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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Conley Winslow, Roany head to world championships Page 8

"News from Next Door"

JUNE 24, 2009 - JUNE 30, 2009

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Schools implement reduction in force

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

For the first time in at least 15 years, the local school system has been forced to lay off employees.

Six teacher assistants and a school nurse have been affected by the reduction in force policy implemented this month. In addition, six teachers were transferred within the district, one teacher contract was not renewed, and three retirees who had been rehired were released. Those positions included one teach-

er, one vocational coordinator, and a teacher assistant. The layoffs affect each of the county's four schools.

The changes are in response to the expected shortfall in state funds for local schools. The state has still not passed a budget for 2009-2010, but working projections predict funding cuts for education in various categories.

Basically, officials for Perquimans County Schools are preparing for the worst case scenario implementing the layoffs. Local officials are still hoping for additional funding

to be approved with the final state budget expected in late August or early September.

"With respect to the tough economic times, the Perquimans County Board of Education had to make some difficult decisions concerning budget cuts for the upcoming school year," said Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings. "As superintendent, I wish I could bring a budget message flush with resources that acknowledge and lay the foundation for the advancements we need to best serve our students. Any step back-

ward in state funding is disappointing."

"Optimism continues to be our hope, as we all pray and ask for relief from the economic downturn," he continued. "Our schools have two unquantifiable resources: excellent staff and community support. More than ever next year, we will rely on and appreciate our skillful and expert employees as well as our legions of volunteers and school supporters. Together, we will make sure our students succeed."

Those laid off were notified

by Dr. Stallings either in person or by phone, said Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

Monday night, board of education members approved a continuing budget resolution based on the current fiscal year's figures in order to continue operating as required by law. Stallings said he believes the state budget process will continue to be a "long drawn out thing".

"We'll just have to wait and see," he added.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners ap-

proved the proposed county budget Monday night, keeping schools' operating funding the same as last year's.

Commissioners also funded capital outlay projects for the schools at \$250,000, and approved spending \$355,000 to replace the roof at Hertford Grammar School this fiscal year.

The county also is slated to make the first debt service payment this fiscal year on the \$11 million high school renovation and additions project to the tune of \$742,480.

Coming full circle: Layden back home

New PCS principal was former student

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

She's traveled from the coast to the mountains working with local school districts during her educational career, but now Linda Layden has come back home.

The Perquimans County native will serve as principal of Perquimans Central School beginning July 1.

"My life has come full circle," said the lady who attended the old Perquimans Central School as a child. "I began my career in the Perquimans County Schools by teaching first- and second-graders at Hertford Grammar School in 1995."

When she assumes the position of principal, she will fulfill her lifetime goal of returning to Perquimans County as a principal. In fact, 15 years ago, Layden predicted she would be a principal one day at the Winfall school that serves approximately 450 students, 34 teachers, and 43 other faculty and staff members.

"I am so excited," she said. "Central has a great staff, great students and great parents. I'm looking forward to sharing experiences with them. I commend them for the work done there thus far and look forward to new exciting things to happen in the future."

A graduate of Perquimans County High School, Layden has accomplished much in her quest for the betterment of education. She graduated in 1995 from Elizabeth City State University with a degree in elementary education



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Linda Layden will be the principal of Perquimans Central School starting July 1.

followed by a masters degree from East Carolina University (ECU). She also earned an educational specialist degree in administrative leadership and curriculum degree as an education specialist in education leadership/administration from The George Washington University in 2006 and is on track to graduate with her doctorate of education from ECU next year.

She worked last year as an instructional facilitator for district and school transformation for the state Department of Public Instruction. Traveling throughout the state, she worked with the best districts in the state as well as the lowest. She has worked with diverse populations, helped low-performing schools better their performance through staff development, and helped educators learn to deal with relationship within the schools.

She is sensitive to all races and socioeconomic levels, she said, and is passionate about

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Summer camp



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Measuring, digging and discovering facts about the past was part of the adventure activities enjoyed during the Sail Into Summer Camp last week.

Newbold-White camp keeps kids busy

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Girls and boys giggled and laughed as they spent the day shaping homemade fig cookies, throwing an ancient hunting weapon, and searching for fossils during the first Sail Into Summer Camp held last week at the Newbold-White House.

Eighteen youngsters, age 8-11, converged on the grounds of the historic

Quaker homestead each day delving into a new activity that not only kept them busy, but broadened their minds as well.

Site Manager Glenda Maynard said they were pleased with the turnout, noting that the kids enjoyed several field trips in addition to learning new things and having fun on the grounds.

The children toured the area and searched for fossils on a trip to Roanoke

Island Festival Park in Manteo. They also visited the Lost Colony's costume shop where youngsters tried on the heavy armor worn during the theater's summer productions.

In addition, they visited the nature trail and attended waterside art classes where they painted their own watercolor paintings depicting their experiences during the trip.

Students also visited the periauger at the town dock

on Thursday despite threatening clouds and periodic rain. There they learned how to raise and lower the sails, played games, and actually experienced sailing on the replica of the wooden boats that once floated the local rivers years ago.

They also enjoyed games and activities at Missing Mill Park during that same trip.

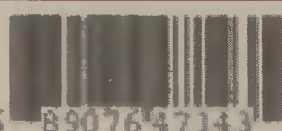
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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 86 LOW: 71
ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 89 LOW: 74
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 87 LOW: 74
ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS



Tips help keep criminals out

Chamber hears crime prevention tips

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

If you see a strange character hanging around your place of business and you get that uneasy feeling, just snap his or her picture with your cell phone.

Chances are if they see you taking their picture, they'll leave. If a crime does occur in the neighborhood, you have a photo of the stranger who happened to be in the area that day.

Using your instincts and easy technology available at your fingertips is one way to prevent crime, said Bob Poisella, education specialist for the North Carolina Govern-



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Bob Poisella, education specialist with the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, gave crime prevention tips to members of the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce recently.

chamber members last week. Poisella, a former New York City detective, spoke to

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Local man bitten by rabid raccoon

From staff reports

A Hertford man is receiving shots to prevent rabies after being bitten by a rabid raccoon June 8.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said Brian Damron, 29, was bitten on the right leg while working on a porch at a residence on Harvey Point Road.

Damron, he said, was busy working and never saw the animal approaching until the raccoon lunged at him and bit his leg. Damron fought off the attack, and killed the raccoon. The raccoon's head was sent to the state public health labo-

ratory, he said.

According to Jill C. Jordan, health education director and public information officer for Albemarle Regional Health Services, the head was tested and confirmed positive for rabies the next day.

Jordan indicated that the state public health laboratory has confirmed eight cases of rabies in the Albemarle area since January 2008.

According to a press release from ARHS, rabies is most commonly found in raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Rabies has infected and also

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