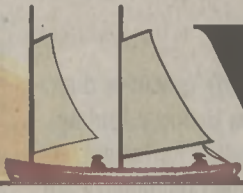


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JULY 29, 2009 - AUGUST 4, 2009

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Holiday Island teens are keeping busy this summer — Page 4

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Perquimans schools meet AYP goals

By Toby Tate
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Schools made dramatic progress meeting their Adequate Yearly Progress goals in 2008-09 by turning in a perfect score.

According to preliminary results released by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, all four schools in Perquimans met 100 percent of their AYP performance tar-

gets.

"This is exciting and a time to celebrate the dedication, hard work and commitment of our students, parents, educators and the community," school officials said in a press release. "This is the first time since the federal accountability program began in which 100 percent of all target goals were met by students attending Perquimans County Schools."

Under the federal No Child Left Behind legislation passed

in 2001, each school district in the nation is required to ensure that all students are performing at grade level or above in math and reading/language arts by 2013-14. To do this, students at each school are tested annually to ensure they are making adequate yearly progress toward that goal.

To measure AYP, students at each school are divided into 10 groups, six of which refer to race. The other groups include the school as a whole, the number of economically disadvantaged students, students who have limited proficiency in English and students with disabilities. Not all schools have all 10 groups; all have at least two groups — the school as a whole and one racial group.

For a school to make AYP, each of its student groups must meet proficiency targets in math and reading/language arts. Also, at least 95 percent of the students making up the group have to participate in

the annual testing.

Elsewhere in the surrounding areas, the Camden and Currituck school districts met 100 percent of their AYP performance targets as well. The Edenton-Chowan Schools met 75 percent of their performance goals and the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools met 50 percent of theirs. AYP results are considered preliminary until they're approved by the State Board of Education on Aug. 6.

Nelson re-elected; Yates is vice-chair

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

A veteran and a newcomer were elected to lead the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night.

Current Chairman Wallace Nelson was re-elected as chairman for his third term. Arlene Yates, who was elected to the board of education a year ago, will serve as vice chairman.

Nelson has served on the BOE since July 2006.

Nelson, of Hertford, is director of pharmacy services at Chowan Hospital in Edenton. Yates, of Winfall, is owner of The Learning Center of Perquimans County.

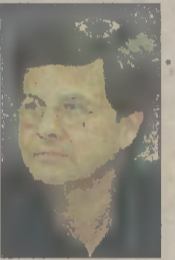
Former Vice Chairman Walter Leigh first moved that both the chairman and vice chairman remain as is, but board member Gloria Mason nominated Amy Spough as chairman causing Leigh's motion to be amended to include just the chairman's position.

Spough, who also was elected to the board just one year ago, declined the nomination, citing lack of experience. Mason then nominated Yates to serve as board chairman.

Nelson won the election 3-2 with Cox, Leigh and Spough voting for Nelson. Mason and Yates voted for Yates. Nelson abstained from voting.

Mason then nominated Yates for the position of vice chairman with no other nominations offered. Yates was elected unanimously.

Leigh, who had served as vice chairman for the past two years, has served the board of education since 1990 in various capacities including chair and vice chairman for several years.



Nelson

Jobless rate rises in June

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The number of people unemployed in Perquimans County rose slightly in June.

According to figures released recently by the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, the unemployment rate for Perquimans reached 10.6 percent in June, up by .1 percent from 10.5 percent recorded in May.

Out of a county labor force of 5,485, 581 people were unemployed last month.

Statewide, unemployment rates were up in more than half of the state's 100 counties. Rates increased in 56 counties, decreased in 32 and remained the same in 12.

Perquimans County's rate is still below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 11.2 percent.

Currituck and Hyde counties had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 6.2 percent while Scotland County showed the highest at 17.2 percent.

Perquimans unemployment figures for 2009 showed 10.7 percent in January, 10.7 percent in February, 10.4 percent in March, 9.9 percent in April, 10.5 percent in May, and 10.6 percent in June.

According to ESC online database, January and February's rates of 10.7 percent were the highest recorded in Perquimans in nearly 20 years.

Triple the fun



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Everybody wants to play with the same toy. The Russell triplets, Caroline, Landon and Tate, keep the family busy these days.

Triplets celebrate first birthday

Child care for three a rewarding challenge for mom and dad

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Imagine three toddlers cutting teeth at the same time, learning how to walk at the same time, and getting into just about everything — at the same time!

That's the everyday life of Sommer and Mike Russell, parents of triplets Landon, Caroline and Tate

who celebrated their first birthday July 20. After a year of adapting to five children instead of their original two, the young Chapanoke couple still beams when speaking of their toddlers. They quickly say older sisters Jordyn (11) and Macee (7) are wonderful helpers, too.

"It can get pretty hairy around here some days," admitted Sommer. But most of the time, everything's under control, said Mike who refers to his wife as Supermom.

As the family gathers around the

kitchen table to talk, three high chairs holding toddlers, sippy cups, and cheese crackers line one side of the table in front of a large sunny window. The personalities of the little ones are as unique as having triplets: the identical boys are playful, charming and outgoing while their fraternal sister is a little more cautious, attentive and quick to squeal her feelings.

"The boys just love each other to

See TRIPLETS on Page 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 88 LOW: 75
SCATTERED STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 90 LOW: 73
SCATTERED STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 87 LOW: 73
ISOLATED STORMS



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Miller breaks ground on new funeral home

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Miller Funeral Homes and Crematory broke ground on a new 5,000-square-foot funeral home in Hertford last week.

Local government officials and Perquimans Chamber of Commerce representatives donned hard hats and shoveled wet dirt July 21 to signify the beginning of a new local business that will provide four full-time jobs and eight to 10 part-time positions.

"We are pleased to extend to Hertford and Perquimans County services already offered through Miller Funeral



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Miller Funeral Homes and Crematory recently broke ground at the corner of Harvey Point Road and Commerce Drive on a new 5,000-square-foot funeral home to be built by A. R. Chesson Construction. The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce sponsored the ground-breaking ceremony on July 21.

Water tests start Monday

The Town of Winfall and Perquimans County will perform a joint water system test beginning Monday, August 3 and continuing through Monday, August 10.

This test may cause discolored water in Winfall and surrounding areas served by the county water system. If customers experience discolored water, they are advised to let their faucet run for a brief period. If water remains discolored, please contact the county water department at 426-8230 during normal business hours.

Swindell Funeral and Cremation Services
509 Dobbs St, Hertford
426-7311

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Veterans Funerals • Pre-Arrangements

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Community

