

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



CAROLYN ROGERS TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME, SATURDAY - 6

"News from Next Door"

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Schools prepare for reduction in force

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Education is preparing a reduction in force (RIF) for about 30 positions for the next school year.

BOE members are expected to vote Monday night to enact their RIF policy because of expected state funding cuts.

"We've talked about this

funding cliff for months," said Superintendent Dwayne Stallings. "We're about to go over it."

Stallings says nine certified positions (teachers, counselors) may be let go as well



Stallings

as 21 classified positions (teacher's aides, custodians, office personnel).

"This is the first time since I've been here (17 years) that we've had to RIF employees," Stallings said. "Two years ago, a few employees were let go, but they were hired right back when the funds came in. We plan for the worst, but it has always worked its way out in the past. I don't have

that feeling this time."

BOE policy dictates that job performance will be the number one criteria used to determine which certified and classified personnel remain on staff. Other criteria will be considered regarding certified employees including areas of licensure, highly qualified status, program enrollment, service in extra duty positions and ability to fill

such positions, length of service, and degree level. Employees terminated under the RIF policy must be notified in writing.

Teachers must be notified by May 15 whether or not their contracts will be renewed.

Human Resources Director Ella Fields Bunch said the school system must pay unemployment and health insurance for employees

let go under the RIF policy for up to 12 months.

She's been advised that it is actually cheaper for the school system to not renew contracts for first, second, and third-year teachers instead, she said.

Other criteria considered for classified personnel include degrees and/or licenses, seniority, and

See REDUCTION, 7

GARDEN MASTERS



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

More than 600 gardeners attended the Albemarle Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Show, held Saturday at the Perquimans Recreation Center.

Garden-variety green thumbs at show

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

Duane McSmith, with a smile, said he has a problem: He likes to talk.

The 94-year-old Pasquotank resident was a mercenary pilot, a U.S. Air Force pilot and a test pilot for NASA.

On Saturday morning at the Perquimans Recreational Center, he was not speaking about aeronautics and aviation, but instead about something else he knows quite well: gardening.

McSmith gave a presentation as part of the first annual Albemarle

Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Show. More than 600 attended and about \$1,200 was raised, organizers said.

McSmith, when asked what he hoped to most emphasize to spectators, replied, "At this day and time, we need to raise our own food. We need to have a little garden spot out back -- and one of the things that could happen overnight is we could all be hungry."

And McSmith was quick to note other parts of the world suffer from hunger.

On Saturday, as McSmith spoke about the finer points of gardening



to a group of spectators, masses of others were looking and shopping for flowers, plants, garden

furniture, garden art, landscaping tools and a variety of more items.

"We're just out trying

Fran Ownley looks over a seedless Concord grape plant at Saturday's garden show.

to see what everybody has got," said Gene Lupton, of Elizabeth City and a contract worker at the Coast Guard Support Center.

Mary Lou Soper, a Perquimans County resident and a retired federal government employee, was marveling at the varieties of plants on display.

"It's just quite interesting," Soper said.

Soper said although she is not a master gardener, "I do like to plant things

See SHOW, 7

New leaders for local parties

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The two major political parties in the county have new leadership following recent county conventions.

Janice Cole is the new chairman of the Perquimans County Democratic Party. She follows long time chairman Fred Yates who did not seek reelection during Saturday's county convention held at the courthouse.

In addition, county Democrats added three new leaders to their slate of officers including Vice Chairman Leo Higgins, Second Chairman Juliette Zachary, and Third Chairman Dequayia Nelson.

Re-elected to their same posts were Secretary Pamela Hurdle and Treasurer LuRee Sawyer.

County Republicans also changed leadership this year.

See LEADERS, 7

HPD is now on Facebook

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Hertford Police Department is now using social media in an effort to distribute public safety information in a quick and timely manner.

Chief Joe Amos said the department began using Facebook about two weeks ago with officers posting timely updates on accidents, road closures, road conditions, and crime prevention tips.

"We're using it to put out information that is beneficial to the citizens when it occurs," said Amos.

For example, a boat slid off a trailer onto the roadway on U.S. Highway 17 Friday night, causing police to block one lane of traffic until the boat was moved. Police posted updates on their Facebook page notifying people that the lane was blocked, and then updated their post when it was back open.

See POLICE, 7

Playhouse of Hertford forms for area teens

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Area youth will have the opportunity to participate in a new local performing arts company this summer.

Interested citizens have formed The Playhouse of Hertford and plan to put on a musical production much like the popular television series "Glee" for teens age 12-18 from Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank counties.

While it's still in the beginning stage, excitement is mounting for what organizers hope will become a viable performing arts company that will offer youth an outlet to use their imagination and opportunities to develop their talents.

Surprisingly enough, the force behind the creation of TPH is Raymond Sawyer, a grandfather who fell in love with performing arts after seeing his granddaughter on stage in another locality. Wanting to offer more youth the same exciting opportunity, he approached Amy Goudy at the Dance Company of



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Board members for The Playhouse of Hertford include: (seated, l-r) Carolyn Pastorek, Raymond Sawyer, Amy Goudy; and (standing, l-r) Kimberly Westbrook, Kristy Harrison and Reta Blair. Not pictured are David Noell, Mandy Whitehurst and Jeffery Winslow.

See PLAYHOUSE, 7



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