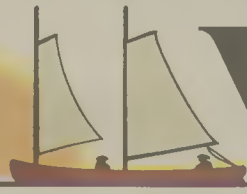


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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"News from Next Door"

JUNE 11, 2014 - JUNE 17, 2014

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## Perquimans awarded \$1.2M in grants

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

By this fall more than 1,400 local students will have computers they didn't have before and by next year the county should have an industrial-sized boat ramp thanks to Golden LEAF.

The Rocky Mount-based organization met last week and awarded Perquimans nearly \$1.2 million to fund the two local projects.

"Perquimans County had a

good day at the races," said Dan Gerlach, the executive director of Golden LEAF.

The decision by the Golden LEAF board caps a process that started in September when the agency opened up the competition to 20 counties. The group that distributes the proceeds from a tobacco settlement asked for applications up to \$1.5 million from each county and set aside \$10 million to distribute.

All five counties in the Albemarle area submitted

applications. One of the Perquimans County requests — money for a marketing effort to bring boat builders to North Carolina — was nixed in the early rounds as were all of the applications from Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank and Chowan counties.

The Perquimans requests included \$864,000 for the start-up cost to buy tablet computers for every student in grades three through

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"June 5th will become one of those benchmark days that will be remembered for years to come ..."

Dwayne Stallings

Superintendent, in a memo to school staff about the grants

## Hundreds of students will benefit

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

After more than 25 years in education, Victor Eure was ready to retire.

Then came Golden LEAF. The Rocky Mount non-profit dangled the prospect of \$1.5 million grants to 20 counties in eastern North Carolina. There was a hitch.



EURE

See BENEFIT, 10

## Teachers upbeat over work conditions

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Teachers in Perquimans County have a better feeling about their working conditions than teachers elsewhere in the state but a third of local teachers say students aren't following the rules, according to a survey released last week by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

The report is compiled every two years to measure how teachers view what they do and where they do it. The first survey was in 2002. Schools use the survey to spot issues and improve problem areas — something a majority of local teachers say is done.

Overall, 86 percent of Perquimans County teachers answered yes to the question "my school is a good place to work and learn." That compares to a 85.1 percent response statewide.

When it came to a question asking if their school used the teacher's survey as a tool for school improvement, 86.1 percent of Perquimans teachers said yes. The statewide figure was 81.2 percent.

Out of 86 questions in the survey, Perquimans teachers answered more positively than their state counterparts on 78 of them. On the eight responses that were lower, four of those were in the area of managing student conduct.

Just 66.1 percent of local teachers answered yes to "students at this school follow rules of conduct." Statewide the figure was 71.9 percent. At Perquimans County

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## EDENTON HOSTS HISTORICAL DOCUMENT



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

John A. Holmes High School students Madison Nance, Hadiya Bemby, Hillary Morgan and Caston Young look at North Carolina's original copy of the 13th Amendment, which was a display Thursday at the historic Chowan County Courthouse in Edenton. A portion of North Carolina's copy of the 13th Amendment (inset) is shown (chowan herald photo). See story on page 2.

## Former Hertford candidate arrested

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
Perquimans Weekly

A man who twice ran for Hertford Town Council and lost was arrested June 5 on charges of extortion.

Quentin Jackson, 28 of South Church Street, Hertford, was jailed under \$10,000 secured bond. Perquimans County Sheriff's deputies made the arrest based on a Pasquotank County warrant.

According to Pasquo-

tank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright, Jackson worked for Carolina Radio Inc. on Parsonage Street until he was let go in December.

"What he was doing was hacking into their computers and trying to extort them for money," Cartwright said Friday.

It was first reported to the Pasquotank Sheriff's



JACKSON

Department on April 25.

Cartwright could offer no other details, but he said more charges could be coming.

Jackson finished last in a four-person race for Hertford council in 2013. In 2011, Jackson lost another race for the office. In that case then Police Chief Joe Amos was fired for posting a link to the Hert-

ford Police Department's Facebook page about the fact that Jackson had been arrested for failure to pay child support.

In the 2013 race, Ed Lane and Lillian Holman won new four-year terms on Hertford council. Lane picked up 247 votes and Holman 223. Following close behind with 203 votes was Archie Aples III - a first-time candidate.

Jackson finished with 83 votes.

## Activities planned for pro golfers

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Before they get down to work, the NGA professional golfers visiting Albemarle Plantation for a tournament this month will get to have a little fun.

The players will start arriving June 22 and check into homes at the development. The tournament wraps up on June 29.

In addition to golf on The Sound Links, players will have the opportunity to sail on a replica of an 18th century boat, participate in a fishing tournament and BBQ and go kayaking.

"They play golf for a living and they like to do other stuff as well," joked Kenny Saunders, the golf pro at The Sound Links. "We're trying to give them something to do as well. Otherwise they'll just sit around and look at themselves."

But there will be plenty of golf and the chance for one of the pros to win \$1 million.

At 7:30 p.m. on June 24 all of the pro golfers will go to the 18th fairway and take a shot during the pairings party. The winner of that gets the chance to shoot again from 180 yards out.

"They get one crack at it and if they knock it into the cup, they win \$1 million," Saunders said.

The Plantation has hosted tournaments before, including celebrity tournaments, but Saunders said this will be the first pro event held there. Organizers floated the idea in October when it appeared Scotch Hall in Bertie

See GOLFERS, 10

## Long-time school spokeswoman retiring

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

When the Perquimans County High School Class of 2014 walks across the stage Friday night, Brenda Lassiter will be there.

Lassiter has always been there for this batch of seniors and others over her 20-year career.

Her title is "public information officer" (PIO) for the Perquimans County Schools, but friends, family and colleagues say she's far more than that.

Given that the schoolsystem is the largest employer in Perquimans County, Lassiter is in effect the public face of the largest "industry" in the county.

But the Class of 2014 is her last. Lassiter is retiring as of Sept. 1.

In the school system's organizational chart, Lassiter is also listed as the contact for business partnerships, community relations, convocation planning, the educational foundation, the principal of



LASSITER

See LASSITER, 8

## Weevils released to help control weed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

State officials released tiny bugs last week in the hopes that they can control an invasive weed that has shown up in northern Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

The plant, known as Mile-A-Minute weed, was known to be in Suffolk, Va., but recently has been spotted in northern parts of the two counties along Turnpike Road. The plant can spread up to six inches a day.

The weevils that were released last week have been used elsewhere with success to slow the spread of the vine. The plant contains thorns and the blue berries.



The spread of the weed into northeastern North Carolina was under study by crop scientist Richard Iverson.

Iverson, 64, of Durham, died at a Norfolk hospital in April from injuries sustained in a biking accident in Camden County. Tak-

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUG GUIDE.NET

The Rhinoncomimus latipes controls the Mile-A-Minute weed.

ing over the investigation is Dr. Kathleen Kidd of the NC Department of Agriculture.

The vine is native to Asia as is the weevil that is being released to control it. Kidd said chemicals can be used to kill the weed but they are broad-spectrum herbicides that will kill virtually everything else as well.

The weevils released last week went straight to eating the weeds, Kidd said.

Tom Campbell, an agriculture extension agent

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