

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Cougars deny Pirates season opening win, 7

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

Teachers urged to look deeper

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than 350 Perquimans County teachers, staff and community members were praised last week for helping raise the school system's graduation rate to an all-time high, but they were also cautioned not to judge a book by its cover during convocation ceremonies at the high school.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings praised all of the teachers for raising the four-year graduation rate to 92-percent. The crowd at the PCHS auditorium included about 310 teachers, staff, and members of the administration. Another 40 community members also attended Thursday.

The school system welcomed back about 1,800 students on Monday.

The guest speaker, Adolph Brown, PhD, dressed up to look like a teenager with baggy pants, headphones and dreadlocks. Brown is actually a college professor and in his 50s, but came across as somebody much younger.

He appeared out of place

See CONVOCATION, 2



BROWN



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County High School Principal Chante Jordan (left) and assistant principals Guy Webb and Laura Moreland get buckets of ice poured over them last Wednesday to raise money for the ALS Foundation. Doing the honors were (second row, left) Assistant Superintendent James Bunch, Superintendent Dwayne Stallings and Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

ALS challenge takes hold

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

What does a garbage truck driver from Maple, a chamber of commerce director and three high school administrators have in common with Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake and Jimmy Fallon?

They all were doused with a bucket of ice water Wednesday to raise money and awareness for ALS — the neurodegenerative disease that impacted Jim "Catfish" Hunter and thousands of others.

It's not just a Hertford thing. By Aug. 22, the national ALS Association

and its 38 chapters had received a combined \$53 million. That compares to \$2.2 million during the same period last year. The money came from existing donors and 1.1 million new ones.

The state ALS group had received \$117,000 in that same time, compared to \$18,000 in 2013.

And the numbers just keep climbing. As of Monday, the national total was up to \$79.9 million.

Within five hours on Wednesday, five people took the challenge in Perquimans County at locations that honor "Catfish"

See CHALLENGE, 3



Sid Eley (left) dumps ice cold water on Bryan Houseknecht for the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' to raise awareness for ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or better known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

See NAACP, 2

NAACP calls for board action

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The local president of the NAACP is calling for the Hertford Town Board to rescind their decision to fill a vacancy on the board with a former mayor instead of another man who narrowly lost an election last year.

Gilbert Vaughn likens the decision a throwback to the Jim Crow politics of the 1800 and 1900s that were designed to limit minority participation in government.

Sid Eley, the former mayor, is white. Archie Aples, the candidate that was passed over is black as was the previous occupant of that seat — Anne White. White stepped down from the board in July to take a seat on the Perquimans County School Board.

"During the town council meeting on Aug. 11 I observed Town Council Members Carlton Davenport, Lillian Holman and Ed Lane vote against the recommendation of their colleagues, Mayor Horace Reid and (former) Council member Anne White..." Vaughn said in a statement.

"Both counseled that Mr. Aples be appointed to complete the duration of Councilwoman White's term of office. Council members Davenport, Holman, and Lane voted against that advisement."

Parents, teachers adjust to changes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County school officials reported few problems Monday as more 1,800 students reported to school — some of them for the very first time and more than 400 to a new traffic pattern.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings and other top school officials were there early at Perquimans Central School where a new traffic pattern was put into place.

The change means buses will load and unload in front of the school, not behind it. Parents who want to drop off their child now do so behind the school.

The \$80,000 project was de-

signed to eliminate the backup of traffic onto Winfall Boulevard. It was a welcome change for Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer.

"It's been this way forever," he said of the traffic issue. "I've seen it so bad traffic was backed up all the way to Larry's Drive Inn, a distance of almost a mile."

Both Shaffer and Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy David Murray were out Monday to direct traffic. They expect they'll be back until parents get used to the new traffic pattern.

Principal Melissa Fields was pleased with how the system worked for the first morning, but agreed there were some small hitches.

"I'm encouraged," Fields said. "It's the first day of school and a lot of parents want to be there to take their child to school. We expected a backlog."

Including about 36 Pre-K students, Central has an enrollment of about 485 this year. Of that, 143 are Kindergarten students, many of which are attending Central for the very first time.

Perquimans County High School had one potential problem, but Mother Nature lent a hand — at least for Monday.

A large air conditioning unit that serves the cafeteria failed over the summer. A replacement

See FIRST DAY, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy David Murray directs a car to go to the next entrance at Perquimans Central School Monday morning. The school system has changed the traffic pattern and moved bus parking to the front of the school to reduce the backup of traffic onto Winfall Boulevard.

Indian Summer Festival coming September 5

From staff reports

The annual Indian Summer Festival will kick off in just nine days.

During the two-day event, the boat ramps behind Hertford Town Hall will be closed to boaters. The area will be used for a Wheeled Vehicle Show during that period.

One new addition to the

festival will be a booth by the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity. Visitors will get to learn how to use a power drill, hand saw, wood plane and other tools.

Habitat will also be holding a raffle of dog houses that will be donated to the Tri-County Animal Shelter to help place animals in new homes.

The festival runs from Sept. 5 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. until Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. A special Indian Summer Festival magazine appears in this edition of the Perquimans Weekly.

PCHS bus students escape injury

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Firefighters and law enforcement meet with school officials Monday next to the bus that was involved in an accident.

A school bus carrying Perquimans County High School students home from the first day of school was broadsided by a car driven by another student Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported, but the 21 students on the bus were loaded onto another bus and taken back to the high school.

Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman said it would be sometime Tuesday before full details of the accident were available. According to information released by the police department, the driver of the 2002 Honda Civic that hit the bus was Lindsay Nicole Dalton, 16, of Center Hill Highway.

Freeman said the car was headed down

See BUS WRECK, 2



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Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford

CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, BEER GARDEN & MORE

Free Street Dance Friday Night - The Rhondels

Sept. 5th, 6 to 10:00 p.m.

Sept. 6th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.