

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 6, 2014 - AUGUST 12, 2014

AUG 6 RECD 50 cents



Livestock team competes in Raleigh, 3

Bridge closing Aug. 18

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The 60-year-old bridge on Great Hope Church Road over Goodwin Mill Creek just west of Hertford will be closed starting Aug. 18 so it can be replaced. The new bridge should open by December.

The construction is part of a far larger N.C. Department of Transportation effort to clear a backlog of bridge maintenance and replacement projects. Great Hope Church Road's span is the second of six Perquimans County bridges that are scheduled to be replaced. The first was the one on Burnt Mill Road. So far the overall project is slightly ahead of schedule.

"We had so many deficient bridges in the state and we weren't able to make any progress in overcoming that number so we asked what are some of the things we can do to make this process work better," said Nicole Meister, a spokesperson for DOT.

A solution was to set specifications but let the contractor decide some of the issues. In the case of design, a traditional bridge like the one in Perquimans could take two years to design. The new process cuts it and construction to a fraction of that, she said.

"We're trying to spread limited money as far as we possibly can," Meister said. "What we've done is streamline the design process and get better bids from

See CLOSING, 8

SHARING THE LOVE



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Men of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church's "Love PQ" project tackle an overgrown held along Railroad Avenue in Hertford Friday morning.

Church takes part in 'Love PQ Week'

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

For the second year, a Perquimans County church has been sharing the love.

"Love PQ Week" involves members of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church getting involved in community cleanup and service projects around the county. PQ is short for Perquimans.

As of Thursday the group had cleaned up the yards of 15 homes for residents who needed help. Nearly three dozen volunteers gathered one night last week at the

See LOVE, 2



Phil Johnson trims a hedge along Railroad Avenue on Friday as part of "Love PQ Week."

Wreck snarls traffic

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County emergency officials responded Friday afternoon to an accident involving a dump truck and a heavy-duty pickup truck on Harvey Point Road.

The accident happened shortly after 2 p.m. near Hertford Beach Road about three miles south of U.S. 17. The names of the drivers were not available.

While nobody was killed, the wreck essentially closed one of the few links between the lower part of the peninsula and Hertford for almost four hours. A Hertford Fire Department fire truck responding to the wreck also broke down on the way to the fire and as Monday was still in the shop. The N.C. Highway Patrol investigated the accident, but the accident report was not posted on line as of this week and the trooper involved was not immediately available.

Perquimans County Emergency Management Director Jarvis Winslow believes the wreck happened when the driver of a dump truck headed north on Harvey Point lost control and struck a heavy-duty pickup truck headed southbound.

Winslow said the smaller vehicle might have suffered a minor fire, but it was out when he got there. The dump truck did not catch fire.

Crews at the scene requested a medical helicopter to evacuate the injured, but Winslow said they couldn't fly because of the rain. At times there were heavy downpours

See WRECK, 8

Perquimans bands welcome new leadership this year



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Ryan Minster, the new band director at Perquimans County High School, works with students during a band camp on Monday.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Ryan Minster knows where he wants to go and he knows he can't get there alone.

The new band director at Perquimans County High School has high expectations but is also aware that support from parents and buy-in from students.

The high school once had 100 students in the band. Today it's about three dozen. There are more sports and activities that can occupy a student's time.

But both Minster and Malik Barrows — the new band director at Perquimans County Middle School

— are fans of bands.

Minster is taking over for Sarah Fenske who resigned June 18 to take a post at Fike High School in Wilson.

Minster comes across as confident but realistic and shows a maturity of someone who is a lot older than 22.

He grew up in Apex, a suburb of Raleigh and just graduated from Furman University in South Carolina. He was settling in to his new home last week and band camp started on Mon-



MINSTER



BARROWS

and immediately started at Perquimans High where she was band director for four years.

Barrows is a native of Mayesville, S.C., a small town of about 700 people in Sumpter County. He earned a bachelors and master's degree from UNC-Greensboro in 2013 and spent the last year teaching in New York City.

"I wanted to be closer to home," Barrows said last week.

Both Minster and Barrows played in high school bands that were larger. Minster's band in Apex had about 100 students. Barrows estimates he had about 70 or 80 or so.

Minster isn't worried about building numbers as much as he is creating a superior sound.

"I'm not as concerned about reaching that certain number, but making sure that everybody who wants to play in the band has a chance to do it," Minster said. "As director, the key is to have your students

See BANDS, 8

Top teacher to assume new role

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

One of Perquimans County's top teachers is stepping away from the classroom but not the school system.

Last week the county school board named Teresa

Beardsley to fill the vacancy when Brenda Lassiter retires as the school system's public information officer at the end of August. In addition to being the official spokesperson for the school system, the job includes working with the Perquimans County Schools Foundation, the Ministers' Council for Education and other groups.



BEARDSLEY

For the past six years,

Beardsley has been a fifth grade science teacher at Hertford Grammar School.

"It's going to be a big change and it's going to be a challenge," she said. "But I believe instead of just touching the lives of 60 students, I can touch 1,800 and their families and their communities."

Beardsley, 33, graduated from Appalachian State

University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. She completed her master's degree in May in the same subject at Elizabeth City State University. She taught for four years in the Raleigh area and the last six in Perquimans County.

Beardsley is originally from Massachusetts, but grew up in Raleigh. She moved to Perquimans

See BEARDSLEY, 8

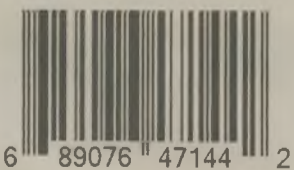
Jackson child sex case postponed until Sept.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The child sex case against six Perquimans County brothers and their parents has been continued until September.

Superior Court Judge J.C. Cole agreed to the delay Thursday in court in Perquimans County. The pause was requested to allow the district attorney's office to send an investigator to Colorado to interview the

See CASE, 8



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FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

Thursday, August 7th at 7p.m.

Tickets \$7 • Hosting Wilson Tobs

PETITT CUP 1ST ROUND INFORMATION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8th*

GAME TIME 7:00 P.M. • GATE OPENS 6:00 P.M. • ALL TICKETS \$7.00
Season passes and unused regular season tickets not accepted for Pettit Cup games.

For more information: (252) 482-4080.
(*if necessary)

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