

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Lady Pirates fighting to preserve playoff berth, 7

"News from Next Door"

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## Pay plan leaves veteran teachers out

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Local educators say a plan to bump the salary of starting teachers is a step, but many are worried more experienced educators who get nothing will move on to other jobs.

Gov. Pat McCrory unveiled the plan last week that would raise the starting pay for some teachers by as much as \$4,200 a year within

two years. Those with more experience would get less, and those with 11 or more years in the classroom would see nothing at all.

Even some teachers who will get the full raise, say the plan gives them the same amount as a teacher who is just starting out.



GRIFFIN



WARD

In Perquimans County there are about 150 classroom teachers and 56 of them would see a raise under the McCrory plan. The other 94 would get nothing.

Rachel Ward, an 18-year veteran and a science teacher at Hertford Grammar School, is left out

of the governor's plan. She started her career in Chowan County and then went to Moore County for three years. She's been teaching in Perquimans County for the past 10.

"What they're doing in Raleigh makes it real difficult in deciding whether to remain teaching in North Carolina," Ward said Monday. "I love my job, my school and my students, however with the lack of pay raises on top of the

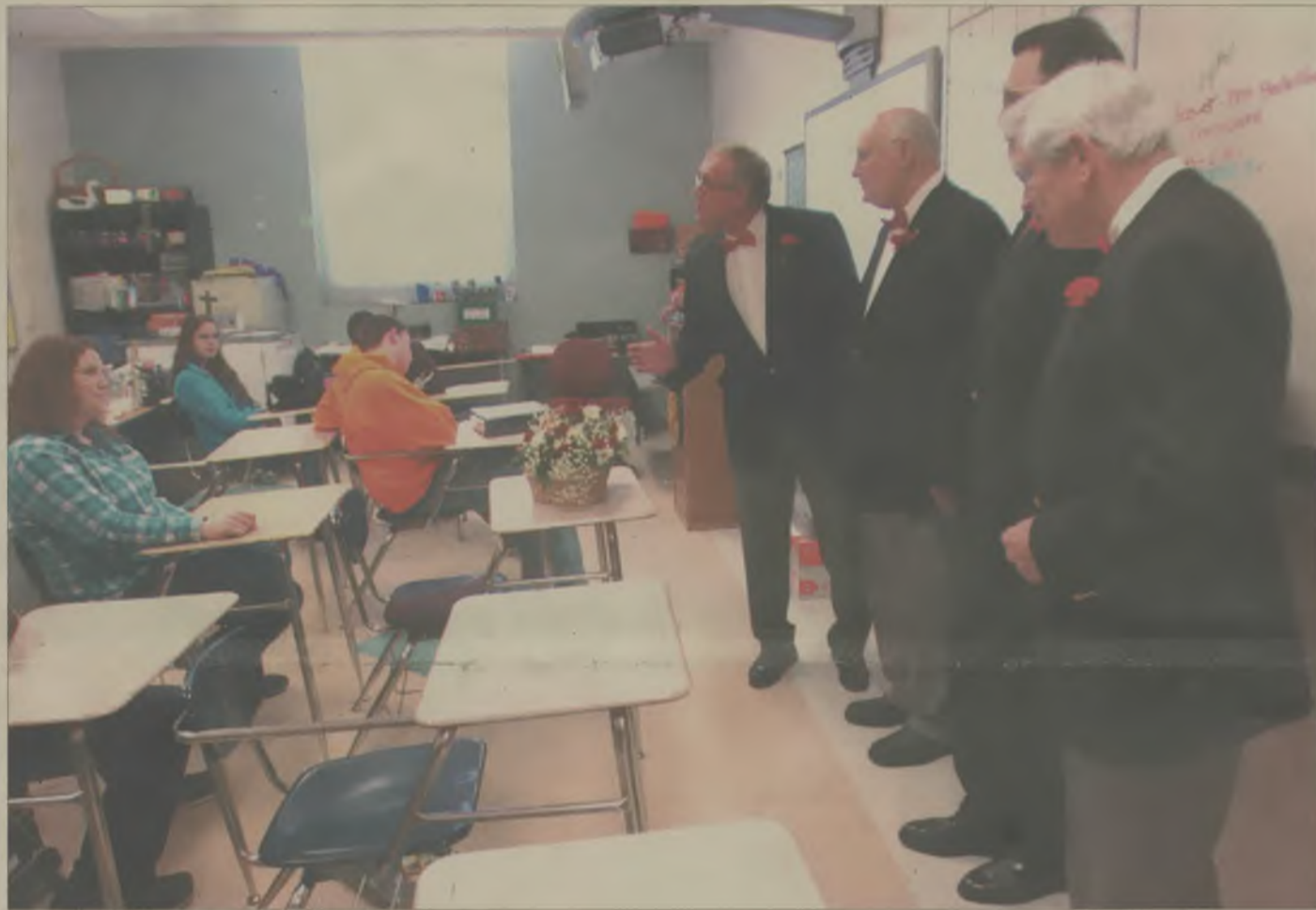
higher demands and lack of resources, it makes it hard."

It is unsettling for Ward to have a friend who is in her fourth year of teaching in Virginia and she makes \$5,000 more a year than Ward does after 18 years.

