

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

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SCAN ME



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 Durants Neck Ruritans seek donations for April 22 auction



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 No comeback needed: Lady Pirates defeat Panthers



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 Postcards from Ukraine: Ukrainian gardener sows seeds of hope in a gray land

Sheriff: 9 nabbed in 'one of largest' drug roundups

White: 20-plus could be arrested after year-long probe

BY JULIAN EURE
 Managing Editor

HERTFORD — Illegal drugs like crack, cocaine, heroin and fentanyl were a lot harder to find in Perquimans County late last week. That's because on Thursday, March 9, the Perquimans Sheriff's Office — with assistance from the Pasquotank Sheriff's Office



WHITE

— served a r r e s t w a r r a n t s on nine Perquimans men charging eight with illegal drug trafficking and the ninth with possession of drug paraphernalia. Sheriff Shelby White said deputies planned to arrest two or three more suspects on illegal drug charges Fri-

day, March 10, and up to another eight this week. "We still have a few more to pick up," he said. In all, the Perquimans Sheriff's Office expects to make more than 20 arrests in what White said was "one of the largest" roundups of illegal drug suspects in Perquimans since he's been sheriff. He believed the department's last large roundup of drug suspects was in 2019. White said the arrests stemmed from an investiga-

tion of illegal drug activity in Perquimans that began about a year ago. Officers made undercover drug buys of cocaine, crack, heroin and fentanyl. "The guys did all the buys and setting up the cases. We felt this was the right time to move forward" with the arrests, he said. White said deputies made the arrests at multiple sites across Perquimans on Thursday, some in Hertford, others in the county. In all, the operation took three to

four hours, he said. "The guys did a good job," he said. "I'm glad it worked out like it did." Asked if the arrests would have an effect on illegal drug sales in Perquimans, White said they "absolutely" would. "The drugs are still there, they're just not as easily available right now," he said. White said the investigation is still ongoing and more charges are likely. Those arrested Thursday and the charges they're fac-

ing included:
 • Scott White of the 1800 block of Harvey Point Road, Hertford, who was charged with selling or delivering Schedule VI of a controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver Schedule VI of a controlled substance and maintaining a dwelling or vehicle for the sale or delivery of illegal drugs. His secured bond was set at \$20,000.

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The Pizza Man



TYLER NEWMAN/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Tommy Barrett, owner of Tommy's Pizza in Hertford, stands behind the counter of his pizzeria in the Food Lion shopping center off U.S. Highway 17 in Hertford. Tommy's Pizza turns 30 this year.

Barrett's Tommy's Pizza turns 30

DIGITAL NC

In this newspaper clipping from 1993, Tommy Barrett, then in his 30s, is shown spinning pizza dough at the first location of his restaurant, Tommy's Pizz, on Edenton Road Street in Hertford.



Tommy Barrett spins pizza dough with ease as he prepares to make an extremely hot pie at his restaurant, Tommy's Pizz, on Edenton Road Street in Hertford. Tommy has expanded the menu to offer steaks, burgers, seafood and much more.

Barrett: Customers, supporters, family made biz a success

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

When Tommy Barrett's grandfather arrived in America from Naples, Italy, seeking the American Dream, he had nothing but the clothes on his back. Decades later, in a small North Carolina town called Hertford, his grandson forged

his own American Dream. And now three decades later, Tommy's Pizza — the fruit of Tommy Barrett's dream — is a Perquimans County institution. Located in the Food Lion shopping center off U.S. Highway 17 in Hertford, Tommy's Pizza has served freshly made pizzas to several generations of loyal customers. A lot has changed in Barrett's life over the past 30

See TOMMY'S, A3

Volunteer shortage forces elimination of one meal route

Consolidation of routes leaves 12 seniors without meal

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

A shortage of volunteers has forced a reduction of Meals on Wheels routes in Perquimans County from six to five, leaving about a dozen senior homebound residents unserved by the program. Laura Rollinson, volunteer and administrative services coordinator for the Albemarle Commission's Area Agency on Aging, told Perquimans commissioners last week that the county senior center had been forced to consolidate three senior meal routes into two because of a shortage of volunteers. The merger means that

12 older adults who could benefit from the program are unable to right now, she said. Rollinson told commissioners she was asking for their help in raising awareness about the need for volunteers. An additional 20-30 volunteers are needed to reopen the closed route in Perquimans, Rollinson said. Rollinson's plea for help comes amid the Area Agency on Aging's participation in the annual March for Meals campaign that raises awareness about the Meals on Wheels program. The campaign uses well-known local residents to volunteer to deliver meals in an effort to encourage other people to volunteer.

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TYLER NEWMAN/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Author Talitha Stallings talks about her new self-published book, "The Wife and the Mistresses," at the Perquimans County Library last week.

Local author's new book puts spotlight on marital abuse

Stallings discussed 'The Wife and Mistresses' at library

BY TYLER NEWMAN
 Staff Writer

To kick off Women's History Month, the Perquimans County Library hosted a book signing last week for a local author who just published her first book. Nearly a full house greeted Talitha Stallings of Hertford as she took to the podium to discuss her new novel, "The Wife and the Mistresses." The novel, which draws inspiration from Stallings' past relationship with a former spouse, describes

the damage that infidelity and abuse can cause a marriage. A 1997 graduate of Perquimans County High who also graduated from College of The Albemarle and the University of Phoenix, Stallings is a mother of three and a grandmother of one. A licensed evangelist, Stallings said she spends a lot of her time advocating for women in abusive relationships. She said her passion in life in fact is helping and advocating for "those that have been abused in some way, shape, form or fashion." "I just want to help

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INSIDE TODAY

2023 PROGRESS EMC
 THE DAILY ADVANCE



Therapy dogs listen, educate

Dogs helping schoolkids learn to spot an emergency

BY CHERI L. SHERIDAN
 Correspondent

Patton, the Perquimans County therapy dog, loves his pals at Perquimans Emergency Services. He brings his happy tail with him whenever he walks into their headquarters in Winfall. He's goofy, enthusiastic and has never met a stranger. He's a world-class stress reducer. But he and his black lab partner, Bunsen, play two other important roles in the community. First, they listen

to kids. An ambulance ride as either an observer or a passenger is stressful. At a community event last fall, a little girl climbed aboard and started petting Bunsen. Intently, she then shared the story of her father's heart attack and then repeated several times "then they shut the door, the lights were flashing, and they drove away." Imagine being a small child, watching Daddy be whisked away in an emergency. She needed to say out loud what she held in her heart. Bunsen listened. Another young man explored the ambulance with one hand firmly planted on Bunsen's head. As he asked



PHOTO COURTESY CHERI L. SHERIDAN

Patton the therapy dog is helping Perquimans Emergency Services by both "listening" to children and helping with community education.

See DOG, A3

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