

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 14, 2015 - JANUARY 20, 2015

Pirates Roundup: Lady Pirates unable to top Gates, boys go 1-2 for week, 7

50 cents

Nixon to head EMS services

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

One person is now in charge of both emergency management and emergency medical services in Perquimans County.



NIXON

Jonathan Nixon took over the position effect Jan. 1. Until he retired in November, Larry Chappell was in charge of the emergency medical services (EMS) department. Jarvis Winslow served as part-time director of emergency management. Both

See EMS, 3

CAR FIRE BLOCKS TRAFFIC



Hertford firefighters respond to a car fire in the southbound lane of U.S. 17 at the intersection of Harvey Point Road on Thursday. No injuries and no accident were reported, but the fire did temporarily block some traffic on the road.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

ECSU student to speak at event

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The president of the Student Government Association at Elizabeth City State University is scheduled to be the guest speaker at a Martin Luther King Jr. event Monday in Hertford.



STROTHER

A motorcade is set to leave Perquimans County Middle School at noon Monday and proceed to First Baptist Church. The event starts there at 1 p.m.

Speaking will be McKinley Strother, a 20-year-old who hails from Hampton, Va.

He plans to talk about how some of King's dreams remain just dreams.

"Some of the things that Dr. King fought for are a lot of the things people still deal with," Strother said Monday.

One issue is voting rights. The N.C. General Assembly passed a law that will require all voters to have a photo ID by 2016. Critics argue that is designed to keep blacks and the poor from exercising their right to vote.

Strother picked ECSU in part because it was close to home and in part because even with out-of-state tuition it was reasonably priced compared to some state schools in Virginia.

"I heard it was very family oriented and it is," Strother said.

Strother is studying journalism at ECSU, but hopes to keep learning.

"I aspire to going to law

See STROTHER, 2

Woman adjusting while waiting for heart

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Teri Crowe doesn't worry about the little things as much anymore.

She says three heart attacks will do that to a person.

Crowe hopes to get on the transplant list for a new heart, but until that happens she tries to take life in stride.

"I've been doing pretty well, knock on wood," Crowe said last week. "But you never know. Something like this does open your eyes."

Crowe, 52, had her first heart attack in 2012.

"Heart attacks for women aren't the same as for men," she said. "In men it's a tightening in the chest and pain. For me, I just couldn't breathe."

The second heart attack came in August 2013.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A chicken plate fundraiser is planned for Friday to benefit Teri Crowe, a Belvidere resident, who needs a heart transplant.

"I'd just left Norfolk after that one and got home and then I had a major one in September."

Doctors determined Crowe needed a new heart, but in the meanwhile a pump was implanted

to keep her alive. She's had it a year now and adjusted.

When Crowe is out and about she carries a battery pack about the size of a purse. When she goes to sleep at night, she plugs herself into the wall.

"It tends to be hard to sleep at night, but if the line got disconnected that would be it. But I've just learned to adjust.

"One difference is I work out now. I never used to do that, but I do Zumba twice a week and I'm eating a lot healthier now than I ever have.

She also quit smoking long before she ever had the first heart attack.

"I wish now I had never smoked, and I tell people don't ever start."

Even getting on the transplant list isn't a guarantee of anything.

See HEART, 2

Area customers enjoying lower propane prices

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Motorists aren't the only ones enjoying lower fuel prices.

Homeowners, farmers or anyone who uses propane for heating is seeing a big difference from just a year ago.

The winter of 2013-14 proved to be a double whammy. Not only were tempera-

tures abnormally low, fuel prices were high.

Propane prices spiked at about \$4 per gallon in late January 2014. As of last week, the fuel was selling in the range of \$1.75 or \$1.80.

"I'm sure it makes customers happy," said Kenneth Winslow, the branch manager for Crossroads in Perquimans County.

"It makes me happy, I have to buy it like everybody

else."

Durwood Reed of Reed Oil and Propane in Hertford said the prices are a relief to customers. As of Monday, the cash price of propane was \$1.80. That's up slightly.

"The way it was going, I thought it was going to keep getting lower, but if you look, gasoline prices are also up a little."

One reason early 2014 was so bad was farmers in

the Midwest were using very large amounts of propane to dry corn. Some farmers were getting a bumper crop but it developed later in the season and rain kept it wet so the corn needed more drying.

Unlike gasoline, which is a direct product of the production process, propane is a byproduct. It's created when processing natural gas and refining petroleum.

Lewis Smith, a retired agriculture extension agent for Perquimans County, said falling propane prices aren't helping farmers at the moment, but they could if the prices remain low through the year. Propane to dry grain isn't needed right now.

Smith thinks the biggest benefit so far is for consumers.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said the

lower gasoline prices will help the county's budget a little. What's helping even more is the gradual shift to buying more efficient cars for the sheriff's department.

"In the grand scheme of things it probably won't do much, but if you can pay \$30 to fill up your gas tank, instead of \$55 or \$60 that's more money in your pocket and that should impact people's attitudes."

Former local teacher name to high post

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

Chowan Middle School Principal Tanya Turner has been named assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for the Edenton-Chowan Schools effective July 1.

The school board gave its approval during its Jan. 5 monthly board meeting. Superintendent Rob Jackson recommended Turner for the position at the con-



TURNER

clusion of a month-long application and selection process, school officials said.

"I am excited about the leadership and expertise Ms. Turner will bring to our K-12 curriculum and instructional program as she works with our teachers, principals and directors in continuing to move our school system forward," Jackson said.

Turner's academic career began in 1992 in neighboring Perquimans County,

Club gives Hertford woman top award

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Nell Drees of Hertford (left) accepts a gift from Edenton Woman's Club President Susan Nolton, right, after being named the club's Woman of the Year. Drees chaired last year's district arts festival on behalf of the organization. She was recognized during the EWC's monthly meeting on Jan. 7.

Hertford resident Nell Drees has been named the Edenton Woman's Club's Woman of the Year.

Drees, who chaired the successful district arts festival on behalf of the club in 2014, was praised by EWC President Susan Nolton for her hard work on the event.

"You did a tremendous job," Nolton told Drees, who said later she was surprised when her name was announced as recipient of the prestigious award.

Drees said she began attending EWC meetings in 2011 with her friend Jeanne Marquitz and that her involvement grew from there. She said she enjoys being a part of an organization that does so much.

"I like that they are a service-oriented club," she said.

Among the organizations the EWC supports is the Boys and Girls Club of Edenton/Chowan,

See WOMAN, 2



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See TURNER, 3