

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pets of the Week, 7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018

75 cents

## ElectriCities to market new park

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A group that helps manage municipal utilities in North Carolina, including the one in Hertford, will be helping market the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park.

County and town officials joined ElectriCities last week in helping erect a new sign at the site near the Perquimans Recreation Center.

ElectriCities of North Carolina Inc. has designated

the 71-acre project a "Smart Site."

The designation guarantees that the site has met stringent requirements and is shovel-ready for new development.

Perquimans County economic development consultant Dave Goss said the move by ElectriCities is a "huge deal." It has the money and contacts to market North Carolina sites looking to relocate or expand.

"They've run full page ads, sometimes two pages

in key magazines promoting Smart Sites throughout North Carolina," Goss said. "That's real exposure that we couldn't afford to do."

ElectriCities created the Smart Sites program in 2014 to help member communities prepare shovel-ready sites for economic development.

"In today's competitive environment, it's rare for a company to locate on an undeveloped property," said ElectriCities Economic Development Manager Brenda

Daniels.

"New and expanding companies expect existing buildings or a prepared, shovel-ready site to shorten the amount of time needed for construction."

ElectriCities markets Smart Sites at trade shows and industry events around the world. In the past ElectriCities has paid for a booth for Perquimans County to promote the site at a trade show in New Orleans that

See PARK, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid (left) and Perquimans County Economic Development consultant Dave Goss steady a new sign at the planned marine industrial park last week. ElectriCities will be helping marketing the project.

"It sure beats the old one. It's so spacious."

## County dedicates new library

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County dedicated its' first library in 60 years the first ever library built for that function last week.

The facility on Church Street has been more than a decade in the making.

Bill Ross has been a member of the library board for the past 10 years.

When asked how long members have been talking about a new one he said "10 years."

The new facility replaces one on Academy Street that opened in 1957. It was created from the lunchroom of the old Hertford Grammar School after the main structure burned. Prior to that it was the library was located in a converted house next door. After the library left there, it has been used as a senior center until the new facility was created on Harvey Point Road. Historic Hertford Inc. occupies the space now.

The library cost about \$2.5 million. The county commission agreed to use \$500,000 in reserve funds to pay some of the cost and financed the rest for 10 years. The developer, a Georgia firm, agreed to pay \$30,000 in liquidated damages because the project was delayed. The original construction deadline was in September and it wasn't until December before the county accepted the building.

The county owns the building, but it's part of the Pettigrew Regional Library system. It operates three other libraries including the one in Edenton.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath was praised for his role in the library project. Heath called the library "a reflection of who we are as a county."

Walker and Marjorie Rayburn were there for the opening Thursday.

"It sure beats the old one," he



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Commission Chairman Wallace Nelson cuts the ribbon while three children help hold it steady last week during the grand opening of the new Perquimans County Library.

said.

"It's so spacious," she said.

When it came time for the ribbon cutting, Nelson did the honors but made sure three children too part by holding the red ribbon steady.

Nelson said the library "speaks loudly about us as a community" and our priorities to foster life-long learning.

The new library isn't just the end. Judi Bugnizet, the director of the regional library system and a former Perquimans County librarian, said two 3-D printers are on the way. Through a grant, she got a grant for a 3-D printer at all four library. The grant will also provide a 65-inch iMac computer.

Perquimans County Commissioner Fondella Leigh called the library "something we can be proud of."



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A crowd of people gather for the dedication of the new Perquimans County Library last week.

## Census: County grows slightly

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County has grown a little since 2010 and it was the influx of people moving in that fueled the increase.

The U.S. Census Bureau released estimates last week.

The figures showed there were 13,474 people living in Perquimans in 2017. That's 21 more people than in 2010.

While the growth is small, 0.2 percent, it's still an increase. Other surrounding counties lost population during that same period.

Chowan's population fell by 688 people to 14,105 during the seven-year period.

Pasquotank's numbers fell by 918 to 39,743. In Gates County, there were 11,544 people last year. That's down by 653.

The state as a whole grew by 737,936 people between 2010 and 2017. Combined, Wake and Mecklenburg counties made up for 328,419 of the increase.

When it comes to why Perquimans saw an increase in population, it was due to "domestic migration." That's the term for when people already living in the U.S. move to somewhere else in the country. Perquimans picked up 234 new residents as a result.

As for "natural increase" the county population fell by 189. That means more

See CENSUS, 2

## Children's festival to mark 10th year

From Staff Reports

The 10th annual Week of the Young Child Children's Festival and Safe Kids Day will be held on April 14 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. The free event is open to all families, to celebrate young children and the joy of learning through new experiences. Activities will be offered inside the gym and the surrounding grounds.

Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration created in 1971 by the National Association for the Edu-

cation of Young Children (NAEYC), focusing public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership held their first local event in 2009 with 96 attendees. Over the years, both attendance to the event and local support has grown.

Three years ago, Chowan County Safe Kids and Albemarle Regional Health Services joined the Smart Start Partnership as co-hosts of the event. With local focus on preparing healthy children for Kindergarten, the event has grown to not only offer educational activities and experiences, but to also provide parents with infor-

mation concerning resources for their families.

Last year, 44 service organizations participated in the festival handing out goodies, providing learning activities, and giving parents information. More than 100 volunteers from the community, service agencies, and local area businesses were on-site. The Boy's and Girl's Club even bused students out to enjoy the event.

The Perquimans County Recreation Center has more than 200 parking spaces right on the river and has been the home of the event for the past eight years. Due to the parking and large acreage, it has proven to be the best space to accommodate the event and its attendees.

The event will once again

have the benchmarks of the annual event: pony rides, bounce houses, fishing, bike rodeo, car seat checks and face painting.

School clubs and high school students needing community service hours are encouraged to contact Sarah Williams to be a part of the event planning and day-of-event activities. Service agencies that serve families are asked to contact Williams to register to be a vendor at the event. There are no admission fees for this event, nor booth registration because of donations from local businesses and community members.

For more information about the event, how to get involved, or to make a donation, contact Williams at 482-3035 or swilliams.cpssp@gmail.com.

## Schools seek money for capital projects

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The electronic system that allows managing the heating and cooling of four schools is outdated and school officials are asking for \$150,000 to replace it.

Jim Davison, the maintenance director for Perquimans County Schools, said the system is about 13 years old. With passing time, new equipment has been added with new software.

The problem is the Direct Digital Controls (DDC) master control system has not been replaced and can't be upgraded any more.

Davison said the schools are one update away from

being locked out.

"We'll lose the ability to receive alarms and remotely trouble shoot," he said.

That means the only way to check the status of a piece of the system would be to go to it. The units are often located in ceilings or under floors.

One of the bigger ticket items is \$150,000 to replace the floor in the gym at Perquimans County Middle School. The new surface will be a rubber like substance that will be better suited for a variety of activities, Davison said.

In terms of personnel, Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman listed his pri-

See SCHOOLS, 2

