

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Daniel Heath is most improved Perquimans boys basketball player, Page 7

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 15, 2012 - FEBRUARY 21, 2012

50 cents

White to continue as town's mayor pro tem

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Councilwoman Annie White will remain mayor pro tem for Hertford.

White was elected to the position back in December by a 2-1 vote that was later challenged after the meeting ended by a councilman who says his negative vote was not heard. The matter was tabled until Mayor

Horace Reid sought clarification from experts on how to handle the issue.



White

Monday night, Reid said he talked with officials with the North Carolina League of Municipalities and was

advised that, according to Robert's Rules of Order (RRO), the vote can not be undone.

"I was advised that, based on how it was presented, we should continue with what we have," said Reid.

Councilman Ed Lane, who challenged the vote in December when he said his negative vote was not heard by Reid, asked

Monday night that council revoke the issue of mayor pro tem to benefit the town, noting it was not a personal matter.

"I have thought long and hard about this issue," Lane read from a prepared statement which he distributed to council members. "There are two council members (living) two yards apart and a mayor in the same neighborhood.

The mayor pro tem should represent the downtown area as well as other parts of the town, not in the same neighborhood. What I am trying to say is don't put all of your eggs in the same basket as the saying goes."

"I think we need to do the moral and ethical thing for the community and revoke on the issue...being that we have now gone back to

the previous way of voting. I think we need to be consistent in the way we vote instead of changing the RRO from meeting to meeting. We all need to be on the same page when it comes to voting on issues regarding the town and its residents," he added.

Lane's motion ended with a 2-2 tie vote with Lane

See PRO TEM, 8

ENRICHMENT CLUBS HELP STUDENTS

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Visit Hertford Grammar School on Tuesday afternoon and you will find students taking part in a host of unusual classes.

Building robots. Learning about GPS systems and playing geocaching. Creating a school yearbook. Knitting caps. Fishing. Creating web pages and podcasting.

Advanced students are participating in Enrichment Clubs that touch on a variety of fun-filled, interesting subjects pertinent to today's society or just plain interesting and fun things for kids to do. Students gather in different classrooms with different teachers and experience firsthand how to knit a warm winter cap, how to make a tablecloth using Japanese fish prints, how to design a yearbook, or even learn sign language.

It's all part of the school's effort to increase learning opportunities for students. While most after school programs at the school are for remediation to help average or below average students, the school also needed to focus on helping advanced students learn more as well.

"The Enrichment Clubs foster higher level thinking skills and other 21st Century learning for advanced students," explained Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for Perquimans County Schools.

The clubs and remediation classes held after school are part of a restructuring plan for HGS required because it did not meet target goals in the same subject (reading/language arts or math) in



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Students learn to knit caps during one of several after-school enrichment clubs at Hertford Grammar School.



See CLUBS, 8 Fifth-grader Jacob Godfrey concentrates on painting during an enrichment club session at Hertford Grammar.

County supports keeping FSA here

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans Commissioners passed a resolution last week supporting keeping the local Farm Service Agency in Perquimans County rather than move it to Chowan County as suggested recently by Chowan county commissioners.

The resolution states that Perquimans has over 11,000 more acres of harvested cropland than Chowan as well as \$30 million more in cash receipts from products produced by farming in the county. Perquimans has more farms and more producer acreage as well, the resolution states.

Interim County Manager Frank Heath said the figures included in the resolution came directly from the FSA. A map accompanying the resolution shows all acreage in the two counties lie within a 15-mile radius of the current FSA office located in Hertford.

As a result of the 2008 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified offices across the nation with two or fewer employees and within 20 miles of a neighboring FSA as targets of consolidation. It has also prevented the hiring of replacement personnel when FSA offices lose employees to attrition.

Chowan is one of six counties in North Carolina subject to the proposed consolidation because it has only two employees and sits within 20 miles of another FSA office in Perquimans.

Aaron Martin, FSA's state executive director, delivered the news to Chowan residents during a public meeting in Edenton recently.

"The secretary (U.S. Agricultural Secretary Tom Vilsack) did not want to do this. I didn't want to do this. The budget is driving it," Martin told an audience of about 30 that attended the forum held at the agriculture building. "You can't run an office effectively with only one person and we've got some one-person offices."

See KEEP FSA, 8

Man faces attempted 2nd degree rape charge

From staff reports

A 39-year-old Woodville man was indicted two weeks ago for attempted second degree rape.

According to Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley, Arthur Still of the 100-block Pams Way, is charged with two other felonies as well. A Perquimans County Grand Jury also returned indictments Jan. 30 charging him with two counts of attempted second degree sex act.

Still was arrested in his home Feb. 7 without incident, said Tilley. He was taken to Albemarle District Jail under \$75,000 secured bond.

Tilley said the incident occurred Sept. 29 when a 44-year-old female visited in his home. Still reportedly followed the victim outside the home and allegedly attempted to rape her, police said. She managed to push him off of her and escaped unharmed, he said.

Tilley said his office originally received only a report of an assault involving the case.

"After Hopeline became

FARM BUREAU GIVES \$1,500 TO VFDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans Farm Bureau leaders recently presented \$1,500 to the county's six volunteer fire departments in appreciation for the valuable community service they provide to Perquimans County. Volunteer firefighters are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On hand for the presentation are (l-r) Durants Neck Chief Jimmy Spivey, Farm Bureau Vice President Johnny Winslow, Farm Bureau President A. O. Roberts, InterCounty Chief Bobby Swayne, Hertford Chief Todd Tilley, Bethel Chief Ray Copeland, Belvidere Chief Bernie Winslow and Winfall Chief Brandon Roberson.



See RAPE CHARGE, 8