

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

Church hosting Civil War event

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

One hundred and fifty years ago, Oak Grove United Methodist Church was used as a place of rest and healing for Confederate troops heading south.

In May, it will host a Civil War event as part of the a 200th anniversary of the church on Chapanoke Road. The event is free and open to the public.

Dave Lindsey, a historian living in Edenton, is organizing the spring event. He's been a member of Oak Grove for several years. The event runs from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on May 17.

The church was created in 1814. In 1861, it became part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as fighting erupted between the North and the South.

Lindsley said a majority of people in Perquimans County and the Albemarle region as a whole didn't want war. As many as 40 percent considered themselves pro-union and a lot of the rest didn't support either side and simply wanted to be left alone.

But war did come. In February 1862, Union gunboats overwhelmed a smaller Confederate naval force in the Battle of Elizabeth City. Edenton and Hertford fell to union control the same month.

Perquimans County didn't have any large scale ground engagements like Bull Run in Virginia or Shiloh in Tennessee. Instead armed conflicts usually involved smaller groups of local

See CIVIL WAR, 7

DON'T BE A VICTIM



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Cynthia Cox listens to Caroline Farmer discuss fraud during a Scam-Jam session at the Perquimans County Senior Center, Friday. Farmer (below) gestures while speaking at Friday's session.

SPEAKERS WARN SENIORS OF SCAMS

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



Thieves aren't going to stop trying and seniors are the biggest targets according to speakers Friday at a Scam-Jam at the Perquimans County Senior Center.

"If you have a steady source of income coming into the household... you are the number one target for most of these scammers," said Barbara Bennett, a speaker from the N.C. Department of State. "Believe it or not, but you folks have the money."

Seniors do have the steady source of income, be it pensions or Social Security, that younger Americans don't, Bennett said. She is one of two people in her office who cover the state to educate people about investment issues. The Albemarle Commission's Area Agency on Aging was another one of the sponsors of Friday's Scam-Jam event.

Bennett said some thieves also target seniors because they are sometimes too nice to say no.

"You were raised to be very polite. They'll call you

See SCAM-JAM, 7

Recycling efforts showing benefits

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County is playing a role in keeping more and more recyclable goods out of the landfill and saving money at the same time.

Even if you don't care about saving the planet, residents should care about recycling, said Scott Mouw, the state's recycling program director.

Mouw said for every ton of waste that heads south to the landfill in Bertie, Perquimans County pays \$50. For every ton of recyclables that heads north toward Tidewater Fiber recycling center in Virginia, the county is paid \$7.

"It used to be about saving the trees," Mouw said. "Now you do it to save the money."

Mouw said Perquimans County may not rank as high on the statewide list as others to terms of recycling, but that doesn't mean it's not making an effort.

In 2012-13, Perquimans County recycled about 61 pounds of household goods for every man, woman and child. It ranks 50th out of 100 counties.

Dare County was in the number one position with an average of 279 pounds per person.

Perquimans County ranked 55th in terms of total public recycling per capita with 79.5 pounds. Catawba County topped that list at 638 pounds.

The counties that have very large recycling totals also have special programs

See RECYCLING, 7

Rotary Club honors four as teachers of the year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Two veteran educators and two who are still relatively new were picked as the Hertford Rotary Club's Teachers of the Year for 2014.

High school teacher Celeste Maus represents the most experienced with 29 years in the classroom, nine years of it in Perquimans County.

On the other end of the spectrum is Kerry Shimfessel from Perquimans County Middle School with three years in the classroom. Another relative newcomer is



Corrie Kemp from Hertford Grammar School with seven years.

Rounding out the four is Stacey Pierce from Perquimans Central School. She's a 15-year-veteran who has spent her entire career in the county schools.

Teachers will be recognized at a Rotary breakfast meeting at Captain Bob's in April where an overall winner will be selected as the 2014 Rotary teacher of the year for Perquimans County.

The educators were se-

lected based on their dedication, commitment and service to young people and their communities. Some of the ways they incorporate community service projects and activities for their students is shared in a written essay each wrote on they

chose education as their career.

Maus said she started young, teaching her "baby dolls."

"While others were pursuing occupational handbooks for possible job titles, I knew the world of education was fathomless and would open more doors of opportunity than any other job title," Maus wrote. "I was a believer that teaching others to love learning creates carbon footprints that go beyond one's legacy."

Shimfessel admits teaching wasn't his first choice.

"My original college plans were to go to medical

school and become a physician so that I could make a good living. A wise friend of mine explained to me that money would not be able to sustain happiness. Making a change in just one person's life could sustain happiness for many. The next week, I applied to the UNC-Greensboro School of Music and haven't turned back since."

For Kemp, the decision was easy.

"I love to see my students become passionate about a topic, book, or project that we are working on," she said. "It thrills me to meet

See TEACHERS, 7

Perquimans native Hoffler publishes book on racism

From staff reports

A Perquimans County man who grew up in Hertford in the 1940s through the 1960s has self-published a book about his experiences being denied a promotion by the U.S. Air Force.

"As a product of the segregated South, I was not a stranger to racism," said Joseph Hoffler. "However, I did not expect to see 'in-your-face-racism' on a U.S. military instal-

lation. Up until this point, the military had treated me impartially," says Hoffler. "I bled Air Force blue and still do. It wasn't until my operations officer and first sergeant, both white, came to me and said this was racially motivated that I considered the possibility of racism playing a factor."

Hoffler is the son of a self-employed auto mechanic and school teacher from Perquimans County Hoffler was the youngest of six children. To improve their standard of living, his father moved the family to Brooklyn, NY, where Hoffler was born, in 1940. His family returned



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Joseph Hoffler (left) poses with Kenneth Saunders at a Barnes & Noble in Colorado Springs, Colo., recently. Hoffler grew up in Perquimans County and recently self-published the book "Promotion: Denied", which is about his experience in the U.S. Air Force. Saunders is a retired Navy commander and director of the Center on Fathering in Colorado Springs.

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