

P11/C11*****CAR-RT LOT**C 001 A0027
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 110 WACADEMY ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944-1306



Pets of the Week, 7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017

50 cents

New chair looks to balance spending priorities

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor



NELSON

Funding the school system is the single largest budget item for Perquimans County taxpayers.

The new chairman of the Perquimans County Commission has a rather unique perspective when it comes to both boards.

Wallace Nelson has served two stints totally 16 years on the school board and is now in his second round on the county commission. "It gives me perspective," Nelson

said of his service on both boards. "It gives me both sides."

He first did eight years on the school board before serving four as a county commissioner. He got off the board because his mother was seriously ill.

"At that point she was by herself," Nelson said. When she passed away, he ran

again for school board and served another eight years.

He is now halfway through his new term back on the county commission and in December he was named chairman.

One thing about this term on the commission this time vs. the first time is the pressure on local government.

"The current philosophy with the legislature seems more things are being pushed back to the counties to pay for. These things have been funded by the state and it seems

to be more and more and driving back to local government. I'm not sure that's what the state Constitution meant. If that continues that is going to be a challenge we're going to have to face."

He said especially in small rural counties, like Perquimans, that puts a burden on low-income areas.

Nelson, 65, is a pharmacist by training. He still works at Vidant Chowan Hospital, but he's scaled back his administrative roles and now works mostly as a pharmacist and not an administrator.

Nelson admits he's enjoyed both sides.

Nelson's schedule remains busy. He's the Perquimans County representative on the board of health and the College of The Albemarle board of trustees. He's also a regional board member for Trillium, the multi-county agency that handles mental health and serves on the N.C. Seafood Marine Industrial Park Authority. He also served two five-year-terms on the NC Board of

See NELSON, 3

Teachers remember special gifts

From Staff Reports

Teachers say it's not so much the gift, but the thought behind it.

The Perquimans Weekly asked the school system to reach out to teachers and let them talk about what the best Christmas present they received from a student. Lisa Lane compiled the list.

For Lindsey Benton, a fifth grade science teacher, her gift came from a student with little to give.

"On the last day before Christmas break my students were bringing me in bought gifts," she wrote. "One of my students watched as they were giving them to me and he got up and brought me his drink and chips that he brought that day for (a) snack. It was super sweet that he wanted to give me something like the other kids were."

For Rachel West, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, the gift was a scarf — a one of a kind scarf.

"One of my favorite gifts was a handmade scarf. The student bought the material with money she had saved and bought our favorite colors. The scarf wasn't perfectly done but I wore it with pride knowing that this student had put her time, energy and love into making it."

Here are some other responses: "I received a wooden sign with my name painted on it a few years ago. It is special to me, because the student helped paint it." Rebecca Miller, Pre-K

"A personalized notepad." Tara Reed, First Grade

"The best Christmas present I ever received from a student was from a student I taught my first year of teaching. It was a set of sequined Christmas pins. One is a sparkly Santa head and the other is a cute Brown bear with a bow. I love Christmas and try to wear something Christmasy to school every day in December. I still remember the student that gave them to me and I think of him and his family every time I wear my pins."

Michele Swinney, Seventh Grade Science

"The best Christmas present I ever

See GIFTS, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A rather unique feature of the new Perquimans County Library will be a boat. It's designed for the children's area and is a place where kids can climb in, sit down and enjoy a reading a book.

Library prepares for move

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first part of a two-part series on the new Perquimans County Library.)

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Anybody who has ever had to move, even if it's across town, knows it can be a chore.

Michelle Lawrence is moving and unlike a typical household move, she's got to pack up 41,000 books for the move to the new home in the 500 block of West Church Street.

Lawrence is not complaining. She and the Perquimans County librarians who came before her have been waiting for this moment for years.

By sometime in mid-January, the Perquimans County library will be in a new, bigger home.

"It's even nicer than I thought it would be," Lawrence said of the new location. "They've done an awesome job."

A contractor will handle the actual transportation of the books to the new location on Church Street. Perquimans County manager Frank Heath made the decision out of concerns about having injuries if volunteers tried to do the work.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Dozens of workers were busy assembling the book shelves in the new Perquimans County Library last week.

If you figure an average book weighs a pound, there are 20 tons of books. That doesn't count everything else that will have to be moved.

The opening of the new library is an exciting step for the county, said Wallace Nelson, the chairman of the Perquimans County Commission.

"The dream of a new library was many years in the making and it is great to see it become a reality," Nelson said. "There are many people in the community that use the library and I believe

they will be very impressed and proud of what the county has accomplished with this project. In addition this facility will grow the numbers using the library and continue to be an asset to Perquimans County for many years to come.

"Our new library speaks volumes to the priority this community puts on life-long learning. Many thanks go out to the library board for their hard work and perseverance."

See LIBRARY, 2

White named regional principal

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 AND MILES LAYTON
 Staff Writers

EDENTON — The principal at D.F. Walker Elementary School will compete next year for the title of Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the year.

Michelle White was announced the winner of the Northeast Region Principal of the Year award during an assembly last week in D.F. Walker's Hornets' Hive auditorium.

Perquimans County residents may remember White from her time working at Perquimans Central. She was a music teacher there from 2002 through 2009 and then served as an instructional facilitator from 2009 through 2012. She briefly held the title of assistant principal at Perquimans County High School in 2012 before taking the job at White Oak Elementary in Chowan County.

Jason Griffin, now this year's N.C. Principal of the Year, remembers working with White at Central. Griffin is now principal at Hertford Grammar School.

Griffin recalled how when she was a music teacher, she monitored every detail when organizing an entertainment event. Now that she's a school principal, White is just as engaged, he said, paying close attention to testing and other data to improve the quality of education.

"We are so proud of you," Griffin said.

Likewise Perquimans Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman applauded White for her achievement.

"We're absolutely thrilled with Michelle White being

See WHITE, 4

Jackson says he will seek House seat

BY REGGIE PONDER
 The Daily Advance



JACKSON

A little more than a month after winning election to Hertford Town Council, Quentin Jackson has his eyes set on higher public office.

Jackson, who was sworn in as a Hertford town councilor this month, said last week he plans to run as a Democrat for the state Leg-

islature in the newly drawn 1st District next year.

He joins two Republicans — Ed

Goodwin and Candice "CV" Hunter — who have already announced their plans to seek the 1st House District seat, which is being vacated by state Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan. Steinburg has announced plans to seek the

See JACKSON, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Petty Officer Angela Bruce has ice cream cake with children Laura Duncan's class at Perquimans Central. The students wrote cards to veterans at Albemarle Plantation and the cake was a thank you gift.

Veterans repay gesture

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Golfers at Albemarle Plantation returned the favor to 19 students in a first grade class at Perquimans Central School that created thank you cards for veterans.

For Veteran's Day, the members from Laura Duncan's class members created the cards that were sent to the Plantation.

Duncan's husband Lee is the golf pro there.

Lee Duncan and his wife of 31 years moved this year from Columbia, S.C. where she also taught school. He said she's made gestures



Students in Laura Duncan's class at Perquimans Central got an ice cream cake for a party the week before Christmas.

like the Veteran's Day cards with classes in the past, but the reaction has never been like this.

"It was never anything

See VETERANS, 3

