

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Waterway cleanup to start very soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Officials hope to start work soon clearing down trees along the New River in Perquimans County.

Half of the \$30,000 project is funded by the county and the other half comes from a grant.

Some of the debris dates back to recent hurricanes, but a lot of it came after tornadoes in April of last year, said Rodney Johnson, chairman of the Albemarle RC&D Council. The council serves Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

Johnson said originally the RC&D lobbied for \$99,000 to deal with problems in those 10 counties. Other counties also wanted help and the General Assembly eventually approved \$250,000 to cover a 19-county area.

The fallen trees have effectively closed a boat ramp on the Little River in the Woodville area, Johnson said.

"You can get a boat in there, but then you can only go 15 feet or so in one direction or 20 feet in the other."

The trees aren't just a problem for boaters. Johnson said fallen trees could contribute to flooding up stream. The Little River flows Parkville to the Albemarle Sound.

"It's a drainage and flood prevention measure," he

See CLEANUP, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

McKinley Strother speaks to an audience Monday at First Baptist Missionary Church in Hertford.

Young, old honor King at event

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Those who lived through the Civil Rights battles of the 1960s and some who weren't even born yet remembered the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Hertford Monday.

A celebration service was held at First Baptist Missionary Church on Hyde Park Street. The guest speaker, McKinley Strother, thanked that organizers for letting a younger voice be heard.

Strother, 20, is a junior at Elizabeth City State University and president of the Student Government Association. He's a native of Hampton, Va.

"I'm about the youngest person here, and I'm overjoyed and grateful. It means I know you're listening and want to hear what I have to say."

Yet Strother said he wished the crowd was more diverse.

"The ratio is off," Strother told the audience as he looked out at the



Nasean Holley rests on the shoulder of a woman Monday during a Martin Luther King Jr. service in Hertford.

crowd. It was almost all black and mostly older residents.

Strother said King was the voice that woke up the nation and his efforts live today in a life that is better for all.

But the challenges remain, he said, and people need to cast off viewing things with race as their lens.

See MLK DAY, 2

Schools look to recoup lunch fees

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County students who rack up more than \$20 in unpaid lunchroom fees will be served vegetables and fruit until the bill is reduced under a new policy.

As of Jan. 15 the school system had 318 students who owed a total of \$2,941.

The school system already reaches out to parents to make sure they know of free or reduced-price lunch programs, but sometimes they only apply until after the debt mounts up.

Under the new policy the school system will reach out to parents at least three times to get the overdue bill paid. The first will come when the debt hits \$10, the second when it hits \$15. The third is when it hits the \$20 cap.

Once the parent gets the third notice, students will get two portions of vegetables and two portions of fruit. Just what kind depends on what is on the menu that day. In the case of the Jan. 29 menu, that would be potato wedges, green beans, pears and fresh apple slices plus milk. The next day, the student would get glazed carrot coins, green peas, peaches, a banana and milk.

They will still be charged the normal lunch fee.

About 52 percent of the 1,800 students in the Perquimans system qualify for a free lunch. Another 8

See PRICES, 3

Local farm named 2014s top cotton consultant

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Tennessee-based magazine has named a Belvidere man as the country's top cotton consultant for 2014.

Cotton Farming magazine has given the award since 1981 when a consultant in Arizona won it. Stan Winslow, 58, is the first North Carolina resident to win it since Danny Pierce of Princeton captured the title in 2003. He's only the third winner from the state. Texas has been home to seven winners, including the 2013 recipient from Plainview.

Winslow deflected the praise to his wife, Lou Ann, his employees and his God.

"I have 14 other full-time people besides myself in the company and they all do their jobs, they do a

great job. And I couldn't have done it without my wife."

The 58-year-old Belvidere native earned a bachelor's degree from N.C. State University and then spent some time as a county extension agent and working for Peele Ag Consulting.

In 1998 he started Tidewater Agromomics, Inc.

Things have changed since then. When he started, cotton was the major crop in northeastern North Carolina.

