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STUDENTS TAKE PART IN EASTER EGG HUNT 5

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Betts talks turkey, 8

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

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Plantation to run golf tourney this year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After three years of using an outside organization to organize a pro golf tournament, Albemarle Plantation has opted to do it themselves this year.

This year's Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Classic was going to be another Swing

Thought Tour event this year.

But Plantation golf pro Kenny Saunders said he wasn't impressed with how well it's done earlier this year and the board agreed to break ties with that group and sponsor it in house.

"They (Swing Thought) were having trouble bringing players," Saunders said.

"The first tournament they had 108, and the next one was 25, and next was 30 and the next week it was 24."

What Saunders would like to see is 144 golfers and he's already had to deal with poor attendance in the past. The very first Biggs tournament in 2014 drew just 13 golfers under the NGA Tour.

"I didn't want to get into another situation like that," Saunders said.

Tours like the NGA, the E-Golf Tour and Swing Thought are like "minor leagues" compared to the big event — the PGA. Saunders said many go broke and it's hard to stay in business.

By cutting out the middle man and doing the Biggs

Classic in-house, Saunders said the Plantation will be able to offer a bigger share of prize money. That's in addition to the past perk — Plantation residents have offered to put up players in their homes for free during the tournament. At many other lower level pro tournaments, players have to pay for their own lodging.

"By doing it ourselves I think we can do it bigger and better than before," Saunders said.

The dates, June 26-July 1, remain the same.

Saunders said he's been told by tour organizers in the past that the Plantation really didn't need an outside

See BIGGS, 2

Tribute created for Thelma Finch

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

For 33 years in the classroom, Thelma Finch opened the doors of knowledge to hundreds of Perquimans County Schools students as a teacher.



T. FINCH

Her son, Johnnie Finch, says since he graduated from law school simply saying that he was "Thelma Finch's son" has opened doors for him that would otherwise be closed.



J. FINCH

"Anybody that I didn't know, I would say that my Mom was Thelma Finch and it opened doors for me," he said.

So this month Johnnie Finch created a scholar-

See FINCH, 3

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Robyn Culpepper (right) helps O.R. Harris onto a pony Saturday during the annual Week of the Young Child event held at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Right, N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Buddy Davis talks about what his job is during the annual event. Forestry officials, EMS, fire departments, the U.S. Coast Guard and others attended the event.



Wind power bill offered

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Rep. Bob Steinburg believes that a bill designed to streamline — not stop — the construction of new wind power projects will get a vote in the House this month.

Unlike some Senate legislation designed to curb or stop new wind development because of fears they would harm the military, Steinburg said HB 574 deals with any potential conflicts with the military from the start.

"It's a good bill," Steinburg said Thursday.

The bill was filed on April 5 and passed first reading the following day. It was referred to the Committee on Energy and Public Utilities on Wednesday and now sits in the committee dealing with rules, calendar and operations.

"That can be a bad thing," Steinburg said, referring to other bills that have been sent to that committee to die. "But I don't think so in this case. I think it's going to be heard."

In order to stay alive a bill must pass one branch, Senate or House by Thursday.

Steinburg (R-Chowan) and Rep. Howard Hunter (D-Ahoskie) were among the 18 co-sponsors of the bill.

The primary sponsors of the bill are Rep. John Szoka, (R-Fayetteville), a three-term representative and retired Army lieutenant colonel; two-term Representative Sam Watford, (R-Thomasville) who works in the construction industry and two term Rep. Holly Grange (R-Wilmington). Grange is director of community affairs for Osprey

See WIND, 2

Camp Cale's 'Pig on the Perquimans' coming Saturday

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Camp Cale will host their annual Pig on the Perquimans Saturday. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and teams will com-

pete for the best roasted pig.

The event is a fundraiser for the Baptist-run facility in New Hope.

Admission is \$10.

Cale is in the process of raising money to replace

1960s-era open-air bunk-

houses. The new sleeping areas will include heating, air conditioning and bathrooms. That means they could host people

year round, instead of just the warmer months. Each

bunkhouse can house 48 campers.

Director Matt Thomas hopes to break ground on one new bunkhouse on Aug. 1.

Events Saturday include trap shooting, a cornhole

tournament and a new event — Archery Tag. The game is played similar to dodgeball

with our bows and special foam-tipped arrows.

"It's totally safe," Thomas

said. The inflatables and BBQ

judging starts at 10 a.m.

Trap shooting starts at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 for 10 shots. The rock wall opens

at 11 a.m. and entertainment

See CALE, 2

Garden show on Saturday, Garden Party is coming May 6

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The seventh annual Albemarle Master Gardener

Spring Garden Show will focus this year on things you can eat.

The program is put on each year by volunteers who have completed the Master Gardener program in Perquimans, Chowan and Gates counties. The event is held at the Perquimans County



SUBMITTED PHOTO

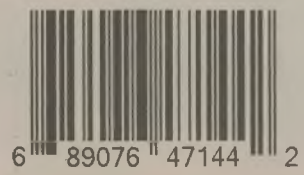
A vendor talks about plants to visitors to the Spring Garden Show last year. This year's event is Saturday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Party to benefit PCRA

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Restoration Association will hold its 26th annual Garden Party Spring Garden Party May 6 from 2-5 p.m. at the Albemarle Plantation Clubhouse.

See PARTY, 2



See SHOW, 2

April 29th BBQ Cookoff

PIG ON THE PERQUIMANS

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