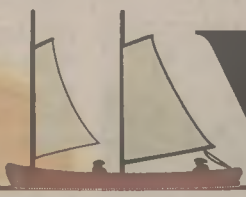


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MAY 11 2011

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



From isolation to celebration for little Jayla, 2

"News from Next Door"

MAY 11, 2011 - MAY 17, 2011

50 cents

Schools set to layoff 19 through RIF

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Nineteen school employees will find out this week whether or not they will have a job next school year.

Perquimans Superintendent Dwayne Stallings will meet later this week with two teachers, 12 teacher assistants, four custodians,

and one central office personnel to deliver the news to the employees who will fall victim to the system's reduction in force (RIF) policy due to cuts in state



Stallings

"Having to deliver this type of news to any employee is very difficult ..."

Dwayne Stallings, Superintendent, Perquimans County Schools

funds. The cuts affect each school and central office.

The good news is, board of education members had originally feared as many as 30 employees would be RIFed, but 10 positions

were saved through announced resignations, retirements, grants, and by combining positions.

"Having to deliver this type of news to any employee is very difficult,

whether it is 30 employees as first thought or now ...the 19 school employees," said Superintendent Dwayne Stallings. "Unfortunately, Perquimans County Schools is about

to lose 19 dedicated employees. The reduction in force is based on many factors including, but not limited to, the number of

See LAYOFF, 8

Injured eagle found in New Hope



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

A young bald eagle voices his objections as state biologist Chris Turner gets close enough to check the banding information on the eagle's leg.

Newton: Care for 'our national bird' urgent

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Jack Bradley of New Hope was surprised to find a juvenile bald eagle walking near his Eagle camper parked in his driveway Thursday morning.

The eagle, about 18 inches in height, tried to fly, but couldn't. Instead, it walked slowly around the property located near the Albemarle Sound.

The eagle's presence in the retirement community created quite a stir with neighbors Rose Marie Newton and Wayne Messey. After contacting wildlife and rehabilitation officials, the trio of neighbors stayed with the eagle most of the day to make sure it didn't hurt itself.



Biologist Chris Turner (left) and property owner Jack Bradley try to move the eagle from its pen into a transportation box before the eagle is sent to a rehab center in Charlotte.

See EAGLE, 8

Town budget holds down costs, taxes

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford is considering a budget for next year with no tax increase, no utility rate increases, and no layoffs for employees.

Despite a projected decrease in its general fund revenues next year, Manager John Christensen says it appears the town is in a position to weather the continuing economic state thanks to conservative fiscal decisions made by town leaders for numerous years.

"This budget is the culmination of our efforts to reduce the cost of government during uncertain times," Christensen told council members Monday night. "All expenses were analyzed and assessed to determine if they were at the proper level. Employees are still shouldering a small portion of the costs of healthcare and have not had a raise going on four years. Due to conservative fiscal decisions for numerous years, it appears the town is in a position to weather this economic crisis without any layoffs or tax increases."

The proposed budget does not include a pay raise for employees, and freezes four vacant positions in the public works, water/sewer, and planning departments. In addition, no rate increases for water, sewer, or electricity are recommended at this time.

Christensen predicts that general fund revenues next year will decrease by 1.94 percent due to reduced state funds and less ad valorem taxes collected in the town.

Even with decreased revenues in the general fund, the town's police, fire, streets, DMV, and sanitation departments are all expected to increase in varying increments next year.

The town's planning department is expected to decrease by over \$50,000.

See INCREASES, 8

"This budget is the culmination of our efforts to reduce the cost of government during uncertain times."

John Christensen
Hertford town manager

Food, fun lined up for weekend

From staff reports

Prepare to eat and be active this weekend in Hertford.

A variety of activities are set starting with the annual Pig Out on the Green on Friday, serving fresh-cooked barbecue on the historic courthouse green for both lunch and dinner.

Sponsored by Historic Hertford, Inc., barbecue plates can be eaten on

the courthouse green or taken home to enjoy. Lunch is served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. followed by dinner hours from 5-7 p.m.

The meal includes pork barbecue, slaw, potatoes and dinner roll. Deserts and drinks will be available as well as a 50/50 raffle. Cost is \$8.

Also on Friday afternoon, the Perquimans Senior Citizens Center will host a Spaghetti Dinner from 4-7 p.m. Eat in or take out at \$7 a plate. The seniors are raising funds for Senior Games.

Once filled with barbecue or spaghetti on Friday, prepare to walk Friday evening and Saturday.

The Chowan/Perquimans Relay for Life will be held at John Holmes High School in Edenton beginning Friday afternoon at 6 p.m. and going until noon on Saturday. Ten teams from Perquimans County will participate and help raise funds for cancer research.

Also on Saturday, the 14th Annual Perquimans County Tag Sale benefiting the Perquimans County Rescue Squad will be held from 8 a.m. till noon at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Homeowner associations from Albemarle Plantation and

See WEEKEND, 8

Officer: Timber rattler protected

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Several snakes, including two species of rattlesnakes, are protected as a special concern species under state law.

North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Officer John Beardsley says both the timber and Carolina pigmy rattlesnakes are protected, meaning they can only be killed in self defense. In addition, you can not possess the snake or any parts of it.

"You have to leave the snake where you killed it," he said. "You can't take the dead snake home with you, eat it, make a belt out

Eating crow

Eating rattlesnake tastes a lot like eating crow, Cathy Wilson says in her column today — page 6.

of it, or hang its rattlers from the car mirror."

Beardsley said Wildlife officials are concerned about a possible future flurry of illegal activity involving rattlesnakes after a story featuring a rattlesnake eaten by a Perquimans County man was published in this newspaper.

"We don't want to see people killing rattle-

snakes," he added.

In addition to rattlesnakes, other protected snakes that may be found locally are the Carolina watersnake, Eastern smooth green snake, Northern pine snake, and Southern hognose snake.

The snakes are put on the special concerns list when either their habitat or population numbers are on the decline.

"I know most people hate snakes, but just because people don't like something doesn't mean they don't have a place here on this earth," said Beardsley.

See PROTECTED, 8



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