

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
514 S CHURCH ST  
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



Church fire ruled to be arson, B1

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

\$1.00

## LIBRARY

Perquimans Library had new books to check out — A2

## FARMING

Strawberry field offers pick-and-pay experience — A6

## SCHOOLS

School fund named after retired educator — B1

## FRONT PAGE

See what was going on in 1965 — B4

# Charter School Takes Shape in PQ County

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Elaine Riddick Charter School is poised to open its doors for the first time in the fall. The school seeks students grades K-3 to enroll at the new school located at 1054 Harvey Point Road.

School leaders met recently with the State Board of Education Charter School Advisory Committee to discuss their plans. Committee told school administrators

to return in June to provide an update on progress as to meeting enrollment goals, hiring a teaching staff and completing other pressing issues related to the facility's needs that demand attention before any school bells can ring in the fall.

According to the charter school's web site, the school is a North Carolina State Board of Education approved, tuition free, public charter school scheduled to open in August 2020.

Located on five acres of land, the 22,500 square foot facility will need upgrades associated with education needs, zoning approvals and a certificate of occupancy so as to accommodate a school, according to documents obtained by the Perquimans Weekly.

A design firm has been hired to facilitate obtaining an educational certificate of occupancy which the school hopes to obtain by July 1. A contingency facility is located at 1132 Don Juan Road, Hertford.

School leaders said more than 20 applications have been distributed so far toward reaching the school's enrollment goal of 120 students. Recruitment has been adversely affected by COVID-19 state of emergency, but school leaders plan to pursue an aggressive marketing and outreach strategy to attract students.

School's enrollment may affect the county school's finances because if a student, who lives in and remains residing in Perquim-

ans county, transfers to a charter school, the county school system will have to send a calculated amount of local funds to the charter school — a reduction that directly impacts the county school's system's tight finances.

Local funds follow the student only if they remain a resident of the county, and attend a charter school. State funding is based on Average Daily Membership

See **SCHOOL**, A3

## Demands of Meat Rises In Pademic

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON  
For the Perquimans Weekly

Disruptions due to COVID-19 outbreaks at large meatpacking facilities is increasing demand for smaller outfits in eastern North Carolina, but local suppliers say they are limited by production capacity, storage and the time it takes to their raise animals.

Consumers started worrying about the meat they normally purchase from supermarkets as the pandemic spread. Beginning in April, traditional meat producers were faced with euthanizing millions of pigs and chickens because of outbreaks among processing plant workers. While President Trump signed an order under the Defense Production Act that kept processors open, staffing remains down because employees are out sick.

There also are safety worries because of reports that some sick workers are still on the job. The concerns have increased business for suppliers like Nooherooka Natural, a family owned and operated farm in Green County that raises and sells beef and heritages pigs.

"We have new customers and our older customers are buying much more than they did before," owner Mary Betty Kearney said. The farm raises the animals and works with Piedmont Custom Meats to process the meat. Nooherooka markets and sells the meats at its location, online and at farmers markets.

"We've been in business 18 years. We've renewed a lot of people who purchased from us erratically years ago or who moved. It's only recently that we've gotten new customers," Kearney said. Along with concerns about the supermarket meat supply, Kearney attributes the uptick in business to the farm's increasing social media presence which includes posting recipes.

"What we try to offer is a pack like the family pack because the meat goes a lot further and feeds a lot more," she said. "You learn to prepare different ways, the different cuts of meat.

"People were not buying the high end as much as the staples, like ground beef," she said. People don't have to hord meat or make dietary changes,

See **MEAT**, A3

## Honoring the Fallen

BY KEN ROMINGER  
American Legion/Patriot

Despite wet weather and some rain showers Monday, through the efforts of 27 American Legion members, Hertford Rotary Club members and other individual volunteers, some 771 flags were placed at veterans graves throughout Perquimans County on Memorial Day.

This included two Town of Hertford cemeteries; 11 church cemeteries; 10 private family cemeteries; and four veterans monuments.

Wreaths for Perquimans County, the towns of Hertford and Winfall, Hertford American Legion Auxiliary Unit 126; and Hertford American Legion Posts 126 and 362, U.S. Service Flags and the Merchant Marine Flag were placed at our County War Monument by members of Post 126.