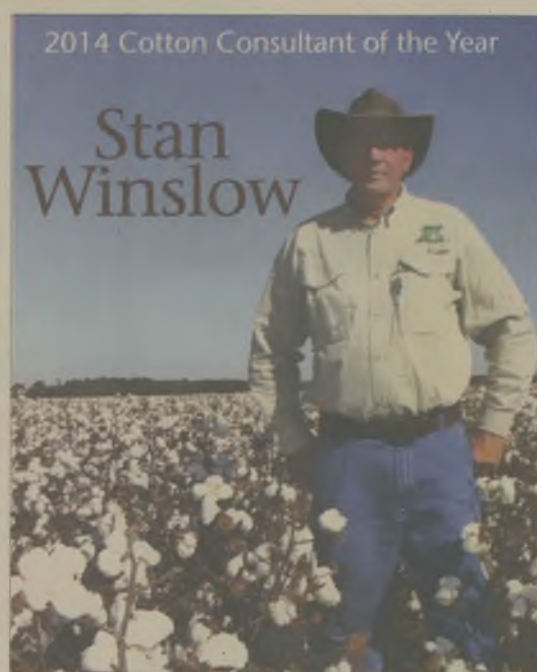
"We did a lot more cotton work than we do now, and we did some potatoes, but they were no where near the major part of it. When we started cotton was the most profitable crop you could grow, but now that's different. Corn, soybeans, and wheat are in there, therefore the cotton acreage went down."

In the latest U.S.D.A crop report for North Carolina, soybeans were by far the biggest crop at 1.75 million acres. Corn for grain followed at 840,000 acres and cotton was at 460,000 acres. Tidewater scouts between 8,000 and 10,000 cotton acres, 40,000 acres of soybeans, 20,000 acres of wheat, 5,000 acres of potatoes, 5,000 acres of corn and small number of cabbage, melon and peanut acres.

The company started with three full-time employees and 18 part-time workers during the summer. Now Winslow has 14 full-time employees.

"I really didn't think we'd get to this point, but the Lord has a plan. I believe he's put the team of people

See TOP AWARD, 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County crop consultant Stan Winslow was honored as the top cotton consultant of 2014 in the January issue of Cotton Farmer magazine.

Scout accomplishes his mom's dream

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

The path to Eagle Scout always is challenging, but for Larry Gutmann it took a tragic turn last fall.

His mother, Janet Gutmann, died in October of last year of injuries suffered in an automobile accident. She was 52, a nurse — and a staunch supporter of her son's Scouting endeavors.

So as painful a loss as it was, he said the death of his mother in no way slowed him down in pursuing his goal of being an Eagle Scout.

"It made me want to do it more than ever," Gutmann said in an interview following his Eagle Court of Honor Jan. 12 at the American Legion Post 126 on Academy Street in Hertford. Gutmann, 18, is a senior at Perquimans High School.

"She was always pushing me to make it and I knew that it would make her happy."

See GUTMANN, 2

Program planned on historic portraits

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An art conservator from Durham is scheduled to host a program on the restoration of historical portraits in Hertford on Feb. 1.

The event will be held in the visitor's center of the Newbold-White House on Harvey Point Road at 2:30 p.m. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted.

The focus of the program will be on two portraits donated to the Perquimans County Restoration Association of area residents from the 1800s. The speaker is Janet Hessling of Hessling Conservation, LLC.

The portrait of John

Lawrence Newby was donated in 1962 by Mrs. George W. Bradshaw (Mary Newby White). The portrait had long hung in the Bradshaw's family home in Belvidere, but its history is largely unknown.

It is known that Newby was born Nov. 15, 1796, likely at Belvidere Plantation, at the home of his parents, Exum Newby and Martha Lawrence Newby. In 1819 John Newby moved to Virginia and settled in or near Richmond. Little is known of his life in Virginia, except that he returned to Perquimans in 1870.

The latest donation is a

See PORTRAITS, 3



John Lawrence Newby



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