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PCMS to get Kinesthetic classroom, 3

"News from Next Door"

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Schools back, enrollment up

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A late surge in enrollment has Perquimans County Schools with more than 100 students than it had last year.

"Today has been a great day," said Superintendent Tanya Turner. "Perquimans High School began their day with a pep rally which was a great success. All of the other schools reported a very smooth opening as I visited each. Schools were clean, grounds were maintained, and classrooms were inviting for our students and their families. I am very excited about the school year and the team that is in place to take care of our children. It is going to be an awesome year."

The school system had 1,603 students last year, and just last week, it was estimating it would have 1,685 this year. The actual figure Monday was 1,714.

Attendance was good for the first day. The four schools reported 66 absences. That broke down to 27 at Perquimans Middle School, 19 at Perquimans Central, 14 at Hertford Grammar and six at the high school.

"I am very pleased with the numbers," Turner said. "Absences are low and even taking them in consideration, we are well above the ADM (Average Daily Membership or enrollment) from last year which is exciting

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Students recite the Pledge Of Allegiance Monday at the start of the school day at Hertford Grammar School. Students do the pledge and take a moment to reflect on "giving our best" every morning to start the day.

Lyons named top teacher for county

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Rodney Lyons Sr. says teaching doesn't start with a book or a computer program.

"Learning starts off by building a positive relationship with the student," said Lyons, this year's Perquimans County Teacher of the Year. "If you can build that positive relationship, teaching math using 21st century



LYONS

Hertford Grammar School. "When I was in school here in Per-

quimans County, my mother was a teacher's assistant and she instilled the value of teaching all kids fairly," he said.

But he didn't start out being a teacher. When he graduated from Perquimans County High School, he earned a bachelor's in science degree in social science and criminal justice and started working for the Perquimans

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Spellman, Carver, Bridgers and Duncan honored

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Four other Perquimans teachers were honored during convocation last week.

Anisha Spellman was named the Exceptional Children's Teacher of Excellence. Sylvia Carver was named Teacher of the Year for Perquimans County High School and Tyler Bridgers won the same honor for Perquimans County Middle School and Laura Duncan won for Perquimans Central.

Sylvia Carver has been teaching math for 11 years, with the last two years at



SPELLMAN

Elizabeth City State University.

Carver says that often students have a roadblock when it comes to learning — especially learning math — that prevents them from even trying or thinking about the problem.

To help her students with



CARVER

math. The brain breaks are designed to have no right or wrong answer. The intent is for the students to first think about the problem and secondly, be able to adequately explain their decision.

She said she believes that



BRIDGERS

pushing forward, take it one day at a time, focus on something good, and keep in mind that the end result of student growth and success is worth it.

Tyler Bridgers is a seventh and eighth grade math teacher at Perquimans



DUNCAN

County Middle School. He has been teaching math at PCMS for four years. Bridgers is a 2014 graduate of Elizabeth City State University who says his main goal as a teacher "is to awaken students' awareness of the possibilities, and to grow as individuals."

He takes great pride in

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Experts talk about algae

BY MILES LAYTON
 The Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Scientists believe nutrients entering area waterways are making an area already prone for algal blooms worse, but where the nutrients are coming from and why they're driving bloom production now remain unanswered questions.

Scientists and community leaders gathered in Edenton on Saturday to discuss the harmful algal blooms that have shown up in area waterways this summer. Held at College of The Albemarle's Edenton campus, the event featured presentations by scientists, state and local agencies, and community groups concerned about the ongoing algae problem.

Presenters during the "Harmful Algal Blooms in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound" forum pointed out that algal blooms in area waterways isn't a new problem. They also said solutions to the problem won't come quickly, as more resources are needed to gather data on the blooms' causes.

The state of North Carolina has issued warnings that people and animals should avoid contact with bluegreen water — the result of what are known as cyanobacteria blooms — in the Chowan River every summer since 2015. While there have been no confirmed cases in North Carolina of anyone getting sick from contact with bluegreen water, some species of cyanobacteria can produce toxins that may cause illness in people and pets, according to the N.C. Division of Public Health's website.

This summer, state officials have issued multiple warnings for residents and visitors to avoid contact with bluegreen algae in the region's waterways. Recently, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services issued a warning for the

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Plans to test ferry on hold, Hertford out for now

BY MILES LAYTON
 Chowan Herald

PLYMOUTH — The state budget impasse is delaying a trial run of what area officials hope will eventually become an inland ferry system linking half-a-dozen of the region's harbor town communities.

State Rep. Ed Goodwin,



GOODWIN

About 80 people attended the Thursday evening event.

R-Chowan, provided an update on the proposed ferry trial during a meeting in Plymouth last week.

Goodwin, a former head of the state ferry division, proposed the ferry trial earlier this year as a way to test what's being billed as the Harbor Town Project. The project would link six harbor towns along the Albemarle Sound — Plymouth, Edenton, Columbia, Hertford, Elizabeth City and Manteo — by fast-ferry.

It also would include upgrades to historic and eco-tourism sites in the towns, making them more attractive to visitors.

Goodwin said state money he had hoped to get for what would be a six- or seven-day trial of the ferry is tied up in the still-unapproved state budget. The Republican-led Legislature

approved the budget but Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed it, objecting to its spending amount on education and absence of funding to expand Medicaid.

Although Goodwin said his hope was to conduct the trial this fall, he suggested following Thursday's meeting that there is no immediate time table for it happen-

ing. "It's still in the process of development," he said. "People think we're under the gun to get it done by a certain time."

Goodwin said if the ferry trial were to take place now, the town of Hertford wouldn't be included

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Bethel Fishing Center reopens

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

After a two-year hiatus, the Bethel Fishing Center is planning a grand reopening on Saturday at 10 a.m.

The center originally was opened in 1989 by Terry

Johnson's parents, Pat and Millie Henry.

"Mom needed a break so we closed it," Johnson said, "but it was a loss to the community. It is such a great location and so many people really enjoy it here — fishing and on the river. It only seemed right to open it back up."

There have been some changes.

"It was my daughter that talked it up again," Millie Henry said. "She wanted it

to have a bar, and I wanted it to have ice cream. I got the ice cream and she got the bar."

Bethel Fishing Center opens at 6 a.m. for biscuits and the coffee crew. In the dining hall military portraits hang of friends and family including Johnson's Dad and son.

From Monday through Thursday it closes at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday the hours are 6 a.m. until midnight. Sunday hours are

planned.

Henry knows it will be hard work. Johnson has a full-time job.

"We have to do what we have to do until it takes off," Henry said.

The Yeopim River offers a place to paddleboard, kayak or peddleboat and rentals are available. The store offers ice, bait, snacks and sandwiches.

On Saturday there will be

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Bethel Fishing Center plans a grand opening on Aug. 31.

