

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

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Tri-County Animal Shelter's Pet of the Week

Happy  
THANKSGIVING



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Cross-country season begins for Perquimans schools

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## Stallings Scholarship Endowed to Serve Pirates

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Many people have left their mark at Perquimans County Schools.

Dr. Dwayne K. Stallings left a legacy.

A longtime educator, Stallings touched countless lives during his three decades of teaching and serving as a school administrator. When he died in August 2020 af-

ter an extended illness at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, generous memorials were directed to the Dwayne K. Stallings Scholarship for Education Fund. The Endowment is currently at \$10,100 – It is invested at Stifel Financial.

"As an educator, Dr. Stallings knew he was in a very unique position to have a positive impact on the lives of young people," said Brenda Lassiter, Executive Director for Perquimans County



STALLINGS

terest in the wellbeing of others made him a respected colleague

and loyal friend."

Stallings' daughter, Megan Loftin, recalled her father's commitment to community and education.

"My dad's dedication to education and the community was a through-line for his life," she said. "He was an educator in every sense of the word, within the school system, throughout the community, and at home."

Stallings, 63, of Hertford had

over 30 years invested in public education in North Carolina and 21 of those years he served as an administrator in Perquimans County. The scholarship ensures that Stallings' legacy continues to echo an eternity.

"I am excited that this scholarship will continue his legacy of service," Loftin said. "He viewed education as a higher calling and

See STALLINGS, A3

## N.C. Debuts COVID Alert System

BY ELIZABETH JOHNSON  
For the Perquimans Weekly

Local health officials on Tuesday urged residents to take precautions against COVID-19 before Thanksgiving as the state announced a new alert system to focus on counties with the highest levels of viral spread.

State health officials developed the COVID-19 County Alert System announced by Gov. Roy Cooper and Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen during an afternoon news conference. The monthly report will use several data metrics to color code counties where spread is at critical levels.

Pitt County was listed at the lowest level, yellow, which indicates significant spread, along with Martin, Beaufort and Lenoir counties. Neighboring Wilson County was red, or critical, while Greene, Edgecombe and Craven were orange, indicating substantial spread.

"By pinpointing counties with high virus transmission and asking everyone in those counties to work with us and do more right now to slow the spread of the virus, we can succeed," Cooper said. "It can help bring down their case rates, keep their communities safer, save lives and keep their hospital systems working."

The system calls on residents, businesses and community organizations, and local governments within each county to work with the state on specific actions triggered by the alert levels. Steps in high alert areas include greater enforcement of mask wearing and gathering limits, expanded no cost testing and increased messaging.

Cooper said during the news conference actions are strongly recommended but will not be mandated unless the pandemic continues to worsen in the state, which on Tuesday recorded another day of new

See COVID, A3



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## ANNUAL 'TURKEY DROP'



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The "Turkey Drop" helped make the holidays happy for folks in Perquimans County. The 7th annual county-wide took place last Friday and Saturday at Hertford United Methodist Church to assist those in need this Thanksgiving Season. Due to early press deadlines, more on this story will appear in a future edition of the Perquimans Weekly.

There's a lot of turkeys within that vehicle's back hatch area. Much praise to the generous folks of Perquimans County. According to the National Turkey Federation, 88% of Americans say they will be eating Thanksgiving turkey. Last year, this equated to an expected 290 million Americans gathering to enjoy this yearly feast. For 2020, expect to see an increase of more than 400,000 turkey lovers.



## Exhibit Features Teen's Artwork



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Celia Manning, a freshman at Perquimans County High School, won her county for her painting honoring former U.S. Attorney and former First District Court Judge Janice Cole as part of the "Women Breaking Barriers in Northeastern NC" that opened Friday on the second floor of the museum in Elizabeth City.

PQ Painter's Artwork Features Judge Janice Cole

BY MILES LAYTON  
AND CHRIS DAY  
Adams Publishing Group

Women in northeastern North Carolina have long been known for "breaking barriers."

Now a new exhibit at Museum of the Albemarle pays tribute to their trailblazing efforts.

"Women Breaking Barriers in Northeastern NC" opened Friday on the second floor of the museum in Elizabeth City. The exhibit is part of a statewide project of the N.C. Department

See EXHIBIT, A2

## 5 Area Counties See 'Substantial' COVID-19 Spread

BY JULIAN EURE  
For the Perquimans Weekly

While none of Albemarle Regional Health Services' eight counties are seeing what state officials consider "critical" community spread of COVID-19, five, including Pasquotank, are seeing "substantial" spread of the virus.

That's according to a report on the COVID-19 County Alert System released by the N.C. Department

of Health and Human Services on Tuesday.

The report, which is designed to help both the public and local officials better understand how the virus is spreading in their community, contains recommendations for individuals, businesses and organizations as well as local governments on how to slow the virus' spread.

DHHS' recommendations to local governments include adoption

of ordinances allowing fines on those who violate COVID restrictions, more enforcement of mass gathering limits and the statewide mask-wearing mandate, and consideration of ending onsite alcohol sales earlier than 11 p.m.

The new COVID-19 Alert System divides counties into three tiers: red, designating "critical" community spread; orange, which indicates "substantial" spread; and yellow, designating "significant"

spread. Pasquotank, Currituck, Perquimans, Hertford and Bertie are currently orange tier counties, while Camden, Chowan and Gates are designated yellow tier counties.

According to DHHS, 10 counties — four in eastern and southeastern North Carolina and six in the western part of the state — are currently designated as red tier counties. Forty-three are

See SPREAD, A3



ROUND-UP

## Toys for Tots

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Town Councilman Frank Norman is spearheading the Toys for Tots Program. Please reach out to Norman at [fnorman@townofhertfordnc.com](mailto:fnorman@townofhertfordnc.com) for details. Last year was a great success.

Toys for Tots, a 70-year national charitable program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, provides happiness and hope to disadvantaged children during each Christmas holiday season.

The toys, books and other gifts collected and distributed by the Marines offer these children recognition, confidence and a positive memory for a lifetime.

Speaking of making a difference, see Skip Matthews letter on our Opinion page about the Salvation Army - A4. Because of COVID-19, there'll be no local Salvation Army bell ringing this year.

"It's that time of year again; time to enjoy the season and time to remember those for whom the season may not be so joyful without your help," he said.

In other news, per Sherie Cartwright with the Forestburg Ruritan Club, the club will NOT be having their monthly pancake breakfast on December 5.

"We regret any inconvenience this may cause and want you all to know how much we appreciate your support over the years and ESPECIALLY during these last few months of take-out only," she said. "We will keep you informed when we have the next one. We would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!"

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