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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

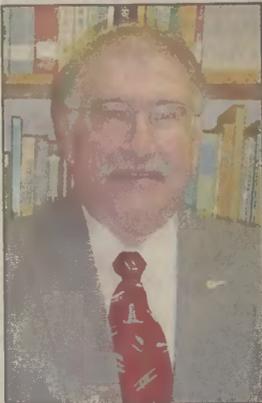
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Williams resigns; Aydlett goes to HGS



Tim Aydlett

SUSAN R. HARRIS

A Perquimans County Schools principal resigned and an assistant principal from another school has been reassigned to fill the position for the duration of the school year.

Hertford Grammar School principal Edward J. Williams resigned effective Monday, according to Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

Tim Aydlett, assistant principal at Perquimans High School, has been reassigned to the top post at

Hertford Grammar School until the end of this school year.

The personnel changes were approved by the school board in a special session Monday night.

Administrators are in the process of deciding who will fill Aydlett's position at Perquimans High, but the announcement was not made by press time Tuesday.

Williams accepted the principal's job at Hertford Grammar effective July 1, 1997, and stayed in that position until his resignation Monday.

Aydlett, who has been assistant principal at the high school for the past five years, was unanimously chosen by the board to fill the post vacated by Williams.

A veteran educator, Aydlett has over 30 years' experience as a teacher and administrator. During his tenure at Perquimans, Aydlett's primary duties have included overseeing discipline, safe schools procedures, athletic scheduling and guidelines and school improvement.

Superintendent Ken Wells met with faculty and

staff at Hertford Grammar School Monday afternoon to announce Williams' resignation, and planned to take Aydlett to meet the staff and make the announcement that he will be the interim principal on Tuesday afternoon.

Wells sent letters home with students on Tuesday to inform parents of the change and ask for support as Aydlett transitions into his new role.

Aydlett is expected to assume his duties this week, after clearing his schedule at the high school. Aydlett said he would

work diligently to continue the course to excellence for Hertford Grammar School. The school was cited as a School of Distinction during the 2002-2003 school year.

An Elizabeth City native and resident, Aydlett holds a bachelor's degree from Mars Hill College and a master's in administration/supervision from East Carolina University. He served in leadership positions in Hyde, Camden and Pasquotank counties before assuming his post in Perquimans in 1998.



Brenda Lassiter

PCHS students learn about politics through PCHS social studies project

Students research presidential candidates, hot campaign issues

Democrats, Republicans, third party candidates and Independents ... if they're running for President in 2004 (or even thinking about running), you can find information about them plastered on the walls of Perquimans High School in Chuck Whedbee's classroom.

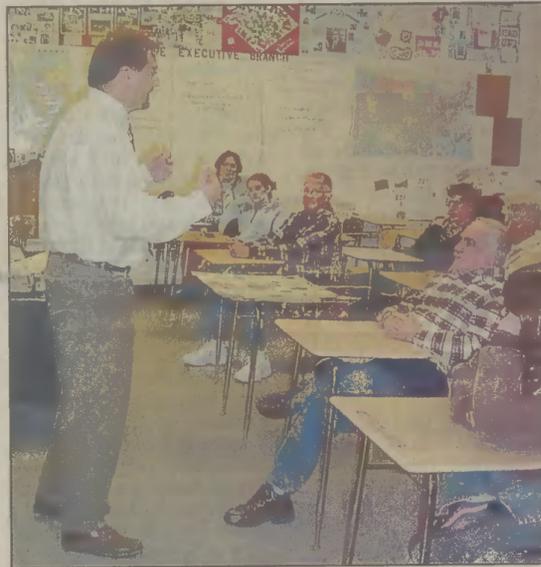
Let's face it, politics are confusing. Sometimes it's difficult to know who to believe, who to listen to and who to support. With only nine months until Election Day 2004, students in Whedbee's Economic, Legal and Political Systems class were assigned potential presidential candidates to research, including candidate's qualifications, voting history, hot issues, virtues, and biographies in the political world.

