

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



New nurses hired, 4

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"News from Next Door"

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Work continues on library

■ Crews are working inside and finishing up some of the exterior trim on the outside.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Construction on the new Perquimans County Library is proceeding, but it will be a while before it opens to the public according to Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath.

When county commissioners approved the \$2.5 million contract, the project was supposed to be complete by around the first of September. The contractor, Aarene Contracting, LLC, was given credit for some weather delays including a hurricane in September.

"It seems we're a little behind at this point, but I still feel pretty good about where we are," Heath said.

He said crews are working inside and finishing up some of the exterior trim on the outside.

"They're pouring the sidewalks right now," he said Wednesday. "They've done the tile in the entrance way and the drywall is in and ready to prime and then paint. The windows are doors are coming next."

But just because the building is complete doesn't mean it will be ready to open to the public, Heath said.

"We will still have a ways to go," he said.

He said once the contrac-



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, work continues inside the main area of the new Perquimans County Library. Right, crews work on the concrete sidewalk at the new Perquimans County Library on Church Street last week.



Grant aims to help workers, employers

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Albemarle Commission and two other workforce agencies will share in a \$250,000 grant designed to help people find jobs and help businesses find workers.

In all, the grant is aimed at a 17-county area of north-eastern North Carolina. The Hertford-based Albemarle Commission, which covers 10 counties.

Emily Nicholson of the Albemarle Commission's Northeast Workforce Development Board said the grant will allow the hiring of three mobile career advisors. The advisors will be able to help those seeking jobs and employers with the resources available through the NWDB and the NC Works career centers.

"They'll be on the road, going to wherever a job seeker might be as well as helping employers," Nicholson said.

The grant runs through December 2018 and comes from the NC Division of Workforce Solutions, a department within the Commerce Department.

Also sharing in the grant is the Region Q Workforce Investment Consortium, a public-private partnership based in Washington and the Turning Point Workforce Development Board based in Rocky Mount.

Region Q, administers a five county system of workforce development programs in Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Pitt counties.

Turning Point covers area around I-95.

Nicolson said in a way, the new grant dove-tails with one the Pettigrew Regional Library system received. That \$32,000 grant will be used to help train the staff at all four libraries in the system how to use the NC Works system.

The concepts revolve around one theme, which is to access job seekers and employers by building traditional and electronic outreach methods, leveraging the relationships with partner agencies and erasing barriers that disparage the most needful individuals of the workforce.

This "A.B.L.E." theme focuses on enhancing the abilities of career centers across the most rural regions of NC so that job-seekers and employers are more aware of the resources available to them through NWDB.

"We're very excited about expanding the outreach of our career centers," she said. Applications are being accepted for three Mobile Career Advisor positions. For more information, contact Nicholson at NWDB at 426-5753, Ext. 233 or by e-mailing enicholson@accog.org.

Book donations help expand collection

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

What's a library without books? With the completion of the new Perquimans County Library, Librarian Michele Lawrence will have more space to house a wider selection.

She just doesn't want the donations quite yet.

"Since it shouldn't be long until we move, we are asking people

"Since it shouldn't be long until we move, we are asking people with books to donate to please hold on to them until after the move."

Michele Lawrence
Librarian

with books to donate to please hold on to them until after the move," she said last week. "We re-

ally have no space to store them in this building. We haven't even been able to do much packing yet

for the same reason. The less we need to move, the better."

Lawrence would love to see a return to the days when people would donate a new book in honor of or in memory of somebody or some group. She said she'd still get that from time to time, but not as often as in times past.

"We just got one this past month," she said. "Sadly, usually

See BOOKS, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Lillian Holman (left) and Mayor Horace Reid listen to N.C. Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey during his visit to the Hertford Fire Department.

Fire Marshal tours region

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey met informally with local officials Wednesday at the Hertford Fire Department.

Causey made no formal speech, but instead walked around and spoke with individuals from the six volunteer departments in the county.

Causey seemed pleased that Perquimans County High School has a Fire Academy that trains students how to be a certified fire fighter. He said in his travels across the state, the lack of vol-

unteers at small local fire departments is a problem.

"That's what we need," Causey said about the high school program. "A lot of high schools don't have that."

Michael Cartwright, who teaches the high school program, estimates he's had about 25 students graduate from high program, nine of them just this year. The program has been running for four years.

He said about 75 percent of those grads have gone on to join local volunteer fire departments.

See MARSHAL, 2.

Baughter joins extension service staff

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Nettie Baughter grew up around horticulture, so it may just be natural that when she graduated college she decided to be an extension agent.

Baughter, 22, joined the N.C. State Extension Service on July 3, and will serve



BAUGHER

the Gates County office. She is originally from south central Pennsylvania.

"I grew up and worked on my family's tree fruit farm and nursery. There is a fruit research center in

my hometown as well, and that's why I started looking at extension. I knew N.C. State has a very good extension program."

She graduated Pennsylvania State University and studied plant science.

"It allowed me to participate in internships with the Penn State Research and Extension Center's entomology department, the Penn State — Engaging and Philadelphia Extension Center, and Monsanto's corn breed-

See BAUGHER, 2

HABITAT HOUSE

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid presents two energy efficiency kits including LED light bulbs to Mike Lyens, a new Habitat for Humanity partner in Hertford. Lyens and his wife Rebecca will be moving into the home at 608 Dobbs St. The dedication of a new house will be held Aug. 16 at 10:30 a.m.