Teachers along the border areas of North Carolina have other options. Ward lives in the Chowan-Gates county line. She's worried

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## SINGING VALENTINE



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Albemarle Sounds sing to Perquimans County High School teacher Angel White (left) Friday on Valentine's Day. The quartet performs in several counties and brings roses to the recipient. The money raised through the program is used to support student singing programs in local schools. Pictured are (left) Ron Heiniger, Bob Higerd, March Woodbury and West Hostetler. Heiniger and Woodbury live in Edenton. Higerd and Hostetler lives in Albemarle Plantation.

## Slick weather, Valentine's Day collide

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

When a nasty winter storm hits the same week as Valentine's Day, Diane White is a busy woman.

She and her husband run R.P.'s Wrecker Service out of Belvidere.

Her sister Brenda Winslow, runs Dozier's Florist in Hertford.

Nasty weather is good for one business, and bad for the other — especially around the romantic holiday when people want flowers delivered.

The wrecker business was busy Wednesday night. White said she could see it coming.

"My mother always told me the biggest snows always come when it starts off real fine and yesterday I saw it coming down and thought 'we're in trouble.'"

By Thursday, White was helping deliver flowers.

The weather turned quickly last Wednesday and caught many motorists by surprise, according to White.

She said a lot of motorists never called

a wrecker. Instead they had somebody with a four-wheel drive truck pull them out. Of those that did call for a wrecker, most of the vehicles weren't heavily damaged.

"I know we pulled out four but most of them were drivable," White said. "We pulled them out, they paid their bill and they drove on."

One person was injured in a wreck at 1320 Harvey Point Road, according to Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

A woman was transported to the hospital after she lost control and slammed into two cars that were parked in front of Overton's Service, a car repair business. Tilley said the N.C. Highway Patrol handled the accident and he had no details.

Chris Powell, a spokesman for Winfall-based Albemarle EMC, said the utility had no outages as a result of the storm Wednesday.

White said there is a misconception about the wrecker business.

"People think that winter time is the worst," she said. "We're a member of the Albemarle Towing Association and I can tell you summer time is the busiest. Kids are out of school and people are traveling on vacation."

But often the smaller winter storms will catch people by surprise.

If a winter storm does strike again, White's advice is never leave home at all unless you have to. If you find it's too bad, pull all the way off the road in a place that is safe.

"If you break down, pull over to the side of the road and make sure you're over that white line. Even if one tire is touching that line, the high patrol is going to have you towed."

Others used the break in the weather to bring a little Valentine's Day cheer.

Wes Hostetler moved to the area in 1998 and got involved in The Albemarle Sounds, a barbershop-style singing group

See VALENTINE'S, 8

## More file for local offices

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A total of six people have now filed for office in Perquimans County races.

Fondella Leigh, a Woodville Road resident, entered the race for Perquimans County Commission on Feb. 13. She joins Ed Muzzulin, a fellow Democrat who is an incumbent on the board. There will be three seats open and two of the candidates said they won't seek re-election.

Leigh, 48, was the director of the state's juvenile detention center in Winfall until it closed in late 2012. Since that time she's been working as pastor of two area churches. She is the daughter of Walter Leigh, the vice chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Leigh is a Perquimans County native who went on to college at N.C. Central University.

"Working with young people, I know that more can be done," she said Monday.

Another newcomer, Chuck Pagels, is running for one of the three school board seats. Pagels, 67, retired from a career in education in Illinois and then went on to teach middle school in Davidson County for five years. He and his wife Jacque relocated to Perquimans County about seven years ago. Jacque Stallings Pagels is a Perquimans County native.

"I think it would be very useful to have a former teacher on the school board," Chuck Pagels said. "I think I would enjoy serving."

The only other person running for school board race as of Monday was Amy Spaug, Spaug, 46, served a four-year term on the school board, but decided not to run two years ago.

"I had some reasons, and I really didn't feel like I had the time," she said Monday.

She's a native of Davidson County and her husband James is pastor of Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church. They have three children. Two are graduates of Perquimans County High School and one is currently a freshman.

The school board race is non-partisan. Muzzulin, the only county commission member to file for reelection, is currently the vice chairman of the board.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley and Perquimans County Clerk of Court Todd Tilley have also filed for re-election.



LEIGH



MUZZULIN



PAGELS



SPAUGH

## Lassiter named regional agronomist

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

At age 15, Perquimans County native Adam Lassiter was walking the cotton fields of northeastern North Carolina looking for problems.

Now at age 27 and after a seven-year absence, he's

back as the regional agronomist for the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

At a young age, he started off as a cotton scout for Tidewater Agromomics, a Camden-based consulting and research firm with an office in Belvidere.

When he graduated Perquimans County High School in 2005, he went on to N.C. State University where he earned an



LASSITER

associate's degree in general agriculture and agribusiness management. He then earned a bachelor's and master's degree in agriculture education from N.C. A&T University.

His wife Hillary, a Gates County native, works for USDA in the area rural development and will be able to continue that from the

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## I BOUGHT IT AT THE AUCTION



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Director Sid Eley (left) holds a wooden box he made for the auction, while auctioneer Jake Forbes calls for bids at Louise's Meeting Place, Feb. 7.

