

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Fired teacher files lawsuit against BOE

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A former Perquimans County teacher has filed a lawsuit in superior court appealing her termination this spring by the Perquimans County Board of Education.

A hearing has been scheduled

for Nov. 5 in Currituck County Superior Court to hear Vanessa B. Joyner's appeal, which was filed in July after members of the board of education voted in June to deny her tenure and did not renew her contract for the 2012 school year. Joyner had taught at Perquimans Central School since 2008.

According to Joyner's petition filed in Perquimans County Superior Court, the board voted to terminate her employment despite a recommendation by Superintendent Dwayne Stallings that Joyner be given career status (tenure). Joyner alleges that the board based its decision upon criteria that were not ap-

plied to other similarly-situated employees and was motivated by personal and/or political reasons.

Joyner alleges in court documents that her evaluations by school principals for four years were rated as "proficient" or "accomplished" and never indicated she was not meeting le-

gitimate expectations. She was recommended for tenure by both her school principal and by Stallings, Joyner claims.

In March, Joyner reported to her principal that she had "observed another teacher engaging in illegal and/or unethical

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Indian Summer Festival

ROCKED Hertford

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

While no official attendance numbers have been given, organizers say last weekend's Indian Summer Festival rocked downtown historic Hertford.

See more photos from Indian Summer Festival, Pages 8-9



PHOTO COURTESY PAMELA HADDEN

Saturday's Indian Summer Festival in downtown historic Hertford drew a large crowd who visited vendors, enjoyed a variety of entertainment and ate lots of good food.

"As chairman of the Indian Summer Festival, I thought our team did a really good job last year. However, this past Friday and Saturday, we blew the lid off of Hertford!" said a happy Joe Easterwood with the sponsoring organization Historic Hertford, Inc. "Friday night's activities were nothing less than sensational and Church Street was rockin'! I spoke with several of Hertford's long-time residents and each of them said that this is certainly one of the biggest events this town has ever seen."

"For me personally, it was gratifying to be just a small part in making this happen and I didn't do it alone," he added. "Our committee was absolutely terrific. Each group was exceptional in covering their areas of responsibility. Our Kid's Venue, in particular, was superb. I took a tour thru the venue and seeing the smiles



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

There was plenty of shagging going on Friday evening, thanks to the beach music sounds provided by the Original Rhondels. Church Street was packed with dancers and folks sitting on hay bales and in chairs listening to the free concert.

on the faces of the children out there was truly heart-warming...Thanks to all who came and had a great time." The free street

dance and concert by the Original Rhondels had folks dancing in the street, on the grass, even on the sidewalk. Later that evening,

about 30 paddlers in single kayaks, tandem kayaks, and canoes took to the Perquimans River during the Carolina Moonlight Paddle,



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

The children's venue entertained and provided lots of fun for kids of all ages.

a first for the festival. In addition to paddlers from Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, many paddlers came from the OBX Paddlers Group as well as other surrounding North Carolina and Virginia localities. Two Coast Guard teams escorted the

group from the Hertford town dock to Winfall where they were greeted by Winfall Mayor Fred Yates and his wife, Arlene. The dancing continued over in Winfall, thanks to music, food, and beverages at the Winfall Town

See FESTIVAL, 8

Ex-NYPD officer recalls 9/11

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Henry Rogan sat down to enjoy his morning coffee while listening to the radio.

It was his usual morning ritual after working the evening shift as a police officer with the New York City Police Department.

This morning, however, would be like no other. It was Sept. 11, 2001.

"I called work and asked if they needed me to come in that day. It was all hands on deck. I packed a bag because I knew I'd be there a while."

Henry Rogan
Former NYPD officer recalling morning of 9/11

"I heard on the radio that there was a plane crash at the World Trade Center tower," remembered Rogan. "I cut the television on and saw what had happened and I remember thinking what a terrible accident. I didn't think much of it, though, because I knew fire suppression efforts would kick in. But when I saw the second plane hit the towers, I knew then it was no accident. I knew it was an attack. I knew it was terrorism."

Rogan shared his memories of being a police officer in New York on 9/11 with members of the Rotary Club of Hertford Tuesday morning.

"I called work and asked

See ROGAN, 4

Benton nominated for state media award

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

April Benton with the Perquimans County Schools is one of four women nominated for the North Carolina School Library Media Association Media Coordinator of the Year award.

Benton is the nominee from the eastern region of the state. The three other finalists were nominated from Wake, Forsyth, and

Henderson counties.

The winner will be announced at the state conference in Winston-Salem slated for Oct. 5. The state winner will receive a plaque and a \$1,000 gift from Foilett Library Services.

Benton is media coordinator at Hertford Grammar School where she has served for 7 years. She earned a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from Elizabeth City State University and her master of library science media coordinator degree from East Carolina University. She is National Board Certified in



Benton

See BENTON, 4

Siblings share rare fatal disease

"This is just devastating for us. We've had acceptance for Hudson since it's been a while, but it is so much harder now knowing it's two of them who We never expected to be buying cemetery plots for our children."

Brittany Mimplitsch
Mother of Hudson and Leila

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hudson and Leila Mimplitsch share a closeness that's common among brothers and sisters.

They were always close as normal children, playing with toys, running around outside. But today, at the age of 7 and



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Jerry Mimplitsch plays with Hudson, 7, and Leila, 5, who both suffer from the rare, fatal brain disease neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses, also known as Batten Disease.

5, both Hudson and Leila share one bond their parents wish they wouldn't. They both have been diagnosed with Batten

Disease - a rare, fatal disease of the brain.

See SIBLINGS, 4

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