



THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Students learn through shadowing 3

"News from Next Door"

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School system warns of possible job cuts

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools system is putting 28 teacher assistants on notice that they may not have a job next year.

Monday night Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman asked the school board for the authority to start "Reduction In Force" policy because of uncertainty over next

year's state funding.

Some members of the General Assembly have questioned the need for teacher assistants. TAs are used primarily at Perquimans Central School to augment teachers but some work at Hertford



CHEESEMAN

Grammar School. Over the years as some TAs have left, the school system has not replaced them because of funding.

"Right now we're projecting a 14 decrease in funding," said Matthew Cheeseman, the school superintendent. "We project a shortfall and as sad as I am, we have to deal with it and give them (teacher assistants) appropriate time to plan."

The school system did use the RIF process in 2011 when funding was cut and some staff lost their jobs. Cheeseman said the schools did it again in 2013, but managed to find the funding to avoid layoffs.

The school system faces a bigger funding shortfall if the General Assembly doesn't pass a waiver on class sizes. The current rule calls for one teacher for every 21

students. The new rule would be one teacher for every 18 kindergarten students, one teacher for every 16 first grade students, and one teacher for every 17 students for grades two and three. Schools can be granted a waiver of three extra students under HB 13 passed in the house. The Senate has not taken up the bill.

See SCHOOLS, 2

Layden to lead local GOP

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

One of the three members of the Perquimans County Board of Elections has stepped down. Dianne Layden served on the elections board for two years and was chairman when she resigned earlier this month.



LAYDEN

The makeup of the local election board was going to change before Layden stepped down. North Carolina law says the political party of the Governor gets to have two representatives on each three-member board. Gov. Roy Cooper is a Democrat, which means under that law

See LAYDEN, 2

BRIDGE REOPENS



Bill Cartwright, one of the bridge tenders on Hertford's S-Bridge, watches a car drive across the bridge Friday afternoon. The bridge underwent three months worth of repairs to make it lighter in the hopes of extending the life of the span by a few years.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

County line may move

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The county line between Perquimans and Chowan may not be where you think it is.

The issue came up when someone went to vote in Chowan County and was told they actually lived in Perquimans County.

The variance between where both counties think the line belongs and where the state recognizes the border is not large according to Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath.

"Basically it's like 100 yards," Heath said.

The actual county line may shift slightly to the west, meaning Perquimans County would become a little larger and Chowan would be a little smaller.

"We just want to make

See LINE, 2

Volunteers reach out to teach growing food techniques

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A group of volunteers trained in gardening are reaching out to the clients of local food pantries to show them how to grow their own fresh produce.

The Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Master Gardener's program initiated the "Grow to Eat" program last year under Betty Onufrak.

Onufrak likened the effort to the Chinese proverb — "You give a poor man a fish and you feed him for a day. You teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

Master Gardeners aren't just handing out seeds. They're backing it up with written information on how to care for the plants and a phone line where they can call if they have questions.

See FOOD, 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Extension Master Gardener Jean Batson is distributing vegetable seeds and gardening information to interested Chowan Food Pantry clients as part of the Extension Master Gardeners' Grow to Eat Program.

Program offers gardening tips

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

It may be too soon to start working in the garden, but Katy Shook said that doesn't stop people from thinking about it.

Shook, the area horticulture agent and director of the N.C. State Cooperative Extension Service office in Chowan County, said she's often getting questions from people about what to plant and when. Shook coordinates the Master Gardener program for Perquimans,



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

It may be too early to start a wildflower garden, but it's not too early to start planning for it, extension officials say.

Chowan and Gates counties of wildflowers may sound attractive, but Shook said

Turning a huge plot of grass into a massive display

See GARDENING, 5

COA names new president

BY REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

A veteran community college teacher and administrator who helped lead Western Nevada College

through a severe financial crunch has been named the 10th president at College of The Albemarle.

Paul O'Neal, chairman of COA's Board of Trustees, announced last week that Ronald Wynegar, vice president of student and academic affairs at Western Nevada College, had been named president of COA.

Wynegar, 52, is slated to

start April 17.

"He is every excited about getting to northeastern North Carolina and getting to work," O'Neal said, describing Wynegar as "very well qualified."

"We had four outstanding candidates and he was the one that the board unanimously picked as our next

See PRESIDENT, 2

ALADDIN PERFORMANCE

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS



Hertford Grammar School students were treated to a performance of Aladdin by the Hurrah Players last week. The event was held at the Perquimans County High School auditorium. Sponsors for the event were the Albemarle Community Trust grant through Albemarle Electric Membership Corp., Arene Contracting, the Albemarle Plantation Women's Club and the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

