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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

STUMPIN' FOR A FRIEND



Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, a Democratic candidate for the N.C. House, had political supporters at the polls Tuesday working to garner votes for his bid to win the primary.

The local vote at a glance

Perquimans School Board	Auditor	GOP	Democrat
William Byrum 463	Albright	72	
Gail Hill 222	Merritt	160	
Ralph Hollowell 192	Agriculture Commissioner		
Thomas Jones 114	Democrat		
Helen Shaw 285	Cobb	431	
U.S. Senate GOP	Gilmore	424	
Burr 217	Insurance Commissioner		
Hendrix 25	GOP		
Wiley 20	Brawley	118	
U.S. House District 1 Democrat	Huntsberry	119	
Butterfield 635	Labor Commissioner		
Davis, D. 26	GOP		
Davis, S. 210	Berry	153	
Fitch 54	Funderburk	88	
Smith 17	Secretary of State		
GOP	Democrat		
Dority 235	Marshall	652	
Williford 38	Sanders	192	
U.S. House District 1 Special General	Supt. of Public Instruction		
Butterfield 792	Democrat		
Dority 413	Atkinson	214	
Eisenmenger 27	Buxton	221	
Governor Democrat	Stewart	375	
Easley 811	GOP		
Kipfer 104	Fletcher	163	
GOP	Smoot	80	
Ballantine 74	State Senate District 4 Democrat		
Barrett 24	Ferguson	247	
Cobey 41	Webb	84	
Little 8	Holloman	539	
Schubert 18	State House District 5		
Vinroot 91	Hunter	267	
Lt. Governor Democrat	Yates	668	
Hert 252	Appeals Court		
Perdue 568	Thornburg		
GOP	Jackson	381	
Cook 85	Schiller	87	
Snyder 115	Thornburg	218	
Stith 40	Williams	406	
Attorney General			
GOP			
Goolsby 106			
Knott 74			
Sawyer 64			

Note: All results are unofficial. They will be verified at a canvass later this week.

Work on Keel building progressing

SUSAN R. HARRIS

For two decades, the condition of the commercial building at the corner of Grubb and Edenton Road streets has been discussed at Hertford Town Council meetings.

After years of writing letters to building owners and even going through the condemnation process, it looks as if the building will be ready for occupancy soon instead of a wrecking ball.

When problems first arose with the building, it was owned by the late Lester Keel. The town contacted Keel on several occasions about the deteriorating condition of the building. In fact, it was on a list of problem buildings the late Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox took to council in special session in July 1989.

Ten years later, the town



Randy Lassiter, owner of the building at the corner of Grubb and Edenton Road streets commonly known as the Keel Building, shows Hertford resident M.B. Taylor how work is progressing at the site.

began in earnest to try to either have the building renovated or removed.

The town gained ownership of the building from Keel's heirs and hauled off thousands of pounds of refuse from the site.

Perquimans County businessman Randy Lassiter purchased the property from the town for back taxes, saving the town the cost of tearing the building down.

Lassiter told council that he was set to work on the building immediately, but has faced set-backs such as the stock market drop that saw his funds dwindle, Hurricane Isabel's damaging winds and family emergencies.

But Lassiter is at work full-force now. Crews have been on site for over a week.

The building will feature an apartment and commercial space when finished.

State transportation department kicks off public awareness campaign

N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippet was joined by Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Bryan Beatty, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Jim Long and other officials to unveil new highway signs, kicking off the "Move It On Over" public awareness campaign recently.

The statewide campaign is an inter-agency effort to inform motorists of two recently enacted laws known as the "Move Over" and "Fender-Bender" laws. Both laws protect motorists, law enforcement and emergency personnel while helping to maintain a smooth flow of traffic along North Carolina's highways.

The "Move Over" Law requires motorists to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency

vehicle with its lights flashing on the shoulder of the highway. Doing so helps prevent further accidents and protects those who are stopped alongside the road.

Under the "Fender-Bender" Law, motorists involved in minor, non-injury accidents are required to move their vehicles to the shoulder of the road as soon as possible, reducing the chance that another accident will occur and preventing traffic back-ups.

"As a part of our mission, NCDOT is responsible for ensuring that our highway system maintains the highest level of safety and efficiency," said Secretary Tippet. "Increasing awareness of the 'Move Over' Law and the 'Fender-Bender' Law will help reduce the likelihood of accidents on and alongside

the road and will also improve traffic congestion."

"Our emergency responders risk their lives everyday as they work to keep the rest of us safe," added Beatty. "These laws improve safety not only for those responders, but also for the public. We want to make sure motorists in North Carolina know what actions they need to take to preserve the well-being of their fellow citizens."

"By reducing the number of crashes on our roads, we save lives and help keep insurance rates low," said Long. "The quest to keep our roadways safe is a joint effort, a mission that we must all strive to uphold. Increasing public awareness about these new laws is a valuable step in this mission, and we are pleased to be a part of a

campaign to better protect the citizens of North Carolina."

Statistics demonstrate the need for these laws. In recent years, two Highway Patrol troopers have been killed and numerous law enforcement officials and emergency responders have been seriously injured when motorists failed to slow down or move over when passing an emergency vehicle on the shoulder of the highway. Additionally, national statistics show that 30 percent of all highway crashes occur as a result of back-ups from other crashes and that for every minute a freeway lane is closed, it takes four minutes for traffic to recover.

The new signs will be placed along interstates and other major highways across North Carolina.

There are two versions of the sign, one for each law.

The sign for the "Move Over" Law reads: "State Law: Move Over or Reduce Speed for Stopped Emergency Vehicles."

The sign for the "Fender-Bender" Law reads: "Fender Bender: Move Vehicle from Road." Along with NCDOT, CCPS and NCDOTI, other sponsors include the Federal Highway Administration and the North Carolina Trucking Association.

Violation of the "Move Over" Law could result in a \$25 fine along with a projected \$100 in court costs. Violation of the "Fender-Bender" Law could result in a \$10 fine along with an estimated \$100 in court costs. The "Move Over" Law went into effect Jan. 1, 2002, while the "Fender-

Bender" Law became effective Oct. 1, 2003.

For more information, call 1-877-DOT-4YOU or visit www.ncsmartlink.org.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 91
 Low: 75
 ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
 High: 88
 Low: 74
 SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
 High: 86
 Low: 72
 SCATTERED T'STORMS