

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEK

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

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Extension food program, 8

## PCMS principal leaving for Dare Co. job

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Laura Moreland, the principal at Perquimans County Middle School, is leaving to take the top job in human resources with the Dare County Public Schools.

Joycelyn Hinton, one of the dean of students at Hertford Grammar School, will become interim principal as of Feb. 14.

"Laura Moreland is at the top of her game," said acting superintendent James Bunch. "We are going to miss her here. She brought a lot of energy."

Moreland said she is looking forward to the new job.



MORELAND

"It's a new opportunity for me professionally," Moreland said.

She came to the Perquimans schools as an assistant principal and athletic director at Perquimans County High School. That same year, she became assistant principal at the middle school and when that principal abruptly left, Moreland was named interim principal until the end of the year and then

See MORELAND, 4

## Hinton named interim principal

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The new interim principal at Perquimans County Middle School can see things through lenses that few in her profession may have.

Joycelyn Hinton has done about everything someone can do inside a school system.

"The only things I haven't



HINTON

done, is be a custodian and a cafeteria worker," she said.

"But I was assistant to the child nutrition director

Moreland who is leaving for a job in Dare County. "Mrs. Hinton brings tremendous compassion to the job and we are so very fortunate to have her," said interim Superintendent James Bunch.

Hinton's road to the classroom started as a young girl in Chapanoke with her

once." Hinton replaces Laura

See HINTON, 2

## ELEY TO STEP DOWN FROM CHAMBER JOB

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

After more than 17 years as executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Sid Eley will be stepping down sometime in June.

Eley, 72, made the announcement Friday night at the chamber's annual banquet and auction. He kept the decision quiet from even his wife, Candy, until then.

"She knew it (the decision) was coming, but didn't know when," Eley said on Monday.

His only plans right now is to take his wife on an Alaskan cruise this summer. He's never been on a cruise before. After that, he has no real plans.

"I'm going to try and do nothing, but I have five grandkids and they will keep me busy."

Eley will continue on as a member of the Hertford Town Council as well as being a Hertford volunteer firefighter. As for the council seat, he said he is undecided if he'll seek another term. His term is up in December.

As for the firefighting job, he's been doing it for 49 years and plans to at least make it to 50 years. That would tie him with Vivian Darden who made it to the 50-year mark before Eley joined the department.

"I may make it to 51 years, just to beat him," Eley joked.

He's already retired from one job, teaching.

The Perquimans County native spent 31 years in the school system for the chamber.

He started at Perquimans Union School and was there for



Staff photo by Peter Williams  
Sid Eley (left) holds up a country ham being auctioned off Friday at the annual banquet for the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. Eley announced he was retiring as executive director. Holding the microphone is Doug Layden who served as auctioneer.

a year until the school desegregated. He then went to Perquimans County High School for two years, and then transferred to Perquimans County Middle School where he spent the rest of his career as a teacher and a coach.

After retirement, he took a year off and then started working for the chamber.

About 10 years ago, the chamber created a museum for the

late Jim "Catfish" Hunter. The idea came from the late Sylvia Wyatt, who was chamber secretary at the time. So many people came in asking about Hunter, a baseball Hall of Fame winner, it seemed natural to have a museum.

It started off very small, in a tiny office in the building. About five years ago a national non-profit group, the "No Bats Baseball Club" brought in volunteers

from across the country for a week to knock out walls and create a larger space for the museum.

Today the chamber gets about 4,000 visitors a year, and a lot of them come for museum. Eley, who knew Hunter his entire life, acts as tour director and answers questions.

Eley said he leaves the cham-

See ELEY, 4

## Board meets without Jackson

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Hertford Town Council was once again down to just four members Monday after it became clear that a judge's ruling that Councilman Quentin Jackson cannot have contact with Councilman Sid Eley was determined to mean just that. Jackson can't attend town board meetings if Eley is there.

Jackson made no attempt at attending Monday's workshop meeting, but if he had, there were two Perquimans County Sheriff's deputies, two Town of Hertford police officers and Police Chief Dennis Brown there.

One law enforcement officer said off the record that the show of force was not because of Jackson, but because of rumors that something would happen at the meeting.

Jackson couldn't be reached for



JACKSON

See JACKSON, 2

## New director hired to lead Albemarle Commission

BY JON HAWLEY  
Staff Writer

The Albemarle Commission has hired a housing and redevelopment director from Williamsburg, Virginia as its new permanent director.

Melody Wilkins, 52, started work last week as the commission's executive director, the commission announced in a press release.

She replaces Robert Murphy, who worked as an inter-



WILKINS

a conflict-of-interest controversy.

The Albemarle Commission serves a 10-county area and plays a role in services

for seniors, transportation planning, and economic and workforce development. It is based in Hertford.

In an interview Wednesday, Wilkins said she looks forward to serving the region. She also said she's moved to Hertford, where the commission is based, and is working on a smooth transition from Murphy.

Wilkins last worked as the executive director of the

See WILKINS, 4

## Auditor: Davison violated state law

BY JON HAWLEY  
Staff Writer

North Carolina's State Auditor says the Albemarle Commission's former director violated state law by steering a contract to her husband - and on Wednesday encouraged all local elected officials to better scrutinize the managers who work for them.



DAVISON

mer Director Cathy Davison misled the Albemarle

In its report released last month, the Office of State Auditor Beth Wood reported that former

Commission's Board of Delegates about her husband, Jim Davison, owning a company she steered a \$22,000 contract to. That is a conflict of interest and against a state law forbidding public employees from deriving a direct benefit from a contract with a public agency; money to

See DAVISON, 2

## Fundraiser planned for PAL building

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans Arts League is hoping a tag sale on May 18 will boost their efforts to raise money to make renovations on a building all their own.

PAL acquired the property at 133 N. Church St. in late December 2017 but it's pretty much just a vacant two-story building with no plumbing or wiring. But Sheryl Corr said PAL owns the building outright now and is working on getting grants to help fund the \$400,000 estimated cost of renovations. Corr is a member of the PAL board and chairman for education.

See PAL, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Barbershop quartets from The Albemarle Sounds will perform Singing Valentines on Feb. 13-14 in Chowan, Perquimans or Pasquotank counties.

## Group offers singing Valentines

From Staff Reports

Barbershop quartets from The Albemarle Sounds will perform Singing Valentines on Feb. 13-14 in Chowan, Perquimans or Pasquotank counties.

The cost is \$35 and the money goes to vocal music programs in local schools. Over the past 21 years, \$29,000 has been raised.

Along with the two love

See VALENTINES, 2



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