

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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Summer session at PCS, 4

King Street: Stop the violence now, 4

35 cents

Yates sues Tanner for letters to UNC

Mayor claiming libel, defamation

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates has filed a defamation/libel lawsuit in Perquimans Superior Court against Fred Tanner, a town resident who alerted

state authorities to Yates' double dipping travel-reimbursement activities five years ago.

Filed June 21, the lawsuit claims Tanner allegedly defamed Yates in two letters written to Erskine Bowles, president of the University of North Carolina.

The lawsuit cites Tanner for "publishing" two



Yates

written March 13, 2007, the lawsuit's complaint states

letters to Bowles, using phrases that "knowingly and maliciously" defamed Yates.

In the first letter written March 13, 2007, the lawsuit's complaint states

that Tanner wrote that Yates "was embezzling travel and expense money from the State of North Carolina and the Town of Winfall..." and that "the State Auditor found Yates in violation of four felony statutes relating to embezzlement."

In a second letter dated Jan. 21, 2010, Tanner allegedly stated that Yates

"...is well known in our community for his unethical behavior and that Yates 'had committed a larceny by writing 'the (tax) money ended up in his pocket.'"

"The letter goes on to say that Yates' known felony crimes of perjury and embezzlement...are also defamatory in nature," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit claims that

Yates was also defamed by Tanner's written statements in the 2010 letter, with no regard for the truth, stating that Yates "has sired illegitimates and is well known for his desire for young women outside of marriage.... He (Yates) does not deserve to be working near young

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Stay cool during heat wave

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

With temperatures expected to climb into the upper 90s the rest of the week, officials urge caution while working outside and to make extra efforts to keep cool.

The National Weather Service has issued heat advisories warning that a period of hot temperatures is expected until Monday. The hottest times usually occur in the afternoons when temperatures climb to their highest. The combination of hot temperatures and high humidity is expected to combine each day this week to create a situation in which heat illnesses are possible.

Officials urge resident to drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioning if possible, and stay in the shade if you need to be outdoors.

Chris Wharton, director of public works for the town of Hertford, said breaks and plenty of liquids are provided to town employees working outside in the heat.

"When it's hot, we start with 15 minute breaks each hour," Wharton said. "Based on the temperature and the job we're doing, that can go up to 30 minutes work, 30 minutes break. If it gets too miserable, we'll just pull them in. So far, we haven't had a problem. We've got five-gallon coolers filled with water and/or Gatorade available for them."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to compensate and properly cool themselves. Usually, the body cools itself by sweating, but under some conditions, sweating just isn't enough. Allowing the body's temperature to rise rapidly may damage

See HEAT, 2

A Heartfelt Harvest

RECEIVED

JUL 21 2010



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNERY

Church volunteer Julia Webb-Bowden picks corn Saturday, July 17, for the Food Bank of the Albemarle.

Church members glean corn to feed the hungry

By KRISTIN PITTS
The Daily Advance

More than 1,700 pounds of corn were picked fresh from the corn field and delivered to the local food bank Saturday by members of Perquimans County Methodist churches.

Standing in the middle of a cornfield, Julia Webb-Bowden shook her head and let out a belabored moan.

She'd just found a perfectly good ear of corn — one that probably would have gone to waste if she hadn't spotted it.

It's moments like those that kept corn gleaners like Webb-Bowden and a dozen other church members out in the hot morning sun.

"This. This is why," Webb-Bowden said, gesturing to the corn. "Imagine letting that rot in a field."

With that, she tossed it into a sack full of corn. The bag was later taken just outside the field, where it joined several others

sacks of organic vegetables.

At the end of the work session, the bags were taken from Parker Farms of Pasquotank to the Food Bank of the Albemarle.

Standing at the edge of the field, Richard Parker said that the decision to open his land up to the Hertford, Woodland, and Edenton United Methodist church groups was an easy one.

Parker grows a few acres worth of vegetables specifically for the community. Like the workers making their way through the rows of corn, Parker said he did so because of his faith in God.

He said he'd recently heard someone speak about the importance of being an active Christian. That sentiment resonated with him Saturday morning, as sack after sack of vegetables was brought out of the fields.

"A lot of Christians are Christians in their head, but you've got to move from your head to heart. And all this comes from the heart. There are a lot of people out of

work now, and they're not necessarily poor, but they appreciate any help they can get," Parker said.

This specific type of help — the kind that puts healthy food on the tables of those in need — is what drew people like Webb-Bowden out of bed and onto the field.

"I know that there is a profound need for nutritious food among the poor and that there are wonderful farmers like Mr. Parker who are willing to donate their surplus or their gleanings for this," Webb-Bowden said.

Walker Rayburn, of Hertford, a volunteer field supervisor for the Society of St. Andrew, said that although this marked his first local corn gleaning, he hoped that the biblically-based concept would catch on in a big way.

"Just because there's Methodists out here today doesn't mean that Baptists can't come or Presbyterians can't come or Catholics can't come," Rayburn said, adding that he

See GLEAN, 3

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 93 LOW: 78
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 93 LOW: 77
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 90 LOW: 77
SUNNY



Cole puts focus on Perquimans County

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Three identical clocks tick in perfect harmony on the wall of Janice McKenzie Cole's office.

One clock shows the time in Mexico City, another depicts time in Bucharest, and the third tells the time in Beijing.

Below the international time zones is a world map dotted by numerous pushpins denoting countries as close as Canada and as far away as Vietnam, Eastern Europe, and Japan.

Each pin represents someone helped by Janice Cole, the county's newest commissioner.

As an immigration attorney, Cole deals with international is-

sues and laws every day through her work at Cole Immigration Law Center located in Hertford and Manteo.

As a commissioner, however, Cole's focus is here at home. She was appointed back in June to fill the unexpired term of former commissioner Shirley Wiggins who died in April.

"It's really not something I aspired to do," said Cole, reflecting back on her appointment. "When the vacancy came open, I, like others, tried to think of who could fill it. A few people suggested that I consider it, but I said, no, no, let's think harder. They eventually convinced me that I have something

See COLE, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Janice Cole is already taking an active role in meetings after being sworn in as new county commissioner last month.