

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



PCHS celebrates seniors on Senior Night, pages 5 & 9

Schools looking at ROTC program

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools is considering bringing a Junior ROTC program to the high school.

The school board agreed last week to continue to study the issue. If enough students want the program and if the money can be found to pay for it, it could be one or two years before it's in place.

Perquimans has not had an on-site junior Reserve Officer Training Program in the past but it did partner with the Edenton-Chowan schools to send Perquimans County students that wanted to participate to Edenton.

But now a vast majority of students in northeastern North Carolina do have access to a JROTC program and Perquimans officials want to see if there is interest locally.

Perquimans, with 1,772 students, is the largest county in the northeast that does not have one. The others without a program are Gates County with 1,652 students, Hyde with 588 and Tyrrell with 549.

Each branch of the military offers a JROTC program, but the Army's program is the largest. Of the 12 high schools that offer JROTC in the northeast, eight are aligned with the Army. Three — North-eastern, Pasquotank and Currituck — are Air Force programs. Camden's works with the Coast Guard.

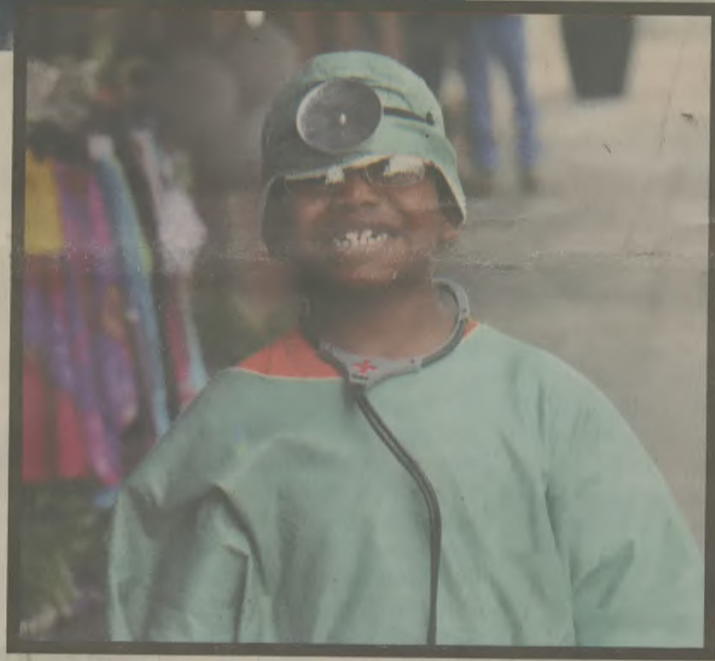
It appears unlikely that the Perquimans County program would be associated with the Army. For now, the Army has put on hold on any new programs, said Lt. Col. George Nelson, the instructor at John A. Holmes High School. The Army has 1,731 JROTC units in 50 states, but has reached its funding limit.

Nelson said no matter what branch of the military that's involved, the programs are all similar.

"In the military the truth changes pretty quickly, but if it is Air Force, Army or Navy, they're all about the same," Nelson said last week. "All of them focus on citizenship and

See ROTC, 2

HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Dr. Robert Lane (top photo, right) and Devin Gregory escort Lane Gregory down Market Street during Halloween in Hertford on Friday.

Shayon Richards (bottom photo) dressed as a doctor to go trick or treating in downtown Hertford Friday.

Child service agencies hold mixer in Edenton

From staff reports

The Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership held an Albemarle area agency mixer Oct. 27 to give representatives of different agencies that work with children the opportunity to get to know each other and learn more about what the other agencies do.

There were 74 people who attended, representing 45 agencies. The

event, held at Leon Nixon Catering in Edenton, was sponsored by the Transformation Zone grant and the East Carolina Behavioral Health Chowan County



Collaborative Committee. "When I was inviting someone to the event, I described some of the goals and tried to get them to visualize what it would

be like to know where to send a family for help," said Sarah Williams, implementation coach for Chowan County's Transformation Zone grant.

The grant is part of the Race to the Top grant and was awarded to Chowan, Bertie, Beaufort and Hyde counties. The agencies that partici-

PHOTO COURTESY SARAH WILLIAMS

Representatives from Albemarle area agencies participate in "agency speed dating" during the Albemarle Area Agency Mixer on Oct. 27.

participated in planning the event were

Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership, ECBH, Albemarle Regional Health Services Triple P, Our Place and the Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center.

Williams said participants were mainly from

See MIXER, 2

Lack of meeting space holding library back

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Public libraries may be all about books and words, but supporters of a plan to build a new one in Perquimans County say it's the numbers that show the need for more

space.

With 5,900 square feet, Perquimans is the smallest of the four libraries in the Pettigrew library system. The branch in Tyrrell County has 7,500 square feet, Washington has 8,900 square feet and Edenton's Shepard-Pruden has 12,000 square feet.

The other three libraries also have something that Perquimans County lacks — a place for meetings. That also shows in the numbers.

In the fiscal year that ended in June, Perquimans County had 93 people participate in meetings at the library. The Washington library by comparison had 10 times that amount and meeting attendance at the Edenton library totaled 2,560. Even Tyrrell County, with a county population less than a third of Perquimans, had 1,759 people attend library programs.

"We have no place to meet," said Anita Bennett,

the librarian in Hertford.

The county has put a new library on its 10 year capital improvement program but so far the \$2.5 million to build it hasn't been committed.

It's not just about meetings. Libraries in the Pettigrew system still do a brisk business when it comes to books. In the fiscal year that ended in June, Perquimans circulated 32,000 books. It

See LIBRARY, 2

Hundreds turn out early to vote

From staff reports

Perquimans County Democrats made a strong showing in early voting for Tuesday's general election.

Through the end of early voting Saturday, 751 Democrats had cast a ballot. That compares to 472 unaffiliated voters and

453 Republicans.

Women outnumbered men by a margin of 882-to-795. Whites also outnumbered blacks by a margin of 1,326-to-343.

Election results from Tuesday were not available due to the Perquimans Weekly deadline. Results will be published in the Nov. 12 edition.



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