

THE PERQUIMANS



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"News from Next Door"

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Storm cancels second day of school

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michelle Swinney's class at Perquimans County Middle School settles in for work on Monday.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County students returned to class this week — even if it was for just a day.

Classes were canceled Tuesday because of the threat of high winds from a tropical weather system passing through the area.

Perquimans County Middle School Principal Laura Moreland said it was the right thing to do. Wind gusts of up to 55 miles per hour were predicted. "I would rather be safe than sorry,"

Moreland said. "I believe our superintendent and our leadership made the right decision."

The middle school is expected to have 349 students this year. Moreland said 335 of them were there for the first day of class Monday. She said it's not unusual for attendance to be a little low on the very first day.

"We were open for business as usual and hitting the ground running," Moreland said.

The middle school will start sending out application forms next week for students to join clubs. The school

started the program last year. On every other Friday, traditional classes will end at 2 p.m. and students will spend the last hour of school that day in their club.

"We tried it last year and it was exciting."

There are clubs that focus on baking, or robotics and a host of other things.

"We're seeing that kids are creative and the kids have a lot of talents beyond just math, English and social

See SCHOOL, 2

Post Office hours expand

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The U.S. Postal Service may not move the Hertford Post Office, but it will be keeping it open more and try and fix a parking problem.

Efforts to relocate the postal facility on Grubb Street gained strength last year after a motorist accidentally drove through the front glass of the facility and the hole was boarded up with plywood for more than four months.

That angered some residents who felt it was an eyesore and they mounted a petition.

Perquimans County Commission took up the cause, and the glass was replaced, but the complaints didn't fade away. Perquimans County Frank Heath said he's been in almost monthly contact with the postal service about the other problems.

The postal service doesn't own the Grubb Street, but instead leases it from a New York City real estate firm. The post office has been there since 1960.

On Monday Heath said the postal service has agreed to keep the post office open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday starting Sept. 5.

The hours of operation had been a complaint from consumers since it closed for lunch from noon until 1:30 p.m. — the one time of day when many people say they have the time to go there.

"I think that was one of the things the community was looking for," Heath said. "I look at it (the longer hours) as a step in the process."

Heath said he hasn't given up getting a new location for the post office, and will

See HOURS, 2

PIRATES PLAY HOME FRIDAY



PHOTO BY JIM GREEN

Perquimans County High School's Mason Votava breaks a tackle in last week's game. The Pirates are scheduled to play their first home game of the season against Southside on Friday at 7 p.m.

'Toast the Perquimans' is coming

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Toast the Perquimans, a craft beer and wine tasting event with food trucks will take place Sept. 23 Hertford Bay Marina behind Hertford Town Hall.

Historic Hertford Inc. is putting on the event, which will offer beer and wine to ticket holders as well as the opportunity to buy food from food trucks that are coming. The event runs from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Music will be performed by Kudzu Junction.

Tickets are \$25 if purchased before Sept. 15. Afterwards the price goes to \$30. They are available at Carolina Trophy, 109 N. Church St. or on-line at toasttheperquimans.com. For non-drinkers, tickets are \$10 and include water and soda.

Susan Cox, a member of HHI, said 150 tickets have been sold. The goal is 300 tickets, but there

MORE INFO

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is the capacity to handle up to 400 people. People are advised to bring their own chairs.

On hand will be food trucks from "Y'all Eat Yet?" a restaurant from Bertie County and Inner Banks in Edenton. The food is not included in the price of admission.

Y'all Eat Yet? will offer: Drunken mussels with grilled French bread, shrimp and smoked gouda grits with sausage and peppers,

slow smoked baby back ribs and natural-cut fries, shaved filet mignon sliders with caramelized onion and horseradish Aioli, spinach salad with mandarin orange, red onion, candied pecan, and feta and white balsamic dressing (served both with or without grilled chicken breast).

Inner Banks will offer: Crab cake sliders, fish tacos, Mexican sweet corn and BBQ sliders

Williams Strawberry Farm from South Mills will have homemade ice cream. Pretzel necklaces will also be sold.

The wine list includes: Santi Pinot Grigio from Italy; Acrobat Pinot Gris from Oregon; Fournier Sauvignon Blanc from France; Glazebrook Sauvignon Blanc, from New Zealand, Chablisienne Pierrelee Chablis from France; Buxy Montagny Chardonnay from France; Tintero Moscato

See TOAST, 2

Bridge route may be tweaked

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The contractor picked to build the replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge will be allowed to modify the path of the causeway if it means reducing the time the link between Hertford and Winfall is cut off.

Three firms are vying for what may be a \$40 million contract to build the new span.

In an effort to reduce the closure and speed up construction, DOT has opted to use a design-build method to build the bridge. Traditionally DOT would design the bridge, and then bid the project out. With design-build, DOT presents a plan for what it wants and lets the winning bidder make changes if it can speed up construction even if those changes end up costing more.

David Hering a squad leader in DOT's design build team, said DOT hopes to be able to let a contract in November.

"We have a time frame for the closure of two years," Hering said. "With that there will be incentive payments if it's less than that, and liquidated damages if it's more than that."

Originally DOT estimated the closure could be as long as three years.

"That (two years) is a step in the right direction," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath last week.

Charles Woodard, the owner of Woodard's Pharmacy, fought to reduce the closure time. He agreed two years is better than three years.

Susan Cox, the owner of Carolina Trophy, said the construction will hurt merchants.

"It will really hurt businesses," she said. "If they can cut a year off that time, that would be a good thing. That would be wonderful."

DOT's original plan had been to drive pilings on either side of the existing causeway and build a low bridge over it. By doing so, the new causeway would track the old causeway.

But Hering said DOT will give the contractor the leeway to deviate from the original track by up to 100 feet if it can reduce the amount of time the link must be closed. But contract will specify that the new causeway must be at

See BRIDGE, 2

Kiffner named school district's Teacher of the Year

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Kaley Kiffner, a teacher at Perquimans County Middle School, has been named the top educator for the school district.

Also honored last week were the Teachers of the

Year at the other three schools: Kacey Stallings at Perquimans Central, Nancy Rountree at Hertford Grammar School and Michael Cartwright at Perquimans County High School.

Kiffner is an eighth grade science teacher. She's been an educator for five years.

Her principal, Laura Moreland, said Kiffner is an outstanding educator.

"I would say she is the best science teacher in the state, and I totally mean



KIFFNER



STALLINGS



ROUNTREE



CARTWRIGHT

that," Moreland said Friday. "She brings science alive for her students. She has them using her hands and brains and collaborating. They are doing experiments, not

watching it on TV."

The state tests certain grades to see how many students are proficient in certain subjects. When it comes to science, fifth grade is one,

another is eighth grade — the grade Kiffner teaches.

Last year 86 percent of PCMS eighth grades were proficient. Moreland gives the full credit to Kiffner.

"Eighty six percent is the highest I've seen, and it was all Kaley."

Kiffner, 27, is a native of Florida near Cape Canaveral. It is there that she developed a love of science. She moved to North Carolina because her husband is in the Coast Guard and is sta-

tioned here.

"Being so near the Kennedy Space Science, that's where I got a love of science."

As a teacher she said students learn by doing.

"If you're hands-on you can experience it first hand and in real life. You so much more likely to remember it."

She is intentional in building a classroom environment

See TEACHER, 2

