

THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY



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National Night Out Photos, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019

\$1.00

Students heading back to school Monday

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Nearly 1,700 Perquimans County students are expected to be back in class on Monday.

Among the faculty, there will be two new faces that really aren't new. Laura Moreland is back at Perquimans County Middle School as principal, a position she left briefly last December to take a job in Dare County. Isaac Lister has joined the staff as assistant principal.

Tracy Gregory is the new principal at Perquimans Central School, but she is not new to the school. The 27-year veteran spent 20 years in Perquimans

County Schools, including being at teacher at Central along with now Superintendent Tanya Turner. Gregory replaces long-time PCS principal Melissa Fields, who is now the school system's chief academic officer for curriculum and instruction. Central has about 385 students. System wide, the schools had 1603 students last year and as of last week, it was anticipating an enrollment of 1,685.

Also new to the high school will be band director Evan Copeland. He had been band director at Chowan Middle School last year.

The high school also has the long-awaited new football field. The \$1.2 million project is complete

enough to play on, with bleachers, restrooms, a concession stand and lights. But some additions, like a ticket booth and paved parking will have to wait until funding becomes available.

And funding will be tight this year. The Perquimans County Commission funded the school system at the same level as 2018-19 and the school system has to postpone some \$146,000 in capital projects because last year funds were spent on the football field that should have been held for other projects.

The other big question is the state budget. It hasn't been adopted so the

See **SCHOOL**, A2

Bus driver takes job seriously

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

If the last 11 years is any indication, you can bet Janice Butts will be back at work on Monday.

Butts, 62, has been driving a school bus for 26 years and for the last 11 years, she has never missed a day of work.

"I don't think anybody can say that, no matter what his or her profession



BUTTS

is," said Jeff Miller, the transportation director for the Perquimans County Schools. "Her attendance is only a part of her performance. She is outstanding at what she

See **BUTTS**, A2

School lottery spending varies

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Over the last 10 years surrounding counties have largely used their share of lottery school construction money to build or renovate classrooms or pay down debt from previous construction projects.

The NC Lottery web site said that pot of funds is to build and repair schools.

"This helps meet needs that otherwise would have to be paid for by other means such as property

See **LOTTERY**, A2

Early voting starts today

From Staff Reports

Early voting starts today for next month's special election to decide eastern North Carolina's next congressman.

Election offices will be open for early voting in the 3rd Congressional District from Wednesday through Friday, Sept. 6, with election day to follow on Sept. 10.

On the ballot are 3rd District candidates state House Rep. Greg Murphy, a Republican from Greenville; former Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas, a Democrat;

See **VOTING**, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Lisa Higgins (right) and her mother Arlene Calogero, stand next to one of the few remaining displays at Catholic Charities on Market Street in Hertford. The operation will close in September and relocate to Elizabeth City.

Catholic Charities is moving

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

In 1977 the Diocese of Raleigh created a Catholic outpost in Perquimans County to serve as an outreach ministry for a 14-county area covering 7,800 square miles of northeastern North Carolina.

Catholic Social Services was staffed by two nuns. Sisters Gloria Gilman and Barbara Gerrive lived in

the same building that served as a church chapel right across the street from Hertford Baptist Church.

And the venture flourished. By 1979, the nuns started a prison ministry in addition to social services including helping arrange adoptions and relocating immigrants. The nuns and the Diocese also helped arrange a loan so a businessman could get the

See **CHARITIES**, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nuns gather for an open house at what became Catholic Charities in Hertford in 1978.

Marine industry coming soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A steel fabrication company has purchased a building and land near the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park and plans to start building a 160-foot long dredge at the site within a few months.

Mark Overman said right now they are waiting on the Town of Hertford to provide electric service to the site.

"We'll start as soon as we get power," Overman said last week. "They had to order a transformer and that has a lead time of two to four weeks. We already have materials stored in the building and carried in some equipment."

Marks' wife, Cynthia is President of East Coast Steel Fabrication Inc., but she said her husband handles the day-to-day affairs of the company. They both live in Camden.

East Coast now builds barges, dredges and tugs in a rented 30,000 square foot facility in Chesapeake. The Hertford site has a 14-year-old 5,000 square foot metal building, but Overton wants to build a 15,000 to 20,000 square foot building. The site has 10 acres.

The first project for the Perquimans site will be a 160-foot-long, 38-foot-wide dredge they are building for a customer. He said the construction could take eight

See **MARINE**, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County hosts on of the portable CAMET trailers owned by the state.

Perquimans County looks at pet shelter options

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Emergency Management is fine-tuning a system that would provide pet owners who need to seek shelter a place nearby for their pets as well.

Hurricane Katrina drove home the fact that some

people won't evacuate to a shelter if they couldn't take their pet. So the federal government passed a law that said every county has to have a plan on how to deal with pets in an emergency.

The county has access to a state-owned trailer that is equipped with cages and bowls and other items that would be needed to house a

large group of animals.

But Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon stresses, the county doesn't own the trailer, North Carolina Emergency Management does. It is simply staged in Perquimans County.

"It is a NCEM resource, so we would have to request the use of this trailer

if pet sheltering were needed," Nixon said. "There is no guarantee we will get it, but we will request early for an anticipated event like a hurricane."

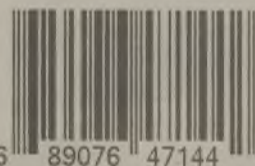
But during Hurricane Florence, the state determined that the trailer was needed further south and

See **SHELTER**, A2

Local first responders are honored

From Staff Reports

Lend a Hand Ministries



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hosted the annual Perquimans First Responders appreciation event Saturday at the Crawfish Shack.

The event was attended by members of the Sheriff's office, EMS, various fire departments across the county, the Hertford Police

Department, family members, elected officials, and members of the community. Lunch was provided for all of those in attendance, as agencies were recognized for their service.

Several members of the community spoke about the

experiences that they have had with EMS during emergencies with their loved ones and expressed their gratitude.

Winfall Mayor, Fred Yates, was one who spoke

See **RESPONDERS**, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

First responders and the public gather for a prayer during an event Saturday at The Crawfish Shack.