



Winfall Parade, 7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

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# Superintendent to take Beaufort County job

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans Schools Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman's last day on the job will be Jan. 1.

He's leaving to take the superintendent's job in Beaufort County, a system with 14 schools. Perquimans has four.

Some school board members said privately they were



CHEESEMAN

a little bit surprised at the departure, but others said it was inevitable.

In April Cheeseman was one of two finalists for the job of superintendent in North Dakota, but did not get the

job. At the time Cheeseman said he did not seek out the position, but was instead contracted by a recruiter. The job would have paid twice the roughly \$100,000 he makes in Perquimans County.

Cheeseman has three years remaining on his contract. The contract requires he give the board 60 days notice, but on Friday school board members agreed to

let him leave early. He plans to start work in Washington on Jan. 2. Assistant Superintendent James Bunch will serve as interim superintendent.

Dr. Anne White, the chair of the school board, said the school system is in a better shape thanks to Cheeseman.

She noted some of the huge differences that he has made during his tenure.

"Academic achievement; leadership development; creating strong, collaborative, diverse leadership teams in all schools and system wide; development of the athletic complex; promoting positive school/community relationships; salary supplement increases for certified and non-certified staff; and creating a happy school community were noted specifically.

"Mr. Cheeseman thanked the board for affording him the opportunity to serve as their leader and for the support of the board and the community during his tenure. He indicated that he has enjoyed his tenure with the school system and the Perquimans County community and will always be grateful for his first oppor-

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## Aples explains leaving board

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Hertford Councilman Archie Aples is stepping down so he can spend more time in retirement with his wife.

Aples announced last month that he would be leaving the town board in early January, but did not explain why. His term isn't up until December 2019. In November Aples said he would explain it at the town's regular board meeting on Monday.

When it came time on the agenda for concerns from the councilman, Aples told Mayor Horace Reid he would go ahead and speak at that time instead of waiting until the end of the meeting.

"I might as well kill the elephant in the room," Aples joked to the audience.

Aples said when both he and his wife retired from the U.S. Air Force, they agreed to move to Hertford seven years ago for retirement. Lora Aples is from Hertford and Aples is from New Orleans.

So much for retirement and travel.

See APLES, 2

## CHRISTMAS WISHES



Top, Perquimans County High School's winning card was created by Raquelle Allen. The winning verse 'Carolers singing, church bells ringing and Christmas lights as far as you can see. Wishes of snow, that warm candlelight glow, that's what Christmas looks like to me; was written by Lauren Winslow. See The Perquimans Weekly next week for more cards and letters to Santa. Right, Perquimans County Middle School winning card by Hailey Scott. The winning verse "Christmas is... time to spend with people you adore, time to give love and much more" was by Emma Smith. Bottom left, Perquimans Central School's winning card was created by Izaak Pollock. The winning verse 'Christmas is not just presents and a tree. It is family and caring to me,' was by Natalie Bunch. Bottom right, Hertford Grammar School's winning card was created by Chloe Ward. The winning verse 'Christmas is a joy when children receive toys. Christmas is a time to celebrate because Jesus was born. Christmas is merry and it sweet like a berry. Christmas is a bright holiday just like the lights at night. Oh how Santa loves his milk and his beard is like silk. Christmas is a time to say Merry Christmas' was by Mattison Winslow.



## Charter school faces a fight

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Public school officials say a proposed charter school in Perquimans County could in effect create a segregated system with white students going to the public school and black students going to the charter.

An application for the Elaine Riddick Charter School was filed with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction in October. Under the proposal, the school could open next year but one board member said it will be 2020.

In the first year, the school intends to enroll 120 students in grades K-3. The next year, fourth grade would be added and by the fifth year, a total of 250 students in grades K-7 would be enrolled. Eventually eighth grade would be added as well.

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman said Perquimans schools have already lost 48 students who now attend the Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies (NAAAT) in Elizabeth City. With each student who

See CHARTER, 2

# Muzzulin makes case for changing tourism funding

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

In his final meeting as a county commissioner, Ed Muzzulin urged the remaining

board members to turn the position of tourism development director into a county job, not a contract position.



MUZZULIN



SMITH

time staff member, Tourism Director Sharon Smith. However the money to pay her salary came from the same pot of money the Tourism Development Authority uses to put on events to increase tourism. Smith makes \$23,175 a year.

Muzzulin, the outgoing chair of the TDA board, said that should change.

"I think what Sharon Smith has done so far is a really great start," Muzzulin said earlier this month. "But the effectiveness of the position is limited because of the lack of hotel/motel options, resulting in limited 'lodging tax' funds collected which are the only available monies to support the position.

"I am asking the commissioners to consider putting the position on the county payroll in your 2019 budget deliberations so that all the TDA funds can be used to support the mission of the TDA."

The county's Tourism Development Authority is funded by an occupancy tax paid by people who stay

in temporary rentals at Al-bemarle Plantation, or at a bed and breakfast inn or Airbnb. The lodging tax only generates about \$7,500 of a \$37,000 budget. The TDA also gets almost \$22,000 from the county, \$5,150 from the Town of Hertford and 2,575 from the Town of

See TOURISM, 2

## Judge grants extension in Jackson case

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A judge agreed Wednesday to postpone the assault trial of Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson until Jan. 16 so his attorney can have more time to prepare.

Jackson is accused of punching Councilman Sid Eley in the head on Oct. 1. The District Attorney's of-



JACKSON

filed charges of assault on a government official.

Court appointed Attorney Preston Tyndall told District Court Judge Eula Reid that Wednesday was the first day he had a chance to talk to his client. Assistant District Attorney Holly Metzger urged the judge to let trial proceed Wednesday.

"We have seven witnesses here right now," Metzger said. "We are ready to go today."

Judge Reid said in fairness to Jackson, she would grant Tyndall's request.

Jackson said the altercation happened when he asked Eley a question about Eley's support for the Perquimans Democratic Party. Jackson said Eley stood up closed to him and was visibly mad. He said he asked Eley served times to "get out of my face" and when Eley didn't, he struck Eley on the side of his head.

## COLONIAL CHRISTMAS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Julie Phelps plays the harp during the Newbold White House Christmas program last year. It will be held this year on Friday from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.