

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Trouble in Mayberry, 7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

75 cents

County braced for the worst

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County quickly shifted from a disaster mode with an emergency shelter and curfews to a recovery mode and reaching out to help others hurt by Hurricane Florence.

By noon Saturday it became clear that the Albemarle region had barely been touched by rain, while areas like Swansboro were inundated.

The National Weather Service reported 30.58 inches in Swansboro, 23.75 inches in Morehead City and 23.49 inches in Emerald Isle. Elizabeth City on the other hand was reporting .79 inches of rain as of noon Saturday.

By Sunday, Perquimans County EMS Director Jonathan Nixon announced that Bertie, Dare, Chowan, Pasquotank-Camden, and Perquimans emergency medical crews were going to jointly deploy an ambulance strike team to southeastern North Carolina to support Hurricane Florence response.

Sending a Strike Team from Perquimans is rare if not historic.

"I have been involved with the agency since late 1999 and am not aware of us ever participating in an Ambulance Strike Team," Nixon said.

The strike team is a group of five ambulances of the same type with common communications and a leader. Their role will be to support local efforts as they respond to the storm.

Just days before, Perquimans prepared for what could be a major local disaster from a Category 4 hurricane.

Some homeowners and businesses boarded up their windows and at least one gas station closed completely.

Last Tuesday County officials approved a State of Emergency and on Wednesday at 5 p.m. there was an emergency shelter established at Perquimans County High School.

It was supposed to be staffed by Red Cross workers, but in the end it was county officials from Social Services, the health department and sheriff's office that manned the facility.

"A special thanks to all of those social services employees and school resource officers who manned the shelter over the last couple of days," said County manager Frank Heath. "They did a great job."

While county offices were closed as of noon Thursday, the 27 employees at Social

See COUNTY, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

John Wolfe take a measurement while boarding up windows in the Food Lion shopping center in Hertford last week. All the stores in the center were open.

Churches, others looking to help

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Churches and businesses were gearing up for what could be a long-term recovery for North Carolina residents hurt by Hurricane Florence.

On Monday morning representatives of many faiths got together to pray for hurricane victims and first responders on the steps of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

While some are looking to send trucks and vans with supplies, Craig and Leslie Craft of Craft Air Services will be flying down supplies to the New Bern area in a twin-engine plane due to the lack of road access.

Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church is asking for non-perishable foods, bottled water, diapers, baby wipes, flashlights, blankets, towels, washcloths, personal hygiene products and first aid kits. It plans to send them to churches in the affected areas, said Todd Kemp, the youth pastor at the church.

The church is located at 402 Bagley Swamp Road. The phone number is 426-2792.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Gil Wise (left), superintendent of the Beacon District of the United Methodist Church, prays for hurricane victims and first responders on the steps of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

The items will be sent through World Hope International, which can provide the transportation, Kemp said.

Over the next two weeks, the Albemarle Commission Area Agency

on Aging will be collecting toiletries, personal hygiene items, self stable foods including pop top cans and cleaning supplies. Donations will

See CHURCHES, 4

Businesses collecting storm supplies

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A group of businesses are providing drop off locations in Hertford, Windsor, Edenton, and Elizabeth City for victims of Hurricane Florence.

Kathy Perry of Perry's Diesel Performance in Elizabeth City, said items will be taken on Saturday

to the Emergency Operations Center in Craven County where they can be distributed.

Tim Corpew, a Perquimans County farmer, is loaning a 53-foot-trailer to haul the items, Perry said. Eure and Sons Construction in Hertford is one of the drop-off points.

Perry said she heard about the drive from Amy

Brewer and wanted to play a part.

Brewer owns Brewing Up Goodies and Gifts and also works at H&R Block in Elizabeth City, which is one of the drop off locations.

"I saw what she was doing and wanted to help," Perry said. "We have a 2,500 square foot showroom at our shop, and

we offered that to collect things."

And collect they did. She said as of Monday, it was starting to fill up.

While churches are clearly doing their part, Perry said not everybody is at ease with going to a church to donate supplies if they don't already go

See SUPPLIES, 4

Senior meals covered

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Albemarle Commission had to scramble to find a way to feed 350 senior citizens this week in the wake of the closing of the restaurant that had provided the meals.

Golden Corral in Elizabeth City had been providing the food for Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates and Chowan counties. On Thursday the owner, Dale Horn announced he was closing the restaurant immediately and permanently.

"I wasn't given any explanation other than they were closed," said Laura Alvarico, the director of the Area Agency on Aging.

By Saturday, Alvarico had stitched together a plan to cover all four counties.

The senior nutrition program provides meals to congregate meal sites, like the Perquimans County Senior Center and the Virginia Dare Hotel in Elizabeth City as well as for homebound residents. At the Perquimans Senior Center, the number of people served fluctuates,

See MEALS, 4

Second 'Toast' coming Saturday

From Staff Reports

The second "Toast the Perquimans" will be held Saturday at the Hertford town dock.

"Everyone's been worried with the storm, but the weather looks like it's going to be beautiful, so we hope everyone comes out to celebrate our good fortune," said Historic Hertford chair Lynne Raymond.

The event runs from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Last year's "Toast" drew nearly 400 attendees. This year, some improvements have been made according

See TOAST, 2

Historic home tour planned Sept. 29

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Restoration Association (PCRA) will hold its Jollification Celebration on Sept. 29 that will include tours of

historic homes and sites in New Hope and Old Neck areas of the county. The tour will run from 12:30 until 5 p.m. Tour tickets include dinner with music at the Newbold-White House on the lawn starting at 5:30 and continuing until 8 p.m..

Tickets can be purchased at the Newbold-White House, Perquimans Chamber of Commerce, Barker House, and the Museum of

the Albemarle and cost \$25 each.

This year Jollification will include tours of historic Durants Neck and Old Neck which are now part of New Hope and Parkville Townships.

The peninsula of land bounded by the Little River, Albemarle Sound and the Perquimans River includes the first known European settlements in Perquimans

County.

Many of the earliest settlers still have descendants in Perquimans County. People left Virginia, Maryland, New England, the West Indies, and the British Isles in search of new homes. When they reached Perquimans, they settled and their families have never entirely left the area.

See TOUR, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The original 1810 New Hope Methodist Church still stands.



Jollification! Celebrating New Hope Township Homes and Sites

Saturday, September 29, 2018

Call 252-404-0066 for Tickets (\$25)