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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



William Felton retires from county post, 2

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

50 cents

Town tightens dog rules

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Pet owners in Hertford can no longer chain a dog to a tree and just leave them there.

After months of debate, the town council adopted an ordinance that prohibits the practice as of May 19. It also says dog pens must be kept clean and free of accumulation of waste and odors.

Mary Vidarri, a member of the board of AWARE, helped push for the ordinance. AWARE stands for "Animal Welfare of the Albemarle Region Everyday."

"We started when we saw the change in Elizabeth City after they adopted an ordinance."

Any person failing or refusing to abate the nuisance within 24 hours shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, will be subject to a fine not exceeding fifty \$50 or imprisonment not to exceed thirty 30 days.

Vidarri said she understands Dare County is looking at a similar ordinance. She hopes more and more municipalities, or even counties adopt such a measure.

The ordinance specifically prohibits:

■ Keeping a dog on a chain, rope, or other type of leash unless the owner is in control of the leash. No dog can be permanently leashed

See DOGS, 2



A view of the new Hertford boat ramp from the water.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ramp may open today

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A new boat ramp in Hertford should be ready to open to the public as early as this week.

"We have a final inspection scheduled for Wednesday (today) with the contractor and the State Construction Office monitor," said Sara Sherman, an engineer with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. "If it passes the final inspection it may be able to open that afternoon. If it doesn't pass that day it will be shortly after before it opens."

The formal ribbon cutting — set for 10:30 a.m. on June 23 — has been more than three years in the making.

In 2013 the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission already had plans to build another ramp in Perquimans and had some funds available. Perquimans County had some land available and was willing to donate it.

But instead of just a basic boat ramp, Perquimans County wanted to build an extra large one that could be used by commercial boats as well. The 72-acre Marine Industrial Park is next door to the boat ramp site.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A new boat ramp near the Perquimans Recreation Center could be open as early as today.

So when Golden LEAF opened up a \$10 million grant program in 2013, Perquimans asked for \$306,000 for the boat ramp project and pitched it as an economic development project since they have 72 acres next door designed to be a marine industrial park.

Perquimans also asked for \$860,000 for a one-to-one computer initiative that would put tablet computers in the hands of hun-

dreds of local students.

Perquimans County wasn't the only one looking for money.

Golden LEAF had \$10 million to give out and got \$30 million in requests from 21 counties. When the final cut was made in the early summer of 2014, the board ramp and computer projects were among those that were funded.

See RAMP, 2

Food pantry moving

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After 15 years in Winfall, The Open Door Food Pantry will be back to Hertford in June.

"Space was the primary driver for it (the move)," said Charles Lacefield, the chairman of the board of Open Door. The new facility has 1,500 square feet, twice the space of the Apple Tree Mall facility on Winfall Boulevard.

"We didn't have enough space to handle the volunteers and it was getting hard to find a place to interview people in private."

Lacefield said access was also a factor.

"With the old facility people came in and went out the same door, and things got congested," he said.

The new location at 220-D Ocean Highway will offer one door for people to go in and another for people to leave.

See PANTRY, 2

Farmers market changing

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Hertford Farmer's Market will be held every Saturday from June 3 through Aug. 26 from 8 a.m. until noon at a new location on Church Street.

In the past the market has been held in Missing Mill Park on Grubb Street. His year it's moving to the parking area of Coastal Carolina Family Practice at 600 S. Church St.

Once again, the market is being organized by FFA students from Perquimans County High School under the direction of instructor Angel White.

See MARKET, 2

Scholarship foundation grows to \$475,000

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A local endowed scholarship that started with the donation of \$120,000 in stock in 2011 has grown to close to a half million dollars.

As a result, the Walker and Marjorie Rayburn Educational Scholarship will be able to give fund four \$5,000 scholarships each year starting this year. When it started, the resources were there to fund one scholarship a year.

What that means is a freshman entering college this year could get the \$5,000, along with a sophomore,

a junior and a senior, said Brenda Lassiter, the executive director of the Perquimans Schools Foundation.

Another new twist in addition to picking a scholarship winner, the Perquimans County Schools Foundation will select an alternate in case the winner doesn't qualify or drops out.

Lassiter said the generosity shown by the Rayburn family is "pretty impressive."

"It has set the tone and helped show other individuals the possi-

See FOUNDATION, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Parker Robertson poses with Walker and Marjorie Rayburn. Robertson is this year's winner of the Rayburn scholarship.

Retired Air Force officer to speak at Memorial Day service

From Staff Reports

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joseph W. Hoffer will be the guest speaker at a Memorial Day service Mon-

day in Hertford.

The American Legion Post 126 will hold the event at 11 a.m. on the courthouse lawn on Church Street.

Hoffer, although born in Brooklyn, N.Y., was raised in Hertford from the age of five and graduated from Perquimans County Union School in 1958.

Following high school, Hoffer went on to attend

North Carolina Central University and received a bachelor's degree in biology in 1962. He enlisted in the Air

Force and was assigned as a security policeman at Trux



HOFFLER

Field, WI. He went on to complete officers' training and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1964.

His military service saw him serve a tour in Southeast Asia and two tours in England. He also had a four-year tour as a missile combat crew launch commander at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri.

Lt. Col. Hoffer completed his Air Force career as the squadron commander of the 7625th Security Police Squadron at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo. He retired in 1984.

During his military service, Colonel Hoffer went on to receive an MBA from the University of Missouri and a Certification in Police Administration from the

University of Southern California.

His military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and the Combat Readiness Medal.

Hoffer is the vice commander of Hertford American Legion Post 362 and is

See HOFFLER, 2



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