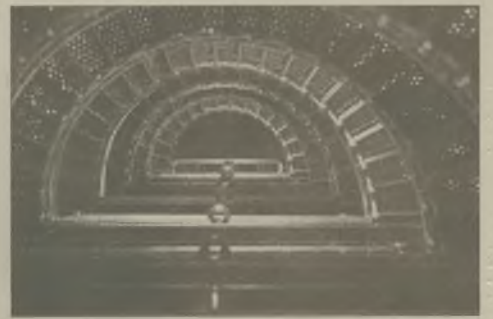
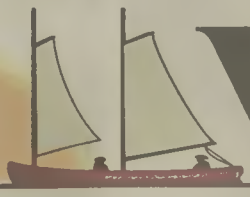


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Photographers to exhibit at library, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015

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Parksville club honored by DOT

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jarod Lowery (right) with Gov. Pat McCrory's office congratulates members of the Forrestburg Ruritan Club for 20 years with the Adopt-A-Highway program. Pictured are Bobby Eure, Keith Matheson, Kristie Matheson, Curtis Eure, Faye Eure, Hunter Umphlett, Yvonne Sawyer, Suzy Fennell and Dave Fennell. Not pictured are David Abshire, Joe Parker, Janet Parker and Gail White.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Perquimans County Ruritan Club was honored last month as the county's longest serving participant in the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

For 20 years, Forestburg Ruritans have picked up more than 10 tons of trash from along roads. The statewide program was established in 1988.

Mike Causey, the state coordinator for the N.C. Department of Transportation, said the recognition is a big deal. The state currently has about 5,000 groups in

the program.

"Only a small percentage of groups reach this milestone," Causey said.

Over the years, 39 different groups or individuals have participated in Adopt-A-Highway in Perquimans County. Causey said the Jaycees were the first. They signed a contract in October 1988 and participated until March 1997.

"It looks like in the early years of the program, Perquimans had 12 or 13 groups participating at any one time — double the number of groups that

See HONORED, 2

Fields ready for new role

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The way Melissa Fields views it, she won't be a stranger when she takes the helm at Perquimans County High School this month.

She already knows the students.

"They're just bigger now," she said.

Fields worked with most of this year's high school class when they were young children. She spent 12 years as media coordinator at Perquimans Central and the past four and half years as principal.

"Many of the students at the high school now I've known since they were in Pre-K," Fields said last week. "I've worked with them, their siblings and their families."

Fields will be replacing Chante Jordan who resigned to take a position with the Gates County Schools. That's not the only change. Both high school assistant principals are gone, one resigned to take a job near Charlotte. The other, Laura Moreland, will become

See NEW ROLE, 7



FIELDS

'LOVE PQ WEEK'



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Benjamin Mummert uses a sledge hammer to knock off the roof over a porch of a home on Market Street last week. It was part of an effort by Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church during "Love PQ Week."

See full story and more photos in next week's edition of The Perquimans Weekly.

A woman and some children paint the restrooms at the Perquimans County High School athletic complex last week.



Bridge land was offered to DOT

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The previous owner of a key piece of property in two of the three scenarios to replace Hertford's S-Bridge offered to sell the house to the state in 2008 to make way for a new bridge.

The letter, dated Sept. 8, 2008, was from Ned Nielsen to the N.C. Department of Transportation. It was just one page in a 161-page document that made up a Coast Guard report released July 24.

The Coast Guard document concludes that removing the S-Bridge will have an adverse impact on the historic district and calls for parties to find ways to mitigate the situation.

Nielsen died in March 2009, but he saw the potential for the property on Phelps Street.

Nielsen's letter was addressed to the previous DOT project engineer as well as Teresa Gresham, a consultant for Kimley-Horne, an engineering firm working with DOT.

"As you may be aware, the 103 Phelps St., property presents an ideal terminus for the proposed new

See LAND, 2

Standout athlete Whidbee turns to art

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Football may have gotten Lamar Whidbee into college, but it is his art that is propelling him to the next level.

Whidbee was three-sport athlete at Perquimans County High School. As a junior and a senior he was all-conference and all region in football.

In 2007 and 2008, Whidbee was named The Daily Advance's top male track and field athlete of the year. His senior year he won the state championship in the 200-meter.

Whidbee, now 25 and living in Durham, graduated high school in 2008 and went to Winston-Salem State University on a football scholarship. He later transferred to N.C. Central University where he graduated.

Now his sights are set on a master's degree in art from UNC-Chapel Hill.

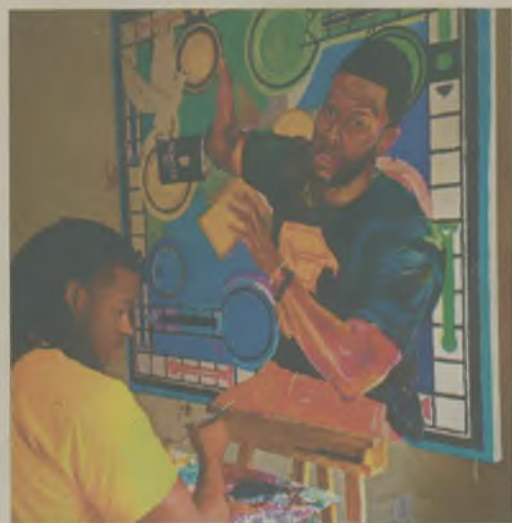
"I wasn't as interested in art in high school, I was leaning more towards sports," he said. And in that he excelled. The 6-foot-3 wide receiver was red-shirted his first year at WSSU but the following year he started all 11 games for the Rams in 2009. He

finished the season ranked second on the team in receptions (16) and receiving yards (208).

"In the spring of 2011 I sat aside my helmet and cleats after 13 years, picked up a brush for the first time and refused to look back," he said. "I never thought of it as at an option. I didn't know what I was going to do and art sort of fell into my lap."

Whidbee credits a lot to Beverly McIver, an art teacher at N.C. Central. She has since been named the

See WHIDBEE, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lamar Whidbee, a former standout athlete at Perquimans County High School, is now focused on art.

Perquimans man selected to lead COA's Edenton-Chowan campus

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Durant's Neck man who got his start at a community college has been named to lead the College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan campus as the new dean.

Charles Purser took the position effective Monday.

Purser was born in New Bern and lived in Gates County before moving to Perquimans County about 10 years ago. He has been employed with College



PURSER

of The Albemarle for more than 14 years and was most recently the department chair of design, manufacturing, and industrial technology and an associate professor of architectural technology.

Purser has spent most of his time working out

of COA's main campus in Elizabeth City, but for the past two years he's basically worked out of the new COA facility in Currituck County. As a department chair, some of his responsibilities included programs run at the Chowan campus.

Purser got his first degree, an associate's degree in drafting and design, from Tidewater Community

College. He then earned a bachelor's degree in technology education from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in adult education and leadership from East Carolina University.

Purser was chosen as the college's State Board of Community Colleges and R. J. Reynolds Teacher of the Year in 2012. He's also a licensed general contractor.

COA has had a presence in Chowan County since 1989 when an adult education program was established to increase literacy. It's since added culinary technology, air conditioning/heating/refrigeration and electrical systems technology programs.

He said one of his goals

See PURSER, 2



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