

## CHEESEMAN

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nearly 12 years experience as a superintendent and in 2016 he was named Wyoming Superintendent of the Year.

In speaking to the Dickinson School Board, Cheeseman laid out his vision.

"The one thing you need to protect is the greatest value of all, the relationship between the teacher and student," Cheeseman said in Dickinson.

Cheeseman described his motivation as coming from the value of human life, influenced by the varied experiences he's had throughout education, according to The

Dickinson Press.

Before he was hired in Perquimans, Cheeseman was chief administrative officer for the Washington County Schools in Plymouth. In Perquimans, he succeeded Dwayne Stallings, who retired in December 2015. Before taking the Washington County job, Cheeseman was director of curriculum and instruction for the Far South Side K-12 Network in the Chicago Public Schools.

"I understand the value of life," Cheeseman said. "I've watched students walk across gang lines in South Chicago to hope to get to school and to have a teacher chastise them (when they get there) for not having a

pencil. In Chicago, you'll see people celebrate a kindergarten graduation because they know their child may not live to see high school graduation."

Before Chicago, Cheeseman worked at a high school in Charlotte for more than four years.

In his final pitch to the Dickinson board, Cheeseman said he could change things.

"If we are able to come together, your school system, in my professional opinion, will suddenly have a rush of energy that it's probably never had," Cheeseman said. "Specifically you'd be hiring somebody who will immediately care for people who may not feel cared for.

The other part is, you're hiring a very intelligent individual who understands the value of what other people can do. I recognize the core values in people ... a superintendent cannot effectively do the job by himself or herself. It takes a village to raise a child."

In Perquimans County one of the first things Cheeseman did was lobby the Perquimans County Commission for money to raise the salaries of bus drivers, janitors and others in non-teaching positions. He's still asking the county commission to raise those salaries so they at least come close to what people are paid in private business. He's also again lobbied for another

raise in the local supplement for teachers.

Spaugh points out in Cheeseman's first two years, Perquimans went from having one "D" rated school and two "Cs" to having two "Bs" and a C.

Cheeseman was also credited with kick starting a stalled effort to build a new athletic complex on donated land across the street from the high school.

Academically this year's North Carolina Principal of the Year is Jason Griffin at Hertford Grammar School. Plus Kaley Kiffer from Perquimans County Middle School was named a one of the regional winners of Teacher of the Year this year.

Dickinson is a region in rapid expansion because of the oil and gas industry. In 2010 the Census pegged the population of the city at 17,700. By 2015, the estimate was there were 23,700 people there.

By comparison, the Perquimans County population in 2010 was estimated at 13,400 and has seen only modest gains.

Cheeseman holds two Bachelor degrees from Delaware State College, a Masters of Arts in natural sciences from San Diego State University, an administrative license from Gardner-Webb University and is working on his Doctor of Education degree from Liberty University.

## VOTES

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The big local race won't happen until November's election. Sheriff Shelby White will be facing a challenge from Jim Bray, a retired N.C. Highway Patrolman. White is a Democrat that was appointed to the job when Sheriff Eric Tilley retired last year.

Democrats would have had a race for the N.C. District 1 Senate race, but last week a panel determined

Democrat Richard James is not a valid resident of the ballot. His name still appears on the ballot.

Washington County Commissioner Cole Phelps, will be the presumed winner of the Democratic primary for the 11-county Senate District 1 seat.

Phelps will face either Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan or Clark Twiddy, a Dare County businessman, in the general election. The two Republicans are on the May 8 ballot. There is no incumbent in the Senate race because new dis-

trict maps excluded sitting Senator Bill Cook.

There are races both Republicans and unaffiliated voters can vote for like the Congressional race.

There is also a race next month for the Republican nomination for the N.C. House District 1 seat. Steinburg had held the House seat, but he's running for Senate.

The GOP challengers for the House seat are Candice Hunter of Perquimans County and Eddy Goodwin of Chowan County. Hunter

has never run for public office before. Goodwin held a seat on the Chowan County Commission in 2008-12 and ran unsuccessfully for N.C. Secretary of State in 2012.

The Republican winner in May will take on Democrat Ron Wesson, a Bertie County commissioner, in the November general election.

Todd Tilley is running unopposed for re-election to his job as clerk of Superior Court.

The primary will be May 8. The precinct of West Hertford has been changed from the

Hertford Grammar School to Louise's Event Center, 1132 Don Juan Road.

Absentee voting by mail is available. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made on an absentee request form (available at ncsbe.gov and at the county board of elections office), and must be returned to the Perquimans County Board of Elections office by May 1 at 5 p.m.

Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed

by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the board of elections by 5 p.m. on election day (ballots received by mail after this time will be considered timely if they are received within three business days and postmarked on or before Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice.

For additional information, please call the elections office at 426-5598.

## PRISONS

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extremely dangerous in recent years," said Ezuma, a guard at high-security Polk Correctional Institution in Butner. Previously, it was extremely rare for an inmate to touch prison staff, she said. "Now it's nothing to touch a staff" member.

Prison officials have said since the four Pasquotank slayings and the beating death of a correctional officer from Edenton at Bertie Correctional Institution last year, guards must work with a more concentrated cluster of violent criminals.

Sentencing reforms in 2011 have cut the number of

inmates by 3,000, but nearly 1 in 5 of the 36,000 still serving time suffer some form of mental illness, state Prison Director Kenneth Lassiter said in January.

State prison officials have not provided the details of each assault, or how many inmates have been attacked, both of which the AP requested six weeks ago. The agency has not effectively tracked data in the past on how often inmates are attacked, safety department spokeswoman Pamela Walker said Monday. She said officials have begun to collect that information and hope to make it available soon.

