

# THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

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## Local early voting winding down, election on Nov. 5

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

About a third of voters had cast a ballot in the Hertford elections as of noon Monday. In Winfall the figure was 14 percent.

The election is Nov. 5 but early voting at the elections office on Edenton Road Street continues until Fri-

day at 5 p.m.

In Hertford there is a race between Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson and Earnell Brown for the mayor's seat. Gracie Felton is running to earn the seat she was appointed to this year when Archie Aples stepped down. Also running is Jerry Minlitsch, Ashley Hodges and Orlean Jones. For all of

them it is their first election.

In Winfall, Mayor Fred Yates is facing a challenge from Preston White. White is a councilman who opted not to run for council, but instead run for mayor. Running for the two seats on council are Carol Cooper and Virginia Powell.

The election has not been without controversy. Law

enforcement was called three times in the last week over issues of a candidate supporters of a candidate crossing the 50-foot line to talk to voters an encourage them to vote for their candidate.

The elections office is also investigating the chance that some people who don't live in Hertford

were told to register as Hertford residents and given a street address to use, said Elections Director Holly Hunter.

Jackson also filed a police complaint with the Hertford Police Department about stolen campaign signs.

Jackson said 73 of his 110 signs were stolen.

"There was a white guy

on a bike and someone in pickup truck," Jackson said.

One of the signs, Jackson said, was in his mother's front yard.

Jackson said he has three cameras at his mother's house and others have cameras that also recorded the thefts.

See VOTING, A2

## BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pilings are being drive for the new bridgetender's house for the replacement for the S-Bridge.

## Chappell crowned queen at ECU

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Taylor Chappell, a 2016 graduate of Perquimans County High School, was crowned the homecoming queen at East Carolina University on Saturday.

Chappell, 21, is an accounting major who is set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in December. She intends to stay at ECU and finish her master's degree by December 2020. She has been offered a job at the accounting firm KPNG in Washington D.C. She will be a federal audit associate.

She said she will never regret her decision to go to Greenville.

"It has been everything I wanted and more. I was expecting to have 10 or 15

friends, go to class and to work, and it pretty much has turned into my entire life."

She is chapter president of Alpha Omicron Pi, an accounting sorority. She was also elected vice president of ECU's Student Government Association and is president of Beta Alpha Psi.

Her advice to high school students thinking about college, check out ECU.

"Don't knock it (ECU) because of some of the negative attention," she said. "If somebody was slightly interested, check it out. You never know where that door may lead you."

She also tells younger students — if you visit a college and it doesn't feel right, just walk away. She

See CHAPPELL, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Taylor Chappell was crowned East Carolina University's homecoming queen last weekend.

## Killer given death sentence

From Staff Reports

MANTEO — Convicted murderer Mikel Brady will face the death penalty for his role in the brutal slayings of four prison employees at Pasquotank Correctional Institution two years ago.

It took jurors in the penalty phase of Brady's murder trial less than an hour Monday to return a death sentence for the prison inmate prosecutors said led the Oct. 12, 2017 failed escape attempt that resulted in the deaths of Veronica "Ronnie" Darden, Justin Smith, Wendy Shannon and Geoffrey Howe.

After Brady's death sentence was announced, Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillet excused members of the seven-woman, five man jury from the courtroom in Dare County Superior Court. Although they all departed, one returned a few minutes later and sat down behind where families of victims and the trial's witnesses were seated.

When court was over, the juror approached Smith's mother and they hugged. She then was heard thanking him for the verdict. Other family members declined to discuss the jury's verdict as they departed the courtroom.

During a brief press conference following the verdict, District Attorney Andrew Womble said he wouldn't venture a guess about how long Brady's ap-

peals of the jury's verdicts would take before the death sentence is carried out.

All death penalty verdicts in North Carolina are automatically appealed. The last person executed in North Carolina was Samuel Flippen, who was put to death in 2006 for the murder of his 2-year-old stepdaughter.

Womble also refused to talk about the trials for the other three defendants accused in the four prison workers' murders: inmates Wisezah Buckman, Seth Frazier and Jonathan Monk. Womble said Brady was chosen for trial first because he was directly involved in all four murders and was the self-proclaimed leader of the failed escape attempt.

Womble has said previously that Buckman's trial is scheduled for March. Trial dates have not been set for Frazier and Monk.

During his closing argument to the jury on Monday, Womble asked they return a death sentence for Brady.

"Three of those murdered were to be lured to their deaths," Womble said, referring to Darden, Smith and Shannon. "Jeffrey Howe just walked into the carnage, but Howe was just another obstacle between him (Brady) and freedom. That's what they were — not humans — just obstacles."

Womble ticked off the aggravating factors arguing

See MURDER, A2

## Cale raising funds to start work on second bunkhouse

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Camp Cale is taking a leap of faith to raise enough money now to start construction on a second modern bunkhouse so it will be ready in time for next summer.

The camp, which is owned by the Chowan Baptist Association, doesn't have the full \$629,000 it will take to build the facility, but it does have some funds in a

capital account.

If Cale can raise another \$30,000 by Nov. 26, the association will match it with \$50,000.

"The \$80,000 will get us to 41 percent," said Camp Director Matt Thomas.

The association represents 68 churches in northeastern North Carolina.

Camp Cale was founded in the early 1960s on the banks of the Perquimans River. At the time

the open air bunkhouses were considered normal for a summer camp. But today, the luxuries of air conditioning are expected, something the old cabins don't have.

The first new bunkhouse was opened last summer.

"The kids loved it and the parents felt better too because it's totally enclosed and it was their kids in there," Thomas said.

"Last summer the (new) bunkhouse was booked

up every week and the others were full and then it started to slack off. When we got into the hotter months toward the end of July, we saw attendance dip in the older cabins," he said.

"If we don't build a second bunkhouse, I fear we will start losing campers," he said.

So even though Cale had the capacity to sleep another 48 people, attendance for 2019 — about 435 — was

about the same as it was in 2018.

The modern bunkhouse can also be used year-round. In addition to summer camps, they can be used in the fall, winter and spring for retreats and other functions.

And that is just what happened since the first new bunkhouse was opened last summer.

"We've got things happening now up through the Thanksgiving weekend.

A lot of them are youth groups or college groups. Mainly they are doing two or three day retreats. We're actually tapping into the Raleigh market quite a bit and getting some out of Virginia."

People don't have to be Baptist to rent the facilities, but they do have to abide by the rules of Camp Cale.

There is also the conference center that is available.

See CALE, A2

## Heath to speak at veteran's service

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County annual Veterans Day observance, hosted by Hertford American Legion Post 26, will be held Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the veteran's monument on the county court-



HEATH

house lawn. Members of Hertford American Legion Post 362 will also participate in the program. In case of inclement weather the observance will be moved to the county recreation center located off Harvey Point Road.

See HEATH, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Historic Hertford Inc. recently decorated the front of the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex for Halloween.

## Downtown hosts Halloween events

From Staff Reports

The Hertford Police Department will close off a block of Church Street on Thursday so children can participate in "Trunk or Treat."

The event coincides with the traditional trick or treating that downtown merchants participate in each year. Businesses will be handing out candy from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The police department

event is from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the block between Market Street and Grubb Street.

HPD Captain Gilbert Rodriguez said the department is asking people who want to park and give out candy to contact Police Chief Dennis Brown by calling 426-5587 or e-mailing PoliceChief@townofhertfordnc.com.

There will also be a Trunk or Treat Thursday at the Holiday Island parking lot at 6 p.m.

