



Senior football players honored, 7 NOV 22 REC'D

"News from Next Door"

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School plans to use lottery funds for stadium

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools system is moving forward with plans to build a new football field, and lottery money will be key to funding it.

Jim Davison, the school system's director of maintenance, met with Ed Nixon about the project Monday. Nixon's brother, Dr. William Nixon, has offered the

schools 32 acres across Edenton Road Street from the high school for an athletic facility.

The late Charles Ward, a former county commissioner, left \$600,000 to the county for either a new library or a football field. The library has already been funded, and commissioners agreed to use the money on the field.

An anonymous donor also donated \$250,000 for

the complex.

That leaves the schools short of the \$1.1 million estimated cost of the new facility. To make up the difference, the school system proposes to use state lottery money that is set aside for school construction projects.

Davison said the school board would be asked to request that the lottery release \$274,000 to pay for the bleachers when it meets

next week. In all, the schools expect they'll need \$400,000 in lottery funds to complete the project.

While the school system can request the release of the lottery funds, the county commission must sign off on the plan. Once the school board votes on the issue, Davison said he would ask for it to be placed on the county commission's agenda.

At least one commissioner, Chairman Kyle Jones,

said he would oppose the use of lottery funds for the athletic complex.

"I've never voted against a request of theirs for lottery funds (but) these last two budget cycles, their capital outlay requests have been rather large," Jones said. "Obviously we weren't able to fund all of those requests, so unless the need for those things has disappeared, which I highly doubt, they still allegedly need those

things.

"With the prospect on the horizon of having to update our classrooms to comply with the unfunded state mandate, that's another capital expense coming. So, this huge expenditure, and the subsequent plan to finish blowing all of their lottery funds on athletics, to me is short-sighted and too fiscally-liberal for my lik-

See STADIUM, 2

Mitchell named interim chief

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Sgt. Bill Mitchell has been named interim police chief in Hertford.

He takes over for Chief Douglas Freeman who announced he was retiring on Oct. 30. The board accepted the request on Nov. 1.



MITCHELL

Freeman's last day at work was last Tuesday. He had been with the Hertford department since

2012. Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said Mitchell is a great choice.

"I think Sgt. Mitchell will do a great job leading the department in this transition," Shoaf said. "He's already known in the law enforcement community and is highly respected. I think that those that don't know Bill will find he's very approachable, easy going and fair."

"I am very pleased to have him serve in this capacity and I'm equally pleased to have team we do at the department right now. We have a good group of guys that are dedicated to the town."

Mitchell, 45, has been with the Hertford department for just under a year.

He grew up in a military family — his father was in the Navy. Mitchell joined the Marines. He was based at Camp Pendleton and served from 1991 through 1995 assigned to a battalion landing team.

When he got out of the Marine Corps, he returned to the Chesapeake area

See CHIEF, 2

CHURCH HOSTS TURKEY DROP



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, Hertford United Methodist Church hosted a two-day Turkey Drop last week to collect holiday food for local families. Right, Charles Lacefield, the chairman of the board of the Open Door Food Pantry, holds one of the 218 turkeys that were collected during the annual Turkey Drop at Hertford United Methodist Church. The two-day drive also collected 1,050 pounds of other food items plus \$1,000 in cash donations.



Horton to lead library programs for kids

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Phenicia Horton says she found her dream job.

Horton has been named as the new full time technician for children's services at the Perquimans County Library.

She served as a part-time children's librarian for about a year.

The 25-year-old Gates County native earned a degree in early childhood education from Elizabeth City. Her original plan was to open a day care, but fell in love working in the library.



HORTON

Exploring" workshop in Washington, N.C. thanks to a partnership with Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start

"It was really informative, and I'm excited about implementing

"I've always loved to read," Horton said. "When I saw this job on-line, I knew it was the perfect job for me. It's the best of both worlds."

Horton recently attended a "Story

some of the things I learned there here."

Horton plans to try different programs during the week and perhaps something every other weekend.

"I know parents work during the week and we want to have something for them. The goal is to get children to read more."

Hopefully by the end of the year, the library staff will be able to move into the new location on Church Street. Horton is looking forward to it, because the children will have a room all to themselves.

"We had story hour and they

were singing and dancing, but we had to make sure we didn't make too much noise and disturb the other patrons."

Michelle Lawrence, the librarian in Hertford, said Horton is "fantastic" at what she does.

"Many of our patrons will already recognize her since she has worked here part-time for about a year," Lawrence said. "We plan to add more early literacy skills and ideas to story time at the library to help prepare our community's children for school."

Pre-school story hour is now held on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

See FAIR, 2

Three bring back wins from fair

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Three Perquimans County competitors brought home the bacon (excuse the pun) at the N.C. State Fair this year.

Hayden Dail won for Grand Champion Pure Barrow and "Got To Be NC" Champion Gilt. Colton Meads won Reserve Grand Champion Pure Bred Barrow and LileeAnn Estes won Grand Champion for her Open Market Gilt.

A barrow is a male pig that has been castrated or rendered incapable of reproducing before he reaches sexual maturity. A gilt is a young female pig, usually a pig that has not yet been bred.

Dail is 8 years old and this is his third year competing at the fair, according to Lee Dail, his father. He's a third grader at Hertford Grammar School.

In addition to raising pigs, Dail also loves football and baseball, his father said.

"It's a juggling act. Raising a champion pig isn't a matter of just tossing out food once a day, the parents of all three competitors said.

Buddy Meads said his son has been raising pigs since he was 5-years-old. He's 16 now and a junior at Perquimans County High School.

The competition season for

DOT planning to replace Creek Drive, Wynne Fork Road bridges

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation hopes to replace two smaller bridges



in Perquimans County next year.

The first may be a bridge on Creek Drive in Winfall. Also on the list is one on Wynne Fork Road in Hertford.

John Abel, bridge engineer for DOT Division I, said the agency wants to have the Creek Drive bridge completed long before construction starts on replac-

ing Hertford's S-Bridge. The S-Bridge project could start within a two years.

The estimated cost of the Creek Drive bridge is \$1 million. The one on Wynne Fork Road could be \$1.5 million.

"All the utilities (on the bridge) will have to be relocated," Abel said.

The Town of Hertford has water and sewer lines at-

tached to the Wynne Fork Road bridge now. They will have to be buried under the small creek there. A gas line is already buried under the water there.

Hertford will also have to take down power service in the area. Abel said the town could reroute electric service to customers through existing lines.

Construction on the

Creek Drive bridge is expected to take four to five months. Abel hopes the work can be done by November 2018.

DOT is mindful that Central School is located nearby and buses use that road a lot. He said DOT would like to do most of the work when school is out of session for the summer. DOT also understands the Per-

quimans County EMS office is located nearby.

"EMS is always an issue with any bridge replacement," Abel said.

DOT was scheduled to open bids this week on the S-Bridge replacement project. DOT is using a design-build process for that bridge. Contractors will sub-

See BRIDGES, 2

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