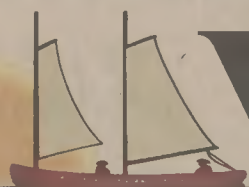


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Hoops teams face Camden in Four Rivers tournament — Page 6

"News from Next Door"

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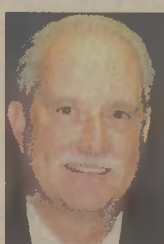
Stallings proposal raises pay for teachers

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County leaders and school officials sat down Monday night to talk about increasing the amount of money teachers get.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings unveiled a plan that would raise the local

supplement for classroom teachers. The plan would eliminate the supplement for other staff positions and instead give those workers a pay hike.



Stallings

The meeting was just the first of what may be three meetings where the county and the schools discuss the 2013-14 budget.

The two boards also talked of plans for a new athletic complex, the format for the new budget and adding a second armed deputy in the schools. For now the school system is

planning to take \$30,000 out of the reserve fund to pay for the position through the end of this school year.

The school system has known about the pay discrepancy since 2008 when it had a salary study conducted. The solution offered Monday doesn't eliminate the problem, but

it does make it better one school official said.

The plan raises the payroll cost by \$51,875. As a group, teachers would see most of that — \$17,314 — and teacher assistants would get \$14,011. The rest would go to office support staff, custodians, cafeteria workers, maintenance personnel and the trans-

portation department.

The school system didn't try to fully implement the salary recommendations in 2008 because it couldn't. Stallings said at first the economy tanked and then the state put a freeze on school salaries. The freeze has since been lifted.

See SCHOOLS, 7



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Tyler Chappell, 14, participates in the sport of cow sorting at an event last year. The Woodville teen hopes to raise enough money to attend the sport's national competition in Texas in June.

Family raising \$5K for son to take trip

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Tyler Chappell makes a game out of cow sorting, and now he wants to test his skill in a national competition in Texas in June.

The 14-year-old Woodville resident has been invited to the World Series Ranch Sorting competition on June 4-9 in Fort Worth. His family is in the process of raising the \$5,500 it will take to make the trip possible.

To the novice, cow sorting involves putting 10 cows in a ring. Each cow is numbered one through 10 and a pair of riders are each assigned a number. If the rider gets number four, their job is to go out and bring cow number four into the stall and then go back and get cow number



five and then six and then seven if possible.

"I got my first horse when I was five and have loved riding ever since," Chappell said last week. "I enjoy going to cow sorting with my dad, Alton and granddad, Earl Bateman." He recently won first

place for the year in novice in sorting in Virginia. He won second place in the youth division at the North Carolina state show.

"I have been participating in ranch sorting events since I was 10 and I really enjoy the sport," he said.

A child taking part in the Verity Therapeutic Riding Center program rubs his chin on Tyler Chappell's head. Chappell got a buzz cut because the child liked the feel of his hair that way.

He also has a second love — working with disabled children at the Verity Therapeutic Riding Center in Hertford. Verity works to use horses to help people with physical, mental or emotional needs.

Gail Smith, who works with the Verity program, said at first Chappell focused on keeping the horses in shape.

"Tyler has been a volunteer now for not quite a year," Smith said. "He's very, very quiet but he loves these children with special needs. He's just awesome with that. He's a

great volunteer and good with horses as well as the kids.

"This past summer we had a child who was autistic and Tyler figured out he had texture issues. So Tyler got a buzz cut when he found out the child liked the way it felt. There is another child with cerebral palsy and he can't walk so Tyler just picks him up and carries him to where he needs to go. He's a real unusual young man."

Tyler's mother Beth is excited about the prospect of having her son compete in Texas.

"To go to the World Series would just be awesome."

To donate to the trip contact Beth Chappell at bethchappellsphotography@hotmail.com or call 232-8567.

Dogs seized in New Hope

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Writer

The 21 dogs seized in Perquimans County last week were on the radar of the Sheriff Eric Tilley, but until they were linked to a dog-fighting ring in Pasquotank County he said there was little he could do to intervene.

The dogs were being kept behind a house on Camp Perry Road in a fenced in pen.

"We've known they've been there for a while now," Tilley said last week.

"There was nothing at any time that would indicate there was dog fighting there and we don't have a law here that says how many pit bulls you can own, so there wasn't much I could do about it," Tilley said.

Tilley said about once a year the county animal control department would talk to the woman that was taking care of the animals and each time she was able to show paperwork that the dogs were up to date on shots and had been checked out by a veterinarian. There were no apparent problems.

However when Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright called Tilley last week and asked him if he knew of a place where large numbers of pit bulls were being kept, Tilley said he knew he had one. The 21 dogs in Perquimans were just part of the 80 dogs seized by authorities. Most of them came from areas in Pasquotank County, but

See DOGFIGHTING, 7

Main Street champ Bielski is optimistic

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Volunteering in a big city like Baltimore might leave you feeling that your efforts don't matter much.

But in Hertford, Joan Bielski feels she is making a contribution. So do the folks with the North Caro-

lina Main Street program who named Bielski as a Main Street Champion at an awards ceremony last month in Salsbury.

Joan and her husband moved to Albemarle Plantation from the Baltimore



Bielski

See BIELSKI, 7

PIRATES HOLD TRY-OUTS



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Kolby Walker (center) pitches for coaches John Lassiter (left) and David Noble during try-outs for the Perquimans High baseball team, Thursday. The Pirates will host a jamboree Feb. 23. Participating teams include Pasquotank, First Flight, Currituck, Edenton, Camden, Gates and Northeastern. On March 9 an alumni steak dinner and auction team fundraiser will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Perquimans Recreation Center. Tickets are \$15 each. Call coach Justin Robinson at 339-5457 with questions.



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