

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JULY 9, 2014 - JULY 15, 2014



Perquimans's All-Stars - 8

50 cents

JUL 09 REC'D

Elections director stepping down

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County's long-time elections director announced last week she plans to step down at the end of August.

Eula Mae Forbes spent 20 years heading the one-person county elections department. She has no immediate plans on what to do next.



FORBES

"I'm just at a time in my life where I wanted to see what else is out there," Forbes said Monday. "All my options are open."

Forbes ushered Perquimans County from the world of paper ballots to the era of computer voting machines.

"Moving up with technology was important," Forbes said this week. "I was able to apply for grants and get the voting machines without any cost to Perquimans taxpayers and we moved from counting ballots by hand to what we have now."

Forbes submitted her resignation on July 1. The three-member county elections board is responsible for picking a replacement. That choice will have to be ratified by the State Board of Elections.

The county is advertising for a replacement and the deadline to apply is July 18. It lists a minimum salary of \$29,431.

"Eula set a high bar for

See FORBES, 4

HERTFORD CELEBRATES THE 4TH



STAFF PHOTOS
BY PETER WILLIAMS

Residents gather at Missing Mill Park in Hertford for the start of the fireworks display on Saturday night.



Arthur packs little punch

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The threat of a Category 2 hurricane sweeping through the region last week proved to be just that — a threat.

Perquimans County escaped Hurricane Arthur with minimal damage.

"We dodged the bullet on that one," said Jarvis Winslow, Perquimans County's emergency management director.

MORE INSIDE

■ Deadline looms for storm assistance — 6

Perquimans was under a tornado warning for a time Thursday night. A warning

means a tornado had been sighted, but Winslow said he's not yet been able to find out just where it was sighted.

"I've got to believe that if a tornado was sighted our 911 system would have heard about it."

There were some reports of power outages, but residents mostly reported some high wind and occasional heavy rain.

Surrounding counties reported much the same thing.

That wasn't what was predicted.

As of July 3 at 3 p.m., the National Weather Service was advising Perquimans County residents they should expect one to three inches of rain, winds of 25 to 30 miles per hour with

See ARTHUR, 5

State seeks input on new Strategic Mobility Formula

From staff reports

While some area counties are upset with a new state road funding program, Perquimans County officials seem generally content.

Elizabeth City Public Works Director Paul Fredette and Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton were among the officials who attended a state Department of Transportation meeting held in Edenton last week to receive public input on DOT's transportation improvement plan for Division One.

The road-building formula, known as the Strategic Mobility Formula, was established as part of the 2013

Survey to look at transportation needs

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Transportation officials are wrapping up a survey this week to determine Perquimans County's priorities for transportation improvements over the next 25 to 30 years.

The questionnaire was mailed to utility customers in Hertford

and available to other Perquimans County residents on-line. Hertford mails utility bills out in envelopes so there wasn't an added expense to include the page with the questionnaire. The county mails out monthly water bills on postcards. Paper copies of the survey are available from Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath. Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said the survey

was also available on the town's web page for a while.

The 17 questions include transportation issues as well as quality of life concerns like growth and the environment. The results of the effort will be folded into larger plans in the future.

"This is an 18 to 24-month

See SURVEY, 4

Strategic Transportation Investments Act.

Everyone at Wednesday's meeting in Edenton acknowledged that the new system generally favors

projects in higher-population areas, which tends to make less money available for projects in rural areas such as the Albemarle.

Perquimans County Man-

ager Frank Heath didn't attend the Edenton meeting, but he did provide comments to DOT before the meeting. The county is largely supportive of how

Perquimans fared in the new state rankings.

"New Hope and Woodville Roads scored pretty high," Heath said. "I spoke with Gretchen (Byrum) and

said we were thankful for her help."

Byrum is the planning engineer for DOT in Edenton.

The county wants to see Phase II improvements done to widen and improve New Hope. The new section is from Old Neck to Rob Turner's Store. The Woodville Road project is in the area of Redbank to New Hope Village.

Neither project will happen in the next 12 months, but Heath hopes to see them soon.

"Perquimans ... overall... I think did better than they thought they would," said Angela Welch, the head of

See FORMULA, 5

DOT to discuss downtown bridge

From staff reports

Officials from the N.C. Department of Transportation are scheduled to make a presentation Monday on plans to build a replacement for the S-Bridge in Hertford.

The 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Hertford Town Board is set for the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Opponents of a plan to build a new fixed span off

Church Street argue that a bridge off Edenton Road Street would be better. Many of the opponents are residents of Church Street, Front Street and Phelps Street in the general area where the new bridge would start out over the river.

Many of the opponents of the Edenton Road Street plan are businesses owners in the downtown area who fear redirecting traffic away from downtown would kill business. The Perquimans County Schools have also opposed the plan known as Alternative E because it would create far more traffic in front of Perquimans

County High School.

DOT officials have said that Monday's meeting is not about debating the merits of Alternative D-Mod (the bridge off Church Street) or Alternative E. They did that in September and drew more than 100 people to a public hearing at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Three other public meetings were held since 2010.

Instead they said Monday's meeting is to lay out a more detailed look of what D-Mod will look like and how it will — or won't — impact areas of Church Street.

Hunter wraps up college baseball career, not college

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

When next year's baseball season kicks off, John Hunter will be in uncharted territory. For the first time in 17 years, Hunter won't be playing baseball.

"It's going to be weird," the 22-year-old said last week.

At Perquimans County High School, Hunter was all conference in baseball

See HUNTER, 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

John Hunter goes for the ball last season as a player for Chowan University. It was the last season of college baseball for Hunter. He plans to complete his degree in Murfreesboro.



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