

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



School finance staff honored, 3

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"News from Next Door"

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Eley appointed to fill board seat

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Three years after losing his only election in 20 years, Sid Eley is back on the Hertford Town Board.

Eley will fill a vacancy on the five-member board. It was created when Anne White opted to run for Perquimans County School Board instead. White won in May but had to give her seat up on the town board

when she took the school board seat in July.

Two people expressed an interest in filling the town post, Eley and Archie Aples. Last week by a 3-1 vote, the board voted to pick Eley to fulfill the 17 months left in the term.

Mayor Horace Reid was the lone vote against appointing Eley and the lone vote in favor of appointing Aples. Also voting were Carlton Davenport, Lillian

Holman and Ed Lane.

In 2011 Reid defeated Eley in a race for mayor by a margin of 274-188.

The two men had served together on the board before, Reid as a councilmember and Eley as mayor.

Despite his loss to Reid,



ELEY



APLES

Eley said the two can still work together.

"He was the Mayor Pro-Tem when I was mayor," Eley said.

"We're still good friends."

Eley said he just wants to work on making the town better.

"I wanted to serve the

town in any way I possibly could," Eley said Monday about his decision to put his name on the list. "I love the service. I just want to see Hertford grow and I want to see more businesses coming to Hertford. I can't wait to start working with the council."

Reid favored Aples, who lost out in a four-way race for two seats on the town board in November. Lane and Holman won new four-

year terms last year, Lane with 247 votes and Holman with 223. Aples was close behind with 203 votes. The only other candidate, Quentin Jackson, had 83 votes.

Aples said he believed the fact he was just 20 votes shy of winning last year would have played in his favor.

"I kind of thought that would put me in the front of the line, but I guess I was wrong."

Blanchard named Teacher of the Year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Middle School's Teresa Blanchard was named as Perquimans County's Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 on Monday.

She was selected from the four school-level winners that were picked by their colleagues at their respective schools. The individual winners for this year were Connie Ashley from Perquimans Central, Kristine Corprew from Perquimans County High School and Colin Woodley from Hertford Grammar School.

Blanchard will now advance on to compete for the regional honors and could reach the state and even national level.

Blanchard started work in the business world but shifted to teaching in 1999. Her educational career started in as a career and technical education teacher, then because the instructional technology facilitator from 2004 through 2011 when she went back to being a career and technical educator teacher.

She earned her bachelor's degree in computer science from East Carolina University in 2004 and then earned

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BLANCHARD

GETTING READY FOR THEIR STUDENTS



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

With a glue gun and paper, new teacher Heather Newbern puts up a bulletin board last week in the first classroom she can call her own at Hertford Grammar School. Newbern, a native of Elizabeth City, graduated from Elizabeth City State University.

Perquimans Central School teacher Holly Winslow sorts through letters for a bulletin board in her classroom last week. Local teachers reported for duty this week and more than 1,800 students are scheduled to head back to class on Aug. 25.



DOT: Bridge limits to remain

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation is tweaking plans for a bridge to replace the S-Bridge in Hertford to reduce the impact on the historic district even as some citizens still oppose it.

Jay McInnis, the project engineer, said he hopes to complete that by the end of August or early September. They're focusing on reducing the size or in some cases eliminating the retaining walls that would be needed along Church Street at the approach to the bridge.

McInnis also said the present traffic restrictions will remain even with a new bridge despite an earlier comment he made at a public meeting.

Some residents are still opposing the DOT preferred alternative known as "D-Mod." This week the county was presented a petition signed by 314 people opposing the plan. The group promoting the effort is called "Citizens for the Preservation and Growth of Hertford." The petition has been made available to the Perquimans County Commission which met Monday night and to DOT and the Town of Hertford last month.

McInnis said DOT is aware of the petition.

"We were given this petition at the town's hearing in July," he said last week.

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Perquimans schools hope to roll out new computers soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

It could be October before students start reaping the benefits of a \$864,000 grant from Golden LEAF that will provide money to buy hundreds of new tablet computers for the school system.

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent

Dwayne Stallings said he expects the county school board will decide what platform they'll buy when the board meets Aug. 25. School starts on Monday.

The school system doesn't want to rush into such a big decision, Stallings said.

"We may go a little slower, but we want students to be prepared," Stallings said.

The Golden LEAF grant

provides the bulk of the start-up money to get the one-to-one computer program started, but the school system is required to provide matching funds. The county is expected to keep



STALLINGS

the program going in the long term.

Perquimans County was the recipient of two grants through Golden LEAF, the Rocky Mount-based agency that administers the proceeds from a tobacco settlement lawsuit.

To make sure school staff was prepared, school officials met with others at the Friday Institute in Ra-

leigh to learn how others have adopted a one-to-one program. They also visited Franklin Academy in Wake Forest. While it is a charter school, Stallings said it's had a one-to-one program for some time.

"We want to make sure we get everything right," Stallings said.

The county also got \$308,000 to build an indus-

trial-sized boat ramp near the Perquimans County Recreation Center. The ramp will be available for recreational boaters, but will be large enough that it could handle larger commercial boats. County officials hope the ramp will attract marine-related businesses to the industrial park located

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Man takes novel approach to gardening

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Charlie Felton struck out when it came to finding the seeds to grow great northern

beans, but he didn't quit. "I went to seed stores all around and they told me they won't grow here, or they'd never seen great northern seeds."

Felton didn't give up.

He went to the Food Lion store in Hertford, bought a bag of dried beans and planted them in a row next to his house off Pender Road.

"I wasn't sure it would work," he said. It did.

Last week he showed off clumps of seed pods from plants that just six weeks before were just dried beans in a plastic bag at the grocery store.

Katy Shook, the interim director in Chowan County and an area agent for consumer horticulture

isn't surprised Felton's plan worked. But she said that the crops produced in such a way may or may not taste like what you were expecting and some may not work at all.

"You can't expect the same plant you're eating will taste the same."

She said you can buy a

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Charlie Felton holds great northern beans he grew from a bag of dried seeds he bought at the grocery store last week at his home on Thunder Road.

