THE FERQUIVIANS EEKIY

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Basketball teams get set for final week of regular season action, 6

"News from Next Door"

Two arrested for stealing lottery tickets

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Two men were arrested 23, last week for the burglary of a store in Perquimans Drive, Eliz-County and the theft of more than 1,400 scratchoff lottery tickets. One of the men tried to redeem at stores in Elizabeth City.

Perquimans



ed Wednes-Colson day. Arlen



Ross Colson, 24, of 437 Hog They used an axe to get in-County Neck Road, Hertford was side and 1,457 scratch off

The two cigarettes were stolen, Til- reports of someone trying told lawmen that Staffelli ley said Friday. The bur- to cash them in at stores in offered a winning ticket glary happened about 4 a.m

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the the theft was discovered, the state lottery office was notified and the registration numbers for the lottery tickets were flagged as 25. stolen.

Once that happened Til-

Elizabeth City. The stores to them in exchange for have surveillance cam- cash that was less than the Tilley said as soon as eras so he could see who winning amount. His story was trying to exchange the was he couldn't get to the tickets for cash.

observed on tape as try- ing person found that the ing to cash in the tickets at ticket was no good, they first and then other people cooperated with lawmen were seen doing it. Tilley Sheriff Eric Tilley said arrested the following day. lottery tickets and some ley said he started getting said some of those people

store to cash the ticket Tilley said Staffelli was in. When the unsuspect-

See LOTTERY, 3

50 cents

IN WITH THE NEW, OUT WITH THE OLD

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 countyowned 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

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.

sheriffs from region

By PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Sheriffs from a six-county area met in Hertford last week with their new repre- 10 or 15 minsentative in Raleigh

Perquimans County Sher- four and a iff Eric Tilley said Rep. Bob half Steinburg (R-Chowan) asked back. for the meeting in order to also have mental health istalk about issues that are fac- sues in our jails. Everything ing law enforcement. Tilley said Hertford was picked as manpower it takes and what 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 vou stick

around for utes and its hours



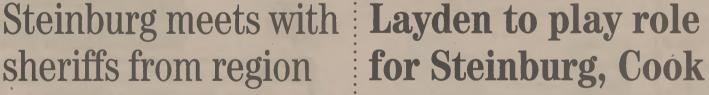
comes down to how much you're taking off the road" when transporting people. Perquimans has 12 sworn

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

See SHERIFFS, 6



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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 doesn't mean Perquimans County.

That's where 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 chairman of the county party 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."

of the Republican Party in state senators. Perquimans County. She switched from being a Demo- let them know what's going crat in 2009.

"In this county you had to



Layden

I always voted that way. In Dianne the south, that was the way it was. There have been times changing.'

She quickly rose to vice 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 Layden is the chairman represent it and five different

"It's vital in these areas to

See LAYDEN, 2



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

PHOTO COURTESY PAM HADDEN

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

See 2ND OFFICER, 7



was affiliated as a Democrat that

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