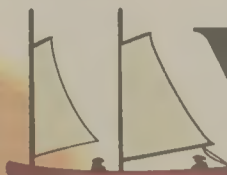


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Club awards scholarships, 4

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

JUN 1 REC'D

50 cents

## New budget funds upgrading EMS services

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The proposed Perquimans County budget for next year includes money to improve the level training and equipment for EMS staff responding to accidents and medical emergencies. Perquimans will be employing more trained para-

medics.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said the county has wanted to upgrade for some time.

"Now was just time to do it," Heath said.

"We've been focusing on seniors and a more responsive EMS for several years and this is just a culmination of that," Heath said.

It doesn't come without cost.

To get the program started is expected to run about \$250,000. EMS Director Jonathan Nixon said about \$125,000 of that is for equipment. The plan will be implemented halfway through next fiscal year, sometime

See EMS, 2

## Tax gap widens

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County has traditionally offered the lowest property tax rate among surrounding counties and the gap is expected to grow even wider next fiscal year.

The actual vote on the budget is scheduled to take place on Monday at 7 p.m. but based on the proposed county budget, keeping the tax rate at 57 cents per \$100, Perquimans will be 21 cents lower than Pasquotank, 20 cents lower than Gates, 17 cents lower than Chowan, and 14 cents lower than Camden.

That means Perquimans property owner with a "typical" house may pay \$855 in

See TAX, 2

## PCHS grads look to future

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

More than 130 Perquimans County High School students closed one chapter of their lives and looked ahead to the next page during graduation ceremonies held Friday on the football field.

Valedictorian James Parker Robertson said what happens next falls on each of the 134 graduates.

"Today marks a giant stepping stone in our lives, the step you take next is for you to decide," he said. "Whether it be college, trade school, military or the workforce, the future is what you make it."

Robertson said he especially enjoyed his time playing baseball but more importantly the bonds that were forged on the diamond.

"We won the conference and the year 2017 will always be on the sign on the press box. Although our season may not have ended with a state championship, it did end with a far greater prize. This year we had nine seniors on the team, including myself, and I am certain that I can call every one of them a lifelong friend. They say that most good things come to an end, but I know these friendships never will."

There were also darker times. "We have also been through times of sorrow like when Madelyn Byrum passed away, but with help of each other we made it though."

Byrum had just finished ninth grade when she died in an ATV accident in July 2016. The death galvanized PCHS students and the community. The outpouring created a scholarship in her honor, an endowment that so far has grown to more than \$13,000 - enough

See GRADS, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, Perquimans County High School Valedictorian James Parker Robertson and Salutatorian Brooke Suermann listens to a speaker Friday during graduation. More pictures from the ceremony will appear in the June 21st issue of The Perquimans Weekly. Right, Autumn Bateman, Christopher Harley, and Sarah Baker pay their respects during the National Anthem during Perquimans County High School's graduation Friday.



## Nursing home plan proposed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Town of Hertford will hold a hearing Monday night to consider plans for a nursing facility in the 500 block of South Church Street.

The Hertford town board recently approved rezoning the property to allow for the project. Monday's hearing before the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments is simply just to consider allowing a building that is 6,000 square feet, said Town Manager Brandon Shoaf. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at town hall on Grubb Street.

A Hickory-based company, Meridian Senior Living, applied for a certificate of need for a \$6.2 million 50-bed adult care home in Hertford in early 2016.

See NURSING, 2

## Friends to honor Matthews

From Staff Reports

The Friends of the Perquimans County Library will hold a reception on June 21 to honor Skip Matthews as their 2017 Friend of Perquimans County.

The event is scheduled to last from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the library on West Academy Street in Hertford.

The Friends seek out nominations for the award, and the one for Matthews stood out, said Murielle Harmon, the president of the Friends of the Library.

"It's nominated by the people," she said.

In addition to coordinating the annual Salvation Army bell ringing effort, Matthews is also active in Habitat for Humanity and Historic Hertford, Inc.

"It's for the body of work he won the award," Harmon said. "And he's such a humble man. He said he didn't feel deserving of it. But it's the committee that makes the decision."

## Top juniors recognized

From Staff Reports

Six 11th grade students who have earned the highest weighted cumulative grade point average through the end of the first semester of their junior year are named as Marshals for Perquimans County High School's graduation.

Gabrielle Corprew earned the highest grade point average and served as the chief marshal. She plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill to study physical therapy.

Destiny Evans plans to attend NC State University

to study computer science and then plans to join the Navy.

McKenzie Twine would like to attend Western Carolina University to study forensics and learn to become a paramedic.

Megan Trueblood would like to attend Duke University for chemistry followed by medical school.

Tylar Workman would like to attend the University of Pennsylvania to study nursing.

Jenson Hunter would like to attend UNC-Chapel Hill or Campbell to study pharmacy.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2017 Marshals for this year were Jenson Hunter, Megan Trueblood, Gabrielle Corprew, McKenzie Twine, Tylar Workman, and Destiny Evans.

## Water safety program marks seventh year

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The latest class of Perquimans County Kindergarten students has learned how to be safe around water.

The group of 130 students joins a group of 900 previous graduates of the program

who learned the life-saving lessons, said Brenda Lassiter, the executive director of the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

The program started in seven years ago in response to a number of childhood fatalities in the region. The program is building on previous efforts. The first Kindergarten students to go through the program are now in sixth grade at



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Swim instructor Brother Akbar Stenbridge works with Mychal Moore and Cadence Moss during a WATER Turtles class.

## Public invited to solar seminar

From Staff Reports

The public is invited to attend a solar education meeting on June 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Perquimans Extension Center, 601 A South Edenton Road Street.

As solar energy sites become established across Northeastern North Carolina, area residents may look at the arrival of these unusual additions to the landscape and have questions about the who, what, when, where, and why, said Extension Director Jewel Winslow.

See SOLAR, 2



6 89076 47144 2

See WATER, 3