

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



ALL-STARS GO TO STATE— 6

"News from Next Door"

JULY 31, 2013 - AUGUST 6, 2013

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THIEVES MAKE OFF WITH SWORDS, KNIVES

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Thieves made off with 21 swords, 30 knives, a pistol and at least \$3,400 worth of other items Sunday from a business on Grubb Street.

Mike Librich, the owner of Hertford Bargain & Auction House, called police shortly before 9 a.m. Sunday to report the crime.

Librich boasts an inventory of more than 40,000 items and said Monday that

he's still noticing things that were stolen but weren't listed in the original police report. That includes watches, cosmetic jewelry and a jar of coins.

Hertford Police Officer Kenneth Lynch said that it

appeared nearly every item in the store was knocked to the floor or moved. The items stolen had a total value of \$6,700.

In his report Lynch said Librich told him that he left the store about 2 p.m.

the day before. When he returned the next day he found the back door to the business was open.

A section of wood was broken open.

Librich called the thieves "stupid" because

they took some things that didn't work, or stole items but not the electrical cord that you need to run them.

Some items were left outside the open door "where

See THIEVES, 7

Schools forced to slash positions

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Schools expects to lose five teacher's assistants and \$148,000 for classroom materials and textbooks under a new budget plan adopted by the N.C. General Assembly.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said the teacher's assistants should know by next week if they will have a job next year. Letters were being sent out Monday to alert those involved that cuts are coming.

The school system had 29 teacher's assistants last year. They earn about \$30,000 a year with benefits. No certified classroom teachers will have to be cut at this point, Stallings said.



STALLINGS

Teacher assistants are paid through any of five sources, including the state, federal Title I funds and local funds.

Stallings plans to meet with principals and then the Perquimans County School Board to discuss what to do next.

While cutting the positions will end up reducing the education budget, it won't do it instantly. Under the school system's "Reduction In Force" policy, employees who have their jobs eliminated will still be able to draw on their health insurance plan for a year after termination.

Stallings said he was disappointed in the funding decision, and said the school system will have to continue to be resourceful to find ways to educate children.

Funding for textbooks had been drastically reduced over the past few years. The logic was the state would be shifting to the new Common Core and Essential Standards model and it made no sense to buy books if they would be outdated.

The common core has been adopted, but the funding for books has been slashed from earlier projections.

In the planning allotment provided to the Perquimans schools, the state

See SCHOOL CUTS, 7



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COURTHOUSE GREEN GETS A MAKEOVER

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Courthouse green is green once more.

The county is finishing up work this week to install an irrigation system, re-sod the grass and install new landscaping.

The problem was the mighty oak trees that have been shading the historic courthouse lawn for at least 70 years have been slowly killing the grass.

"The reason the grass looked so bad was the oak trees soak up a lot of water and the grass couldn't survive," said County Manager Frank Heath. "The grass was becoming less and less."

Removing the trees was never considered, but installing an irrigation system was.

A landscaping plan developed by a committee in 2007 was estimated to cost about \$73,000. That was also about the time the national and local economy started a serious downturn.

Heath estimates the cost of the work going on now should be between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Some of that will come from local tax dollars and some of it will be from penalties and fees collected by the court system.

Katy Shook, area consumer horticulture agent for the N.C. Cooperative Extension service, said the oak trees were just doing what oak trees do.

"The top plan is going to take the most of everything," Shook said Monday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Workers from Planter's Ridge unload mulch for the beds at the historic Perquimans County Courthouse on Tuesday morning. Flowers, shrubs and new sod were also added.



Heavy equipment carries concrete for a walkway to the Confederate War memorial outside the Perquimans County Courthouse on Friday. The county has removed all the grass and will be installing an irrigation system, new sod and plants.

for some time, Heath said.

"Fifteen years ago we talked about some of the things the people of the community would like to see, and landscaping the courthouse was one of them," Heath said. "We had the plan and we're trying to carry it out the best we can."

Heath has been working

See COURTHOUSE, 7

Oak trees have big root systems. If they look big on the surface, the courthouse oaks probably have a root system that is twice as wide and twice as deep.

The courthouse was built in 1825 and is the centerpiece for many events, Heath said. Sid Eley, the director of the Perquimans County Chamber of

Commerce, estimates the trees are between 70 and 100 years old based on old photographs.

Improving the look has been a goal for the county

Pirates football looking forward to season

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans Pirates football team wants to make 2013 as a season to remember, not one to forget.

Under new Head Coach Elvin James, the Pirates open the season Aug. 23 in Robersonville against South Creek High School. Practice starts on Thursday.

The less said about the last two years, the better. The Pirates were 0-11 in 2012 and 1-11 the year before.

"I think we're going to surprise a

few people, unless of course they fool me," James said recently.

"We're looking a little top heavy with juniors and seniors, but that's a good thing," Bishop said last week. "Our seniors this year are really showing some leadership and all of them showing a strong work ethic."

The season opener is hardly the calm before the storm. South Creek beat the Pirates last year 32-



JAMES

7. However it was the only game the Cougars won last year in the Four Rivers Conference.

After South Creek, the Pirates host John A. Holmes — a larger 2-A team that went 11-1 last season including a 62-0 win over Perquimans.

But James points out that was last year. It's history.

"My thing is the foundation has been laid, and we're going to be ready."

James, who has only been on staff since the first of July, believes he's seen improvement.

James said 50 students have

signed up for football. He said 31 students showed up for voluntary weight training and running the day before and about 30 have consistently been attending.

Nathan Gardner should be back as quarterback this year. While only a junior, Gardner has started in that position for the past two years.

James is especially impressed with the offense.

"The offensive line may be our biggest strength. We've got great size. And we've got a lot of speed

See JAMES, 6

Festival vendors needed

From staff reports

The deadline is drawing near for vendors to sign up for the 2013 Indian Summer Festival in Hertford.

The festival, now in its 32nd year, will be held Sept. 6-7.

It features food, crafts, rides for kids and music. People interested in becoming a vendor should call 228-990-2021 or 377-7386 by Friday. Food vendors are required to get a permit from the Perquimans County Health Department.

See SUMMER FEST, 7

Layden nominated for 2 NC posts

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The head of the Republican Party in Perquimans County has been appointed to one state board and may be appointed to another.

Gov. Pat McCrory has asked Diane Layden to sit on the committee that oversees licensed professional counselors. It's a seven-member

panel that includes two members from the public. Layden will be taking the place of a Shelby resident.

House Speaker Tom Tillis has asked her to sit on the board that licenses recre-



LAYDEN

ational therapists. Layden said Monday she will take the position once it is determined that it is not a conflict to sit on two boards at the same time.

Layden has been involved in Raleigh politics in the past. In May she went back to the capitol to serve as an honorary page for a day. She

See LAYDEN, 7

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