't want to work in the courtroom."

Typically some bailiffs are inside the courtroom to keep order, but one bailiff

handles the metal detector and screens people who go in.

"Inside the court you have to shuffle papers, but outside the courtroom I know most of the people there, and it doesn't bother me. It's just a little extra money in my pocket."

See BALIFF, 3

## Tourism director is hired

From Staff Reports

Sharon Smith has been escaping to Perquimans County for almost 20 years. When an opportunity recently became available for her to share her love for the small town charm and peaceful natural beauty that initially attracted her, and be paid for it, she jumped at the

chance.

Smith recently started working with the Perquimans County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) as tourism director. In her new role, she will be responsible for developing a plan to attract more tourists and visitors to Perquimans.

Smith and her husband Jim have a home on the riv-



SMITH

er in New Hope, where they enjoy spending time on the dock with their three dogs and five children.

The TDA will be actively fundraising and recruiting volunteers to help implement the tourism plan and special events under her leadership. Cultivating partnerships with tourism groups throughout Northeastern North Carolina will be a main focus.

"Perquimans County has so much to offer as a

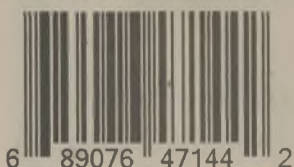
See SMITH, 3

## FARM EXPO



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Farmers listen to a speaker recently at the Northeast Ag Expo Small Grains Field Day held at White Hat Seed Farm in Perquimans County.



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Look for it in today's Edition!