

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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## Two arrested for stealing lottery tickets

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Two men were arrested last week for the burglary of a store in Perquimans County and the theft of more than 1,400 scratch-off lottery tickets. One of the men tried to redeem at stores in Elizabeth City. Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said

Daniel Alexander Staffelli, 23, 2316 Edgewood Drive, Elizabeth City, was arrested Wednesday. Arlen Ross Colson, 24, of 437 Hog Neck Road, Hertford was arrested the following day.



Colson



Staffelli

The two have been charged with breaking into the New Hope Country Store on Jan. 25. They used an axe to get inside and 1,457 scratch off lottery tickets and some

cigarettes were stolen, Tilley said Friday. The burglary happened about 4 a.m. Tilley said as soon as the theft was discovered, the state lottery office was notified and the registration numbers for the lottery tickets were flagged as stolen. Once that happened Tilley said he started getting

reports of someone trying to cash them in at stores in Elizabeth City. The stores have surveillance cameras so he could see who was trying to exchange the tickets for cash. Tilley said Staffelli was observed on tape as trying to cash in the tickets at first and then other people were seen doing it. Tilley said some of those people

told lawmen that Staffelli offered a winning ticket to them in exchange for cash that was less than the winning amount. His story was he couldn't get to the store to cash the ticket in. When the unsuspecting person found that the ticket was no good, they cooperated with lawmen

See LOTTERY, 3

## IN WITH THE NEW, OUT WITH THE OLD



PHOTO COURTESY PAM HADDEN

Bethel Fire Department Assistant Chief Tom Ponte (left), Chief Ray Copeland, Assistant Chief/Vice President Donald Hobbs and Captain/President Jonathan Nixon pose with the station's new 2013 tanker truck (right) and say goodbye to the 1974 tanker on Sunday. See full story inside page 2.

## Residents push for liquor by the drink

Group compiles facts on liquor sales

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

While Perquimans County debates allowing alcohol sales in a county-owned recreation center, some residents are moving to get liquor by the drink approved in the Town of Hertford.

The lack of liquor sales in town was one of the negatives pointed out in an intensive survey of the area constructed in the past two years. The STEP program was aimed at getting community leaders to identify issues that were holding the area back and tackle them.

Murielle Harmon is one of the STEP members involved in the alcohol issue. Her committee is planning another meeting next month.

At this point they are gathering information

See LIQUOR, 6

## Steinburg meets with sheriffs from region

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Sheriffs from a six-county area met in Hertford last week with their new representative in Raleigh.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) asked for the meeting in order to talk about issues that are facing law enforcement. Tilley said Hertford was picked as the site because it provides a central location. Tilley as well of sheriffs from Currituck, Pasquotank, Chowan, Camden and Tyrrell counties attended.

One of the big issues for Tilley was the lack of treatment facilities for people with mental issues. Tilley said deputies are sometimes forced to spend an entire day driving a person who needs care to Winston-Salem or Durham.

"I know I've done it, and

it's four and a half hours there and you stick around for 10 or 15 minutes and its four and a half hours back. We also have mental health issues in our jails. Everything comes down to how much manpower it takes and what you're taking off the road" when transporting people.

Perquimans has 12 sworn officers.

Medicare or Medicaid reimburses law enforcement agencies for their transportation costs, but Tilley still loses the services of a deputy for a solid day or longer.

"It's obvious that our mental health system is broken," Tilley said.

"Mr. Steinburg admitted he was a rookie and he was learning," Tilley said. "That's why he called this meeting. We also talked about our schools and the issues we have going on with



Steinburg

## Layden to play role for Steinburg, Cook

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Newly elected state representative Bob Steinburg knows that with the General Assembly in session and six counties in his district, he won't be as available as he'd like to attend meetings in Perquimans County.

That's where Dianne Layden plays a role.

She's going to be an unpaid liaison in Perquimans County for Steinburg and Sen. Bill Cook.

Steinburg is quick to point out Layden's job isn't to be a gatekeeper, but attend things in Perquimans County that he simply cannot.

"Given the district, it is logistically impossible for me to be everywhere, particularly while the General Assembly is in session," Steinburg said Monday. "Dianne can be my eyes and ears when I can't be there."

Layden is the chairman of the Republican Party in Perquimans County. She switched from being a Democrat in 2009.

"In this county you had to

register as a Democrat in order to vote in the primary. But just because I was affiliated as a Democrat that doesn't mean I always voted that way. In the south, that was the way it was. There have been times when if you wanted to get a job you had to be a registered Democrat or otherwise they wouldn't hire you. But thankfully those times have been changing."

She quickly rose to vice chairman of the county party and then chairman.

"The first thing you have to look at is the actual size of the districts," Layden said.

"Rep. Steinberg has got six counties and Sen. Cook has eight."

Wake County alone has 11 different house members to represent it and five different state senators.

"It's vital in these areas to let them know what's going



Layden



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sheriff Eric Tilley (left), Julie Roberts and Linda White greet students at Perquimans Central recently.

## Schools, sheriff seek 2nd officer

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County is looking to hire a second full-time school resource officer as soon as possible and the school system hopes to find a way to continue the job next year as well.

The schools presently have one full-time officer, Deputy Stacey Mitchell, based at Perquimans County High School. She also visits the other three schools in the district as needed.

The plan is to add a second officer to serve Perquimans County Middle School and Perquimans Central School. The second officer would at this point be paid a

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See SHERIFFS, 6

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