

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

APRIL 30, 2014 - MAY 6, 2014

APR 30 50 cents  
REC'D

## 'IT'S HEARTBREAKING'

### Many residents feeling blessed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Neighbors were seeing God's hand in the fact that 16 homes in the Chapanoke community were damaged or destroyed Friday but nobody was injured.

Joe Parker and his wife Louise were attending church when the storm struck about 7:30 p.m. Friday. They've lived in the home since 1959. The roof and some of the walls were blown off and the contents inside were scattered around.

"Somebody on the phone at church said they heard it was bad in Chapanoke, but we were told they couldn't get home because a tree blocked the road," Louise Parker said.

Louise Parker is better known to many as the "Cake Lady" for going around town selling slices of cakes she'd baked. She also was a teacher's assistant in the school system from 1977 through 2003.

David Parker, 66, who lives next door, was in his living room watching the weather reports on television when the storm hit. Normally his great grandson and great granddaughter would have been there with him, but they weren't that night.

The roof and walls

See BLESSED, 4



STAFF PHOTO  
BY PETER WILLIAMS

David Parker sips coffee while hugging his great grandson Tiyon, next to what is left of Parker's home on Chapanoke Road, Saturday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gov. Pat McCrory (left) and Winfall Mayor Fred Yates embrace Sunday in Chapanoke at the scene of properties destroyed by a tornado that struck Friday night. For more on the governor's visit, see page 4. See more storm photos page 11.



### Early damage estimate at \$500K

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A pair of tornadoes destroyed or damaged nearly 50 homes and caused at least \$500,000 in damage Friday night across Perquimans County.

The Chapanoke and Snug Harbor areas of Perquimans County appear to have suffered the brunt of the damage. Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath and Chairman of the Perquimans County Commission Janice Cole did their first assessment Saturday morning, Heath said.

"It's heartbreaking to see what those families are having to go through," Heath said. "I haven't seen anything like this in my experience."

The area near Bethel Fishing Center saw trees fall through roofs. The brunt of the damage in Burnt Mill Road was on the Chowan County side of the line, but there was damage in the Camp Perry area of New Hope.

Perquimans County Emergency Management Director Jarvis Winslow still had assessment teams out Monday documenting damage across the county.

As of noon Monday he said 11 homes were totally destroyed, 18 homes had major damage and about the same number had minor damage. Those estimates would likely rise, he said.

See DAMAGE, 5

## McCrory's disaster declaration might bring relief locally

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Gov. Pat McCrory's declaration of a state of emergency in Perquimans County has triggered a prohibition against excessive pricing and is the first step toward a broader effort that could offer more state and federal help for victims locally.

More help could come if the governor declares a state of disaster and the federal government follows

suit with one of its own.

Assistance could include covering some of the cost of damages that aren't covered by insurance or helping renters who don't have insurance. It could be a week before state officials know more about what could be offered.

In the case of financial help, a lot depends on the scope of the disaster and a community's ability to overcome it on its own.

Julia Jarema, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Department of Public Safety, said there are a lot of variables.

### REPORT IT!

Consumers can report potential price gouging to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. Call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within North Carolina or file a price gouging complaint at [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov).

"For anybody who has any damage from any event, a fire or a flood, the first step is to file insurance," Jarema said. "There are folks who do not have insurance or enough insurance and there may be federal help that can kick in."

Jarema said in one recent case, a disaster damaged 150 homes in North Carolina. But virtually all of the property owners had insurance that covered the damage.

"If a community can overcome a disaster on its own, you don't want to have taxpayers paying for it," she said.

The prohibition on price gouging is enforced the Department of Justice.

Consumers can report potential price gouging to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division. Call 1-877-5-NO-SCAM toll-free within North Carolina or file a price gouging complaint at [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov).

"During Hurricane Isabel some people were claiming price gouging," Sheriff Eric Tifley said. "We really didn't see

much. In some cases, the items were costing more and the local retriailer was just passing it along."

In 2008 the Attorney General's office enforced the law to win \$71,000 from 14 gas stations.

The emergency declaration does not prohibit or restrict lawfully possessed firearms or ammunition or impose any limitation on the consumption, transportation, sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages.

## Candidates speak out on issues ahead of May 6 primary

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Candidates for the Perquimans County School Board agree that while a new athletic facility would be nice, the school system faces other more pressing issues.

All four seemed to indicate that it will take outside groups with money and the community as a whole to make it happen. The school board election is on Tuesday's ballot.

As it was originally proposed, the \$6.1 million project would include a football field stadium surrounded by an eight-lane running track. There would be a soccer field, press box/equipment storage, main entry/concessions, soccer stadium seating and concessions, a practice field, a tennis court and parking lots.

The high school has fielded state championship-caliber track athletes, but the school has no track. All track competitions are held at other schools. Perquimans doesn't currently have



HOLLOWELL



PAGELS



SPAUGH



WHITE

### HOW THEY ANSWERED

■ See candidates' bios and responses to Q&A - 6

a tennis team and the soccer team uses a field at the Perquimans County Recreation

Center.

The facility would be on donated land across Edenton Road Street from the high school. As of now, just \$12,000 has been raised for the project.

Last year the school system divided the project into two phases and made some changes but funding

remains the issue.

The status of the athletic facility was one of the four questions The Perquimans Weekly posed to the candidates. They were asked to respond in their own words in 100 words or less.

Ralph Hollowell, 47, is the lone incumbent on the ballot. Amy Spough, 46, did

serve a four-year term in 2008-12 and did not seek re-election but is running again. Also in the field are two former educators, Charles "Chuck" Pagels, 68 and Anne White, 68.

While there are three seats on the board open, voters are limited to voting for just one candidate. The race is non-partisan.

Pagels suggested a broader support group could make the athletic complex work.

"Exploring the athletic complex idea with other agencies, units of government, and community

See SPEAK OUT, 4