According to data provided by the prisons agency,

four assaults on workers took place at Polk between the date of the Pasquotank slayings and March 27. Four staffers of the Marion Correctional Institution in Marion, and five at Tabor Correctional Institution in Tabor City, were also hurt during that time frame. Both prisons include units housing high-security inmates. The agency recorded just one serious assault at Lanesboro prison, the maximum-security prison about 45 miles southeast of Charlotte where dozens of officers and inmates have been attacked since it opened in 2004.

Another happened two weeks ago, when a correctional sergeant responding

to a report of an inmate being assaulted by other prisoners was stabbed or slashed with an inmate's makeshift blade. The male officer was treated at a hospital with injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening, Lassiter said. Lanesboro, the state's largest with about 1,800 male inmates, will soon be converted to a women's prison under a reorganization that marks one way prison officials are trying to improve safety and security.

In January, more than 1 in 3 officer positions at Lanesboro were vacant. More than a quarter of correctional officer positions at both Pasquotank and Bertie were vacant last fall.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The Durants Neck Ruritan Club will host its annual fundraiser May 5 at the clubhouse, 2151 New Hope Road.

## Durants Neck Ruritan fundraiser set for May 5

From Staff Reports

The Durants Neck Ruritan Club will host its annual fundraiser May 5 at the clubhouse, 2151 New Hope Road. Nixon's Catering will be selling combination fried chicken and BBQ meals between 3:30 and 5:50 p.m. Diners can eat in or take out. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased at the door or in advance.

An auction including household items, collectibles, small and large hand tools, lawn mowers, boats and a used car will follow at 6 p.m. Auction items may be donated by calling Chuck

Olean at 264-0384 to arrange drop off or to buy dinner tickets

Proceeds are used to fund community charities. The club builds handicapped ramps, supports Toys for Tots, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

This year the Club will award scholarships to deserving local students. The club conducts a senior bingo event two times a year. The event includes free lunch and bingo where prizes are awarded.

The programs are made possible through money raised during the annual fundraiser.

## SWIM

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"I believe enrollment and participation in swim lessons in the best thing that can be done to help prevent drowning," said Lassiter. "Although children may not be able to swim proficiently following the lessons, they are taught essential strategies that can save their lives."

The financial support from the corporate sponsors allows the School Foundation to enroll 150 kindergarten students in a two-week program to receive swim lessons at the YMCA, which provides students with life-saving skills

and strategies that they may not otherwise have received at the early age of 5.

It benefits not only to the students and families of Perquimans Central School, but also to the community at large, she said. In addition, benefits of the program include physical activity, fitness levels and capacity for exercise for kindergarten students. "Developing these healthy habits at a young age can help reduce obesity and health risks associated with heart disease, stroke and diabetes," said Foundation President Antoine Moore.

The objectives of the two-week program are to assist kindergarten students in the

following areas:

- Feel comfortable in the water and enjoy water safely
- Enter and exit the water safely, using a ladder, steps or side of pool
- Submerge mouth, nose and eyes
- Exhale underwater through mouth and nose
- Explore arm and hand movements while treading water
- Discuss water safety rules
- Discuss how to use a lifejacket
- Demonstrate wearing a lifejacket
- Discuss how to recognize a swimmer in distress
- Demonstrate how to

get help when danger occurs

- Discuss importance of exercise and nutrition and healthy living

The total price tag to support the entire kindergarten class, about 150 students, ranges between \$10,000 and \$12,000, which includes costs of lessons, transportation to and from the YMCA in Elizabeth City, purchasing swimsuits/towels for those unable to provide them and nutritional snacks. The Foundation spearheads this effort each year.

"This was the eighth year the swimming lessons have been offered to all kindergarten students in Perquimans County," she said.

## RIVERBASH

Continued from 1

that Indian Summer Festival was too expensive and too commercialized."

Riverbash changes that format. It leaves the organization of certain events to area clubs and churches.

"We have so many community organizations that can put a bunch of energy on their own events. I thought how about sharing that energy in a larger event and make it fun for everybody."

Smith started work in January 2017 as tourism director, a new position.

"We took the lay of the land, and we started contacting all the community groups that we could find e-mail addresses for. The idea was we call all do a little something and it would turn into a big something."

HHI agreed to move the date of its annual unHilly Hundred Bike Ride to this weekend and as luck would have it, the annual Master Gardener's Garden Show was already scheduled for this Saturday.

"When we realized that it was the same weekend we asked them to consider be-

ing part of the larger event and they could promote ours and we could promote theirs."

The "Dine, Drink and Dance" event at the downtown docks is a fundraiser for HHI, and tickets have sold out.

If there is food involved, there is also a charge but there are more than 20 events this weekend that are free to visitors. That

includes live entertainment Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Hertford town docks and Missing Mill Park. There will be music at Winfall Landing Park from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

There will be a food court at the former Farmer's Feed and Seed building at 206 W. Grubb St. from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday.

Smith said the new event is designed for get more

young people.

"We wanted to gear it toward younger folks. We wanted it to be a 'cool' event for Hertford, Perquimans County and Winfall."

In the event of rain, Smith's advice is to be prepared.

"Our contingency plan is a pair of duck boots. We've got it set up and we have to go. The good news is the forecast is looking good."



## THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from all citizens who request a hearing on property tax assessments. Appeals will be received by the Perquimans County Tax Department. The Board of Equalization and Review will meet May 7, 2018. You must have an appointment to appear at this meeting. Appointments may be arranged by contacting the County Assessor on or before April 30, 2018. Our office hours are 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday. Telephone numbers are 252-426-7010 or 252-426-5564.

Expected adjournment date: June 4, 2018  
Tax Administrator and Clerk to the Perquimans County Board of Equalization and Review  
Bill Jennings

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