

STORM

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able to return to school on Monday. They were out all week as were the school systems in Camden and Pasquotank counties.

Perquimans was taking it a day at a time early last week. Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman and emergency management officials made the call to close Monday and on Monday decided to close Tuesday and Tuesday decided to close Wednesday.

But when Cheeseman spent two hours touring roads in the northern part of the county Wednesday it became clear it just wasn't going to be safe to reopen the schools at all last week.

"When I got to see with my own eyes the flooding, the idea of running buses and doing detours and putting some kids on a bus for five hours a day was out of the question," Cheeseman said.

"When you look at pictures from across the state of tractor trailers in sink holes and cars in sinkholes I'd rather have the challenge of fixing the school calendar than have to face one of our stakeholders whose family member was hurt," Cheeseman said.

"People may see cars passing over flooded roads, but we're talking, heavy,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Men tear out the walls and the insulation at Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church activity center because 18-inches of water came into the building.

heavy buses," Cheeseman said. "We have junior and seniors driving cars to school and some of our staff drive long distances, Cheeseman said.

All of the area school systems are going to have to find ways to make up the lost time. The state requires students are offered 1,025 hours of instruction. The original Perquimans calendar had 1,080 hours built in.

The Perquimans board will meet on Oct. 24 to discuss a plan to make up the

time. "We'll have a plan to present to the board we believe parents, employees and stakeholders will be very happy with," Cheeseman said.

"We're not going to talk about Saturday (school), I want to be clear on that," Cheeseman said. "We're going to be going to school for teaching and learning, not just coming for seat time. "Saturday school is the last option and right not it's not even on my radar."

CRAWFORD

Continued from 1

than \$40,000.

According to Bob Clinkscapes, the president of the school foundation, the money received through the trust is not "restricted" which means the dollars can be used for any of the programs and projects that the foundation currently sponsors. However, in speaking with the Crawford family, the foundation board believes it was the intent of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford to

create an endowment to offer scholarships to underprivileged students.

Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the foundation, confirmed the foundation board voted unanimously to establish the John and Betty Crawford Scholarship for graduating seniors from Perquimans County High School. The scholarship will begin with the graduating class of 2017 or 2018, depending on the timing of the liquidation of the trust.

The scholarship will be available to a student seek-

ing a degree in a medical field or nursing, pharmacy or physician's assistant.

"I appreciate and applaud the fact that Dr. and Mrs. Crawford elected to support our efforts and that they recognized that an investment in the foundation is not only an investment in improving public education, but also an investment in the future of Perquimans County," Lassiter said.

"The Foundation is eager to expand efforts to support innovation that increases student achievement for every student in Perquimans

County Schools," Lassiter said.

The Crawford gift represents the second large gift the foundation has received in the past three months. Harvey and Elizabeth Alter recently donated land to the foundation valued at \$76,000. The foundation will sell the land and use the proceeds.

The largest foundation gift remains that of Walker and Marjorie Rayburn in 2011 when they transferred stock to the foundation, valued at \$120,000 to create a scholarship for a graduating senior. The Walker and Marjorie Rayburn Educational Scholarship (\$20,000) is awarded annually to a deserving student at Perquimans High School. The scholarship each year is made possible through the earnings from the endowment created by the initial donation and continued generosity by the Walker and Marjorie Rayburn, Lassiter said.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TODAY

Art exhibit
 The Perquimans Arts League will host an exhibit of paintings by Hertford native Lamar Whidbee through Oct. 28. at the gallery, 109 N. Church St.

THURSDAY

Bingo
 American Legion Post 126 hosts bingo on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. at their building at 111 W. Academy St.

Movies at the Library
 Every third Thursday of the month, the Perquimans County Library will offer a movie geared toward adults at 10 a.m.

Weight loss
 Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) holds weekly support group meetings on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Perquimans County Senior Center. Call 426-2022 or visit HYPERLINK "http://www.tops.org" www.tops.org.

FRIDAY

Lobster Sale
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church will hold a lobster sale Friday from 1 to 6 p.m. at the church office. Tickets are sold in advance at the church office from 9 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday or by calling 426-5542.

SATURDAY

Democratic Rally
 The Perquimans County Democratic Party will hold a rally Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. until noon at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Fish Fry
 The Bear Swamp-Beach Springs Ruritans will sponsor a benefit fish fry for Jason Warren Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at W.M. Eure and Sons Construction Company on Cedar Stretch Road. Cost \$8.

TUESDAY

Weight Watchers
 Weight Watchers will meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Hertford United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. Call 331-5426.

OCT. 27

Life Line Screening
 Hertford Baptist Church will host Life Line Screening Oct. 27. For more information, call 888-653-6551.

OCT. 28

Jollification
 The Perquimans County Restoration Association will host Jollification in conjunction with Belvidere Day Oct. 28 from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. Tickets for Jollification are \$20 and includes home tours, dinner and music. For more information call 426-7567, 426-5657, 297-2875 or 297-2400.

OCT. 31

Halloween downtown
 The Perquimans County Chamber is hosting Trick or Treat with downtown Hertford merchants from 3-5 p.m. on Oct. 31

Trick or Treat
 American Legion Post 126 will hold "Trick or Treat" Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. at the Post in Hertford.

NOV. 4

BBQ chicken dinner
 The Bethel Ruritan Club will hold a BBQ chicken dinner Nov. 4 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Eat in or take out, \$8 donation.

NOV. 5

Hertford UMC
 The Hertford United Methodist Women will hold their Holiday Bazaar and chicken salad luncheon on Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. For advance tickets (\$8), call 426-5467. Items for sale include baked goods, home canned goods, fresh produce, plants, cutlery, hand crafted items and salted peanuts

Chill Cook-Off
 The fourth annual Market Street Chili Cook-Off will be held Nov. 5 from 4-8 p.m. in the 200 block of Market Street. Bring your chair and favorite beverages. The event is free. For more information contact toddfromiowa@gmail.com.

Holiday and Craft sale
 The Perquimans County Seniors Center will host a holiday and craft sale Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

NOV. 19

Spaghetti Dinner
 A spaghetti dinner will be held Nov. 19 at the Perquimans County Recreation Center to raise money to furnish the new library. Eat-in tickets are \$10 and will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Take out orders will be \$7 and available from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call Doug Layden at 297-2875 or Muriel Harmon at 312-6348.

The deadline for the What's Happening column is Friday at noon. Please email to perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com.

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