

STALLINGS

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"We were lucky to have him eight years (as superintendent)," school board chair Susan Cox said noting the average span for a superintendent is four years.

The man who held the post before Stallings, Ken Wells, credited Stallings for many of the accolades Wells got after he became superintendent in 2001. He said Stallings has the gift of bringing people to the table to talk about issues.

"He taught me the faith community cares as much about the education of our children as the education community," Wells said.

One speaker, Stallings' daughter Megan Stallings Loftin, talked about her father as both a father and a principal while she was at PCHS.

"A lot of people go through life wondering if they are making an impact

on people," she said. "You don't have that problem. Look at these people who came tonight."

Mary Kay Peele, who has served as his assistant during his eight years, said before the event Stallings will be missed.

"His door is open if someone wants to talk. He's always there to listen," Peele said.

Brenda Lassiter, who retired in 2013, also worked closely with Stallings as the school's communication officer.

"Serving under Dr. Stallings was a pleasure," Lassiter said. "Above all, I appreciated his integrity. He truly possesses the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles."

He will leave a legacy as a visionary, a great communicator and a superintendent with a big heart, who cared for students, staff and the community.

Stallings came to Perquimans County Schools in 1994 as an assistant principal at the high school. He went on to serve as principal at both the elementary



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County School's Superintendent Dwayne Stallings asks his wife Kathy to stand and be recognized Monday night at his retirement party. Stallings said she's proof that Perquimans County is "The Land of Beautiful Women."

and high school levels, and was named Principal of the Year in 2001. He served as

assistant superintendent for four years before being tapped by the school board

to lead the school district in July 2007.

After earning a BS in technology education from Elizabeth City State University in 1985, Stallings earned a masters in technology education from East Carolina University. He also holds certifications in administration and curriculum from East Carolina University.

In 2008, Stallings earned his Doctorate of Education from East Carolina University.

He is married to Kathy (Godfrey) Stallings. They have one daughter, Megan, who is a graduate of Perquimans County Schools and North Carolina State University. She is married to Patrick Loftin and they now reside in Virginia. Stallings and Kathy are the proud grandparents of Owen Glenwood Loftin, who was born April 28.

On Saturday Stallings served as grand marshal of the Perquimans County Parade in Hertford and the Winfall parade.

BELL RINGERS

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helps coordinate the Perquimans County Salvation Army drive, said the strong support they get from Albemarle Plantation residents is one reason why he can keep the drive shorter than some areas.

In Perquimans, it lasts two weeks and wraps up this Saturday. Also unlike some areas, shoppers need not worry about getting hit up for a donation at every store they shop. In Perquimans County there is just one kettle and it rotates between Woodward's Pharmacy, Family Dollar, Dollar General and Food Lion. Bell ringers are out from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in shifts.

"We tried collecting earlier, and that didn't work and we tried collecting later, and people are trying to get dinner ready and they don't want to mess with it."

While the nickels and dollars in the kettle mean a lot, the Plantation, Matthews said, is the big driver.

FILING

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Yates is self-employed as owner of The Learning Center of Perquimans County.

In the 2012 primary, Yates was the clear favorite with 614 votes. Susan Cox picked up 420 votes while newcomer Steve Magaro had 294. Cox has said she won't be seeking another term. Magaro can't because of a change in state law and the fact that he works for the federal government.

Frierson, 50, has been working in the register's office since February 1994. She said she enjoys the work and trying to improve the system.

"We're continuing to move toward automation she said. She's also working to be able to accept debit and credit card payments."

"We're also continuing to work on preservation," she said, noting some of the records her office keeps date back to the 1600s.

The filing period for county and state offices



YATES

has been moved up because the spring election has been moved from May to March.

The candidate filing period, typically in February, is now Dec. 1 through Dec. 21.

There are three seats open on both the school board and the county commission.

So far only Jones had filed for a commission seat. There are three seats open. Incumbents Janice Cole and Matt Peeler have said they will not run again next year.

On the school board, Chair Susan Cox has said she will not run and board member Steve Magaro is prohibited from running because of a change in the state law.

Magaro is employed by FEMA, a federal agency, and the Hatch Act prohibits federal employees for running for a partisan office.

Magaro has said he will seem some local or state office once he retires.

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