Post 126 Commander Rick Caporale and past post 126 commander and past NC Department of North Carolina Vice Commander Ken Rominger concluded the day's observance as the Nation observed their remembrance with Perquimans County High School band member Nicholas Harris presenting taps at the monument.

A quick anecdote about

See **FALLEN**, A2



PHOTOS BY KATRINA LEARY MANN

American Legion Post 126 Commander Rick Caporale (left) and past post 126 commander and past NC Department of North Carolina Vice Commander Ken Rominger (right) paid tribute to the nation's fallen on Memorial Day. Perquimans County High School band member Nicholas Harris performed Taps at the monument by the courthouse.



To quote Lee Greenwood's song God Bless the USA, "I'm proud to be an American Where at least I know I'm free And I won't forget the men who died Who gave that right to me And I'd gladly stand up next to you And defend Her still today 'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land God Bless the U.S.A."

## ROUND-UP Soldier's 1st Salute & Fire Ants

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... **Robert Beauchamp Jr.** was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant for the Army in mid May at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. **Col. William Horton** of Hertford, retired US Air Force, administered the oath for commissioning ceremony.

Robert will be the 4th generation to serve in the US Army and is 3rd generation Airborne.

Indeed, Beauchamp's first salute was to his father.

"I'm quite proud to be joining the military as it is a family profession and something I've wanted to do for a very long time," he said.

Speaking of church, **New Hope United Methodist Church** is hosting a Drive-In/Outdoor Singspiration Service featuring Chris Gibbs, to be held Sunday, June 7, beginning at 6 p.m. Chris and his wife Jackie, come to us all the way from Engelhard. Chris will touch you with his witness and his Southern Gospel music.

Stay in your car, or bring a chair and grab a spot in the shade. Church's address is 2098 New Hope Road, we are at the intersection of Woodville Road and New Hope Road, across from the Durant's Neck Fire Department. Come on out for an evening of good old fashion singing, and community fellowship. Your friends will be here.

Congratulations to Perquimans Middle School students **Kendra Graham** and **Will Rucker** for winning the **Hertford Rotary Club's Essay Contest!** Kendra earned the first place award, and Will earned the second place award. Both of them read their essays to over

See **LAYTON**, A2

## ARHS Provides Update on Case Counts

BY STAFF REPORTS

**ELIZABETH CITY** — Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) has provided updated data of lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.

As of press time, this case counts represent actual real time cases across the ARHS region:

■ Pasquotank County — 96 lab confirmed cases — 29 active, 58 recovered, and 9 deaths

■ Perquimans County — 23 lab confirmed cases — 8 active, 13 recovered, and 2 deaths

■ Camden County — 3 lab

confirmed cases — 1 active and 2 recovered

■ Chowan County — 15 lab confirmed cases — 3 active and 12 recovered

■ Currituck County — 11 lab confirmed cases — 0 active and 11 recovered

■ Bertie County — 115 lab confirmed cases — 27 active, 84 recovered, and 4 deaths

■ Gates County — 23 lab confirmed cases — 12 active, 10 recovered, and 1 death

■ Hertford County — 72 lab confirmed cases — 28 active, 43 recovered, and 1 death

Lab confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 continue to

be fluid across the region, as ARHS continues to monitor community spread and outbreaks at congregate living facilities. It is important to recognize the impact of such events as the region continues to navigate this pandemic response.

Last Friday, Phase 2 lifted the "Stay At Home" order moving into a "Safer At Home" recommendation, especially for people at high risk for serious illness.

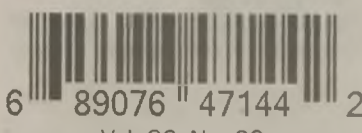
Phase 2 restrictions include: ■ Mass gathering will be no more than 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors in most

circumstances. These limits apply to the following: event venues; conference centers; stadiums and sports arenas; amphitheaters; and groups at parks or beaches.

■ Some businesses will remain closed including: bars; night clubs; gyms and indoor fitness facilities; indoor entertainment venues such as movie theaters, and bowling alleys.

■ Certain businesses will be open at limited capacity with other requirements and recommendations including: restaurants at 50% dine-in capaci-

See **CASE**, A2



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