

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

MAY 1, 2013 - MAY 7, 2013

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Softball working toward postseason bid, 7

## Senior meals program spared major cuts

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Funding for a program that provides meals to the elderly has been cut, but no seniors in the Albemarle area will be forced out due to lack of federal

money because local counties have been helping out.

Laura Alvarico, director of the Area Agency on Aging for the Albemarle Commission, said local county support is making up the difference. The commission, based in Hertford, op-

erates in a 10-county area of northeastern North Carolina.

Alvarico said the cuts in the meals program through the end of state fiscal year June 30 amount to \$19,634. That includes home-delivered meals, congregate

meals in group homes and supportive services. Alvarico said no layoffs are planned, but some line items in the budget like travel will likely be cut.

The commission gets about \$1.5 million for the region plus about \$360,000

in funding from area counties.

"We've been fortunate," Alvarico said.

All the counties, except Chowan pay over and above the 10 percent match required by the federal government in order to be

eligible for the program. Chowan County did pay more until three years ago when it faced a financial shortfall and cut back.

The extra funds allow the program to serve even

See MAJOR CUTS, 8

## SCHOOLS RECEIVE HOLOCAUST COLLECTION



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A hat worn by a German officer during World War II and a pair of children's shoes that were typical of that period were among the donations Larn Underwood and his family made to the school district last week.

## Former minister donates items of the era

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Larn Underwood spent a lifetime collecting things dealing with the Holocaust and trying to educate a new generation in the hopes they can make sure it never happens again.

Last month he donated the collection to the Per-

quimans County Schools, which will display it in a permanent display at the high school.

Underwood, a former Assembly of God minister in Hertford, grew up in Arizona in the 1940s. His wife's grandmother was a child in Europe during the Nazi era and the family raised the money to send her to safety in

the United States. Most of the family members who didn't leave died during the Holocaust.

"He couldn't learn enough about it," daughter Lynn Lassiter said of her father. "He is passionate about it."

When Underwood started speaking in schools about the subject, Lassiter often went with him.

"You can't wrap your head around something so horrific but it's one of the things you don't want to forget," Underwood said last week. "When I started, it wasn't like today. Now there is so much information on the Internet. When I started the resources weren't available."

Among the books Un-

derwood is donating are many that are out of print and considered rare by collectors.

"I started collecting things when I was very young. I was always interested in that period."

The shoes he donated were all from the period during World War II when

See COLLECTION, 4

## Tag Sale tradition rolls on Saturday

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Nobody wants to ride in an ambulance, but if you have to do it in Perquimans County — thank the "Tag Sale."

The annual event held by Albemarle Plantation turns donated items into cash, which goes to the Perquimans County Rescue Squad.

With the exception of clothing and boats, just about everything else will be on sale this Saturday at the Perquimans County Recreation Center off Harvey Point Road. The event runs from 8 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

Mark Symons, the chief of the rescue squad, is grateful.

"They sell everything. There are a lot of Christmas items, jewelry, TVs, computers, printers, basically anything you can think of except clothing."

And somebody's donation, could save a life.

"We've bought several things with the money we've gotten. We have two AED's (automated external defibrillators) with the money. They aren't cheap, they're like \$30,000 a piece. We've got a hydraulic stretcher. That's about \$13,000 to \$15,000."

And the Plantation takes care of everything.

"They've got it down to the science," Symons said. "We go out there and cook breakfast for the volunteers, but they take care of

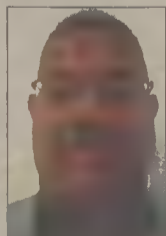
See TAG SALE, 4

## New football coach has high hopes for Pirates

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The season is looking up for the Perquimans Pirates football team with a slew of returning starters and a new coach.

Elvin James was introduced to the team last week at Perquimans County High School. James was picked to replace interim coach Justin Roberson, who opted to not return as head coach in 2013. Roberson took the job last summer when former coach T.J. Worrell unexpectedly



James

left. Worrell compiled a 26-49 record in six years.

James is coming to Hertford after three years as head coach of Livingstone — a Division II college team in Salisbury. He was fired after posting a 3-28 record, including a 2-8 mark last fall.

As a high school coach, James has racked up wins. While at Goldsboro High School he reached the playoffs nine times between 1988-2000 and won two 4A conference titles.

James understands rebuilding a team. When he took over the Goldsboro program he had 18 players for the first two years.

"We were building a foundation," he said. "I think I won their

See COACH, 4

## Revels named Millennium Scholar

By PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

As he prepares for graduation from Perquimans County High School, Austin Revels can scratch worrying about how to pay for college off his list.

The Durrants Neck resident is one of the recipients this year of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Millennium Scholars program. It has the potential to be the largest scholarship ever awarded a Perquimans County student because it will continue to pay benefits through a doctorate program if Revels decides he wants to do it. Many scholarships are good only for four years and some are just for one year.

Until his notification last month, Revels had received two local scholarships from Ruritan Clubs in Durrants

Neck and Forresterburg.

That means if Revels wants his dream job of being a hospital administrator, money isn't going to stand in his way. Unlike some scholarships, which have a financial cap, the Gates scholarship pays everything that isn't covered by any other program no matter if a student attends Yale University or a lower cost state university.

It didn't just fall in his lap. He figures he spent two months working on eight essays that were part of the application process. Nancy Morgan, the counselor at PCHS, nominated him. She's nominated students for the Gates before, and one made it through the first



Revels

round, but didn't win.

"I knew he would be a good fit," Morgan said. "When I saw that he'd made it to the second round, my antenna went up. I knew, right then that he stood a good chance and when we got that e-mail Friday, we were all thrilled."

The Gates scholarship goes to minority students, and Revels qualifies as a member of the Lumbee Indian tribe.

"I've been here 20 years and I don't know of anybody from this region who has won it," said Brenda Lassiter, a spokeswoman for the school system.

Eighteen North Carolina students got the scholarship in 2012. None were from the Albemarle area and the nearest one came from Goldsboro. This year's list hasn't been

See REVELS, 8



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