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PCHS to start JV team, 7

"News from Next Door"

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# County seeking more funding for marine park

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

With \$2,885,000 in hand, Perquimans County is proceeding with efforts to get the rest of the \$7 million it will need to start the long-awaited Marine Industrial Park.

The early rewards could be perhaps 200 high-paying jobs in Hertford for people involved with marine industries.

Perquimans County Man-

ager Frank Heath said he's working on submitting a letter of inquiry to Golden LEAF for some of the funds.

"The deadline for the next round of Golden LEAF is coming up on Sept. 7," Heath said.

If Golden LEAF likes what the county is saying in the letter, the county will be asked to submit a full application. The letters will be considered this fall and it will be February of next

year before Golden LEAF is expected to make a decision.

The rules are governments can ask for up to \$2 million, but the grants will be limited to \$1.5 million.

And the boat basin won't be the only project being considered. The total amount of grants this cycle is \$11 million and 17 counties can complete for it.

The Perquimans County Schools system will be asking for \$500,000 for a me-

chanical agricultural program.

The county is also seeking out a \$2.8 million federal Economic Development Administration grant.

"If the two of these grants come in, will be rolling ahead full steam," Heath said. The \$2,885,000 came from a grant through the General Assembly through the Commerce Department.

The permits to dig the basin are valid through the end of 2019.

"If we're in the middle of it, I don't think there will be a problem getting it extended," Heath said.

The project has been in the works for eight years. The original estimated cost for the whole project was about \$20 million.

The first phase of the project involves taking 72 acres of dry land near the Perquimans County Recreation Center and digging a boat basin wider than a football field off the Perquimans

River to a water depth of 10 feet. The sides would be bulk headed so businesses could set up on either side and have access to boats in the inland basin.

The second phase would extend the basin several hundred feet further into the site.

Perquimans County owned the land, but conveyed the land to the state, which in turn agreed to pay

See PARK, 2

## Gym floor to be replaced

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Perquimans officials hope to replace the gym flooring at the Perquimans County Recreation Center this year because water has gotten under the surface and is buckling the floor.

At the very least, it will be replaced before the end of this fiscal year which ends in June 2019.

Howard Williams, the director of the recreation center, said the floor problem doesn't present a safety hazard for users, but it does need to be replaced.

"The floor is buckling," Williams said. "It's from moisture under the floor."

The cost will be about \$65,000 for the full floor.

The building was built in 2003 and the floor has never been replaced. The building wasn't built with gutters on the roof and the water tends to fall down to the ground to a series of "French Drains." It's gravel but it doesn't in this case lead the water away from the base of the building.

Hence, the problem with water getting under the flooring and buckling it. The county is also looking at putting storm gutters on the building.

It started with little bubbles that would pop up on the surface, called Teraflex. Williams described it as not like wood but not like rubber.

See FLOORS, 2

## BAND PRACTICE



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, Perquimans County High School band members march without their instruments last week during practice. Right, Perquimans County High School Drum Major Kaylynn Watson directs the band during a practice last week.



## Chowan suffers algae bloom

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a two-part series. Next week we look at volunteer efforts to monitor the situation)

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Perquimans County waters have so far escaped the huge algae blooms that have clogged portions of the Chowan River.

Leigh Stevenson, an algal ecologist with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, said there have been no problems with the bacterial blooms in the Perquimans River or the Little River. Likewise County Manager Frank Heath said no big problems have been reported to him.

"I know in the past it's tried to encroach on towards us, but I haven't heard anything," Heath said. "I'm not saying it's not out there, but I am saying we haven't heard of anything."

Edenton and Chowan County have not been as lucky.

The Chowan Herald reported on Aug. 5 the Queen Anne's Creek's kayak ramp was surrounded by the green stuff that has also been spotted in Edenton Bay and by the U.S. 17 bridge and boat ramp.

See ALGAE, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Charter Members of the Satellite Club of Hertford are Judy Leftwich, Paul Chappell, Pamela Hurdle, Kim Mason and Chuck O'Keefe.

## Rotary forms new satellite club

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Residents interested in joining a Rotary Club now have two options in Perquimans County.

The existing club, which meets every Tuesday morning at Captain Bob's Restaurant, has created a satellite club.

The reason for the new

club is simple, said Connie Jaklic, the president of the established club.

"The reason was a lot of folks can't make a Tuesday at 7 a.m. meeting," she said. "This will allow more folks to participate."

The satellite club will meet next on Aug. 20 at noon at 252 Grill. For now it will meet on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Jaklic said the satellite club has seven members so far, and needs eight to be recognized by Rotary. It needs 20 members to break out on its own as an independent club.

The morning club has 45 members.

Jaklic said the goal of both clubs is to limit the meeting to just one hour. Anyone interesting in attending the

Aug. 20 satellite club meeting is asked to order ahead of time.

"We really work to get in and out in an hour," she said.

The charter members of the satellite club inducted on July 30 were Paul Chappell, Pamela Hurdle, Judy Leftwich, Kim Mason and

See ROTARY, 2

## Officials hope to keep the Perquimans Friends of the Library alive

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Officials say the local Perquimans County Friends of the Library still has a place, and they want to keep the group alive.

On Monday, Murielle Harmon, the president of the Friends board of directors, announced that the group was disbanding.

The group was formed in the late 1990s and holds fundraisers to support the Hertford library.

"There are many reasons, moving, age and lack of local support," Harmon said in a letter to the editor. She thanks the "faithful mem-

bers, dedicated volunteers and local businesses."

Both Michele Lawrence, the Perquimans librarian and Judi Bugniatet, the director of the Pettigrew Regional Library System, said they were surprised by the move.

Harmon said getting people to help was an issue. At the last board meeting, three of the board members submitted their resig-

nations.

Lawrence agrees the Friends group did have trouble getting members to help with projects, but there was no shortage of dues-paying members. The latest membership role numbered 207, but Lawrence said there might have been some members who dropped out and new members might have been added.

"I know we sent out cards

and a lot of them came back and said they would like to renew their membership, but few checked the box that said they want to volunteer," Lawrence said.

One of the fundraisers the Friends did was a "Silver Tea" at the Perquimans Recreation Center.

"There wasn't a lot of people to do the cooking or the baking," Bugniatet said. "Maybe if we get some

new blood we can get it revitalized. I know people can get burned out. But they (Friends) have been such a huge part of the library and I would hate to see them completely go away."

Since the start the Friends existed to support the old library on Academy Street. This year, there is the brand new location on Church

See LIBRARY, 2



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