

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



New teachers go through induction process, 7

NEW LAYOUT



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

N.C. Department of Transportation representative Andy Mulder (second from right) gestures last week during a discussion about changing the traffic pattern at Perquimans Central School. The school system wants to move the bus parking from the back of the school to the front in an effort to speed up traffic getting into and out of the school. Traffic tie-ups on Winfall Boulevard have been an issue in the past. The school is also changing the hours from 8 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. to 8:10 a.m. until 3:10 p.m. to have more instructional time and reduce the congestion of buses from Hertford Grammar School and Central during the day. Also pictured are Julie Williams, with the Perquimans County Schools transportation department, Jonathan Nixon, the schools maintenance director and Kenneth White, with N.C. DOT. The work could start in early August.

Project should ease traffic woes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation is wrapping up a project at Perquimans Central School that should ease the traffic that has backed up onto Winfall Boulevard and provide a safer way for parents and bus drivers to get kids to school.

The construction work to reroute vehicle and bus traffic is proving to be more costly than originally planned. Based on an estimate provided by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the school system had hoped to do both of two phases for \$80,000. Instead it's estimated to cost that much for just the first phase.

The first phase involves creating a gravel parking area for buses and some associated concrete sidewalk work in front of the school. DOT is providing \$10,000 of the cost, but the rest is being borne by local funds. It will be completed before school starts.



An N.C. DOT backhoe moves sod to make way for a concrete sidewalk at Perquimans Central School last week.

Jonathan Nixon, who is spearheading the effort for the school system, said the increased cost is because DOT determined that more gravel would be needed in the new bus parking area. A school bus weighs more than 13 tons and DOT said 12 inches of gravel was needed, not the six to

eight inches recommended by DPL, according to DOT. "This project, although it came in over the original dollar amount, was absolutely

See PROJECT, 2

Man injured in house fire, hospitalized

From staff reports

A Perquimans County man was taken to a Virginia hospital last week after his mobile home was destroyed by an early morning fire last Wednesday.

Kenny Roughton, of the 200 block of Felton Lane, was in critical condition at a burn trauma unit at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital last Wednesday according to a Sentara spokesman last week. The hospital did not respond to several attempts to get an update this week.

Inter-County Volunteer Fire Chief Bobby Swayne said his department received a call about the fire at Roughton's residence shortly before 5 a.m. When firefighters arrived within 15 minutes later, the house was fully engulfed in flames and its roof was already caving in, Swayne said. Roughton was already out of the house.

Swayne said his department, assisted by firefighters from the Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department, extinguished the blaze within 10 minutes. The fire units were at the scene much longer, he said, because they had to elevate the mobile home's collapsed roof to get the fire com-

See FIRE, 2

Schools still waiting for answers

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

With just a week before teachers are scheduled to report back and two weeks until students return, Perquimans school officials are still waiting for financial figures from the state showing how much money they'll receive this year.

Typically the school system gets its planning allotment from the Department of Public Instruction in July, but as of Monday Superintendent Dwayne Stallings was still waiting.

Without the figures, Stallings isn't in the position to tell some non-contract staff if they'll have a job this month or not.

"I can remember years ago that we got the planning allotment and we could get everybody hired because we knew what

See BUDGET, 3

Race for three Perquimans seats slow for now

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The four person race for three seats on the Perquimans County Commission is shaping up to be a low-key affair so far.

Only one of the candidates has raised more than \$1,000 toward the campaign.

The state only requires candidates report their campaign contributions if they exceed \$1,000. Incumbent

Ed Muzzulin, 70, was the only candidate who reached that cap according to Perquimans County Elections Director Eula Mae Forbes.

The others in the race are Stanley Nixon, 64, a retired instructor at College of the Albemarle; Fondella Leigh, 48, the former director of the juvenile detention center in Winfall and Wallace Nelson, 61, a pharmacist who has held offices on both the county commission and the

Perquimans County School board in the past.

The Perquimans County campaign effort pales when compared to the race being run for the county commission in Currituck County. As of the last report, the four candidates there had raised and mostly spent \$13,000. The largest total came with one candidate who raised and spent more than \$5,000.

Perquimans County will get at least two new commis-

sioners on the county board after November's election. Muzzulin is the lone incumbent running in November. Ben Hobbs and Tammy Miller White opted not to run again.

"My campaign is going well," Muzzulin said via e-mail this week. "We are obtaining campaign supplies, talking with individuals (and) small groups throughout the county and have had two ads in the Perquimans Weekly with another this week."

His campaign theme is "Making a Difference"

Muzzulin had \$930 in cash on hand at the start of the Jan. 1 reporting cycle and has since raised another \$1,125. The campaign report released this month shows he has \$1,948 in cash on hand.

About \$525 came from cash from individuals ranging from \$25 to \$50. The individuals were not named in the campaign report.

His expenses have been

few. He's reported spending \$49 on postage and mailing labels, \$56 on envelopes and printer ink.

Aside from Muzzulin, Nelson is the only other candidate that has been elected to county office. Nelson was on the school board from 1992 through 2000, and rejoined the school board in 2006. He served one term on the county commission in-between his two stints on the school board.

School vet program graduates first Perquimans student

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Elexus Blake has become the first Perquimans County High School student to complete a course as a Certified Veterinary Assistant.

The effort included 300 hours working with a licensed

veterinarian and 200 hours under the direct supervision of a teacher.

Blake completed her internship with Chowan Animal Hospital under the supervision of Dr. Ruston Howell and staff and worked with PCHS agriculture teacher Angel White.



BLAKE

The CVA training is just one of 10 programs offered at the high school. Others include cardio pulmonary resuscitation training through the American Heart Association, vision screening, pharmacy technician, animal scission certification in both pork and beef, firefighting,

See VET SCHOOL, 2

Festival to mark 33rd year

From staff reports

Something that started in 1982 will mark its 33rd year this September in downtown Hertford.

The Indian Summer Festival was originally a project of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Chamber director Mary Harrell held a public meeting to see if there was support in the community to put one on. The name "Indian Summer Festival" won out.

The festival is now two days. This year it's Sept. 5-6. All the events center around

the Church, Grubb and Market streets. Children's activities have been headquartered in the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot. The event is organized by Historic Hertford, Inc.

It kicks off that Friday with music by DJ Cowboy and The Original Rhondels and a street dance on Church Street.

Saturday's events include a car show and parade, rides for the kids and vendors selling food and crafts. Music and a fashion show will be provided that Saturday on a stage in front

of the Perquimans County Courthouse. A complete schedule of activities will appear in a special Indian Summer Festival brochure in the Aug. 27 issue of The Perquimans Weekly.

The first festival was scheduled for the second weekend in September, but was actually held on the third weekend because there was a rain date.

At the time it was three days. Thursday was Heritage Day and was held at the Newbold-White House,

See FESTIVAL, 3

