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Pets of the Week, 4

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018

75 cents

Fourteen arrested in federal crackdown

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 AND BILL WEST
 Staff Writers



LEE CHESTNUTT

Fourteen area residents, including two from Perquimans County, are facing charges as a result of an enforcement operation federal prosecutors are calling "Operation Nor'Easter."
 One of the two, Clarence Chestnutt, 40, of Hertford has already been convicted

for second-degree murder in Hertford and served 10 years in prison.
 U.S. Attorney Robert

Higdon, flanked by District Attorney Andrew Womble and federal, state and local law enforcement officials in Elizabeth City, said last week each of those indicted is believed to have connections to the United Blood Nation gang, an organization described as violent and believed to have members up and down the East Coast.
 They included: Chestnutt is charged with

possession of crack cocaine and cocaine as well as participation in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute the drugs. If convicted, Chestnutt faces not less than five years and up to 40 years imprisonment on each count. Chestnutt is also charged with possession of heroin. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted of that offense.
 Devon Lee, also known

as "Bubba," 36, of Perquimans County is charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, as well as distribution of cocaine. If convicted, Lee faces up to 20 years imprisonment on each count.
 Others involved are facing both drug and weapons charges.
 Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said he's excited about last week's

announcement.
 "I'm hoping there will be many, many more (arrests) coming," he said.
 He believes that the sheriff's office can become more involved in the fight against drugs now that the department has a full-time narcotics officer on the force. The county commission approved the position
 See CRACKDOWN, 2

Schools to target tardiness

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Being late for class will have consequences next school year based on an attendance policy being considered by the Perquimans County School Board.
 In the past, teachers would keep track of the times a student was tardy for class. Parents would be notified, but there was no real consequence for being late.
 If the new policy is adopted, it counts three tardies and/or early dismissals from school as an absence and 10 absences during the year could land the parent in jail for 30 days or more.
 Cynthia Perry, the director of Innovation and Policy for the school system, said that would be the last ditch effort.
 "We would exhaust all other efforts to work with the family before we do something like that," she said.
 Even after 10 absences and referring the case to the District Attorney, a parent may be able to show they have made a good faith effort to comply.
 Perry said poor attendance is a problem facing schools across the country.
 "It's problematic in North Carolina, where you have a wide variety of attendance

See TARDINESS, 2

Rock Autism



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top, people dance Saturday at the second annual Rock Autism event at the Crawfish Shack outside of Hertford.
 Right, one of several bands perform Saturday during the Rock Autism concert at the Crawfish Shack.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last year's winners of the Strides for Scholars 5K were (front row, left) Camille Maier, third place, Janet Sandeen, second place, and Morgan White, first place. Male winners were Jayden White, first place, Eddie Fields, second place and Jackson Miles, third place.

See STRIDES, 2

Shots fired on Brace Avenue

From Staff Reports

Shots were fired last week after two police officers responded to a fight in progress in Hertford. No officers or others were injured.
 Interim Town Manager Pam Hurdle said the incident happened around 1:45 a.m. on Aug. 1.
 She said Hertford Police were dispatched to the area of Brace Avenue in reference to a large crowd/fight. Brace Avenue is a short street that connects to King Street. It's located between Covert Garden and Stokes Street.
 "When officers got out of their vehicles, the crowd began to leave and shots were fired," Hurdle said. "No one at the scene sustained any injuries. One vehicle in the parking lot was hit. The investigation is ongoing and charges are expected."
 Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said one of the two lawmen was a Perquimans deputy who was working for the Hertford Police Department under a joint cooperation agreement.

Study to look at trucking

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Planners are hoping to start work this month on a regional freight transport plan for a 28-county area of northeastern North Carolina that includes the Albemarle area.
 Angela Welsh, the regional planner for the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission, said officials hope to wrap it up by the fall of 2019.
 Three DOT Divisions will be involved in the freight master plan. They will include Division 1 which includes the northeast cluster. Also involved are Division 2, an eight-county area that includes Greenville and Morehead City, and Division 4, a six-county region that includes Goldsboro and Wilson.
 Welsh said the study is intended to serve as the freight network master development plan for the entire region.
 She said the state DOT will use it to prioritize what roads are built and local governments can use it as well to attract companies.
 Welsh said it's an effort to foster efficiency and collaboration at a regional level.
 "This plan will guide freight investments to support the region's freight and economic vision and goals for safety, efficiency, equity, community development and sustainability," reads the mission statement for the report.
 Welsh said the three regional planning organizations picked Cambridge Systematics as the preferred consultant
 See STUDY, 2

5K run to add Color Run this year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The annual "Strides For Scholars" in September will be a little bit more colorful this year.
 The 5K fundraising event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center Sept. 15 will include a "Color Run." It means at points along the route, runners will get dusted with a colorful chalk-like substance and by the end, they will be covered with a rainbow of colors.
 "The Color Run is the main thing different this year," said Kimberly Har-

ris, a member of the Junior Women's Club of Perquimans County. "The chalk comes off fairly easily and it's not something that typically stains."
 The Junior Women's Club has held a "Glow run" in the past where participants wear glow sticks. But that means doing the 5K at night and most people like to run early in the morning, Harris said.
 The idea for the Color Run came from member Brandee Phelps.
 "They are a tons of fun



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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See STRIDES, 2

Hospital Foundation awards \$107,430

From Staff Reports

The Chowan Hospital Foundation recently awarded 22 area programs \$107,430 in grant funds through its

Community Benefit Grant Program. The Foundation presented checks to the agencies at its 13th annual Community Benefit Grant Program awards ceremony at Vidant Chowan Hospital on July 31.
 The organizations included local schools, regional health departments and county extension programs from Chowan, Perquimans,

Washington and Tyrrell Counties. The funds will assist organizations focusing on: physical activity and nutrition, access to care, and chronic disease prevention and management.
 "Chowan Hospital Foundation has been awarding Community Benefit grants for the past 13 years and we



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Organizations receiving help from the Chowan Hospital Foundation Benefit Grant program pose for a picture last month.

See GRANTS, 2