To culminate the Election Day 2004 Project, a Parent Forum was held to discuss the upcoming election issues relating to abortion, health care, gun control, death penalty, environmental issues and

the economy.

Teenagers and young adults often display apathy when it comes to political parties, presidential candidates, and issues surrounding campaigns. Whedbee's desire is that this project helps students become more involved in politics by helping them realize how government influences their lives.

Whedbee brought closure to the Forum by saying, "I have my own opinions on the issues we discuss in class, but I will never steer your child to embrace my



PCHS social studies teacher Chuck Whedbee explains the Election Day 2004 Project his classes are working on to parents at a recent forum.

opinions. I will provide factual information for your child to form their own opinions by presenting details that will strengthen or weaken their opinions."

HPS approves county for Greenway/Blueway help

Walking, running, biking and paddling a canoe or kayak through unspoiled, open spaces will become easier here if the county and local agencies follow through with a proposed greenway/blueway plan.

Perquimans is one of 12 communities and organizations in the Southeast — and the only one in North Carolina — to receive planning assistance in developing new outdoor recreation opportunities and preserving important open spaces from the National Park Service through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program during this grant cycle.

The project, a county-wide master greenway/blueway plan, will provide a system of walking, biking, and canoe/kayak trails throughout the county.

"The Perquimans County Commissioners and the County's Economic Development Commission see the RTCA program as an

opportunity to help stimulate the county's economy by utilizing our existing natural and cultural assets," said Assistant County Manager Bobby Darden. "They also view this as an enhancement to the quality of life for the residents of Perquimans."

Bill Lane, a landscape architect with the Atlanta National Park Service office, will assist the county with public workshops, developing educational materials, identifying funding sources and development of community-based visions and realistic strategies for new trails, greenways, protected river corridors and open space.

Lane has already visited the county and is excited about the project.

"The National Park Service, through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program, works in communities across the country, helping both large and small preserve their local resources and develop close-to-home outdoor

recreation facilities," Lane said. "These facilities provide places for families to spend more quality time together, for people to build daily exercise into a healthy lifestyle, and for community economic development."

Lane said among the reasons Perquimans County was selected to participate in the program is because of its commitment to quality resource protection and recreation resource development.

In addition, NPS officials noted Perquimans County is a place "overflowing with special natural and cultural resources," and is committed, along with its local partners, to work proactively through a citizen-based planning process and implementation.

"It is an area of eastern North Carolina that has a big community vision, but just needs a little help in bringing that vision to reality," Lane said.

Objectives of the pro-

ject include developing consensus among the partners for trail location and use; identifying appropriate funding sources for implementation of the plan, becoming an East Coast Greenway designation and hosting a regional Greenway/Blueway forum.

Partners already committed to work with the park service and the county include the towns of Winfall and Hertford, the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Healthy Carolinians of the Albemarle, Albemarle Regional Health Services, River City Cycle Club, Start with your Heart Program, Perquimans County Restoration Association, Hertford Rotary Club, Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council and Perquimans County Schools.

A public meeting to discuss the project will be held on Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the courthouse.

For information, call Darden at 426-8484.

Schools chief discusses NCLB with county board

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Possibly the only absolute about the landmark No Child Left Behind federal education legislation is that there seem to be no absolutes.

Schools Superintendent Ken Wells gave a brief PowerPoint presentation to the county commissioners Monday night, outlining what the local school district knows it must do to comply with the sweeping legislation, and laying out possibilities that could be costly for Perquimans County.

Themes of the new law include accountability, choice, information, qualifications, flexibility and consolidation, according to a hand-out prepared by the school system.

Dramatic changes have already occurred in teacher certification and paraprofessional qualifications, and changes just as dramatic are expected in private schools and school safety and choice.

All schools in the

Continued on page 8

HOLIDAY WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 48
Low: 43
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 62
Low: 42
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
High: 50
Low: 29
PARTLY CLOUDY