

THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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Retired captain to speak Saturday

From Staff Reports

Dr. Mark Olesen, an occupational and environmental medicine specialist and retired U.S. Navy Captain, will be the guest speaker at the Perquimans County Veterans observance on Saturday.

The event will be held on the courthouse lawn at the Veterans Monument at 11 a.m. The road in front of the courthouse will be closed prior to the observance. However vehicles will be permitted to enter the street to drop off those with handicaps. Parking will be limited on the street prior to the observance.

In case of inclement weather, the observance will be moved to the County Recreation Center off Harvey Point Road.

Capt. Olesen has been providing primary care services to military veterans at the Veterans Administration Albemarle Outpatient Clinic in Elizabeth City since 2012.

A native of Milwaukee, Olesen earned his bachelor of sciences degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his doctorate of medicine from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed a transitional internship at Naval Hospital Oakland in California and his residency in occupational and environmental medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. As part of his residency, Captain Olesen also earned his Master's degree in public health.

Upon completion of his internship in 1984, he reported to the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise as a general medical officer, then was re-assigned as assistant senior medical officer at Branch Medical Clinic, Naval Air Station, Alameda, CA. He served as senior medical officer, Branch Medical Clinic and Washington Navy Yard, prior to becoming specialized in occupational and environmental medicine.

After his residency, he was assigned as Head, Occupational Health Clinics, Naval Surface Warfare Centers, Indian Head, Md., and Dahlgren, VA. During that tour, he was also selected for the concurrent assignment as Head, Wellness Department, National Naval Medical Center, and Division Officer, Occupational Medicine.

Captain Olesen has held medical positions at the Navy environmental Health Center, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and in

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HALLOWEEN IN HERTFORD



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf "rides" a dinosaur past Woodard's Pharmacy last week during Trick or Treat in downtown Hertford.



Members of the Perquimans County tax staff dresses up in a 1950s theme for Halloween.



Collins Eure, age 14-months, eats ice cream while walking down Church Street during Halloween last week.



A baby is dressed up as a little monster during Trick or Treat in downtown Hertford.



"Elvis" hands out candy in front of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce last week.

County mourns prison workers

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County was mourning the loss of two more people who died from injuries they received in a failed escape attempt at the Pasquotank Correctional Institute.

The deaths of Wendy Shannon on Oct. 30 and Geoffrey Howe on Nov. 2, brings the total number of people killed with Perquimans ties to three. Veronica Darden, of Belvidere, was killed the day of the incident on Oct. 12 along with Justin Smith of Elizabeth City.

The deaths hit the community hard said Kyle Jones, the chairman of the Perquimans County Commission. He knew Howe growing up.

"As big as the county has gotten, in many ways we are still a small community," Jones said.

At the request of the Darden family, the county commission named the day of Darden's funeral as "Veronica Darden Day." At the request of the Shannon family, the board adopted a resolution honoring her accomplishments on Monday night.

"A lot of people in the county knew the victims or people close to them, and that's why you see these resolutions being passed," Jones said.

Commissioner Fondella Leigh knew Shannon for the past 30 years.



DARDEN



SHANNON



HOWE

See MOURNS, 2

Two day Riverbash event planned for April 27-28

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Planning is underway for a two-day celebration in April designed to get community organizations involved as well as celebrate the 350th anniversary of the forming of Perquimans County.

Sharon Smith, the county's tourism development director, has already reached out to the Hertford Rotary club and Historic Hertford Inc. to get their

support for Riverbash on April 27-28.

Since the end of the Indian Summer Festival in 2016, the county hasn't had a large single two-day event. Smith thinks the Riverbash may be that event.

"The idea to showcase Perquimans County in the best way possible and invite visitors to see what the county has to offer," Smith said, "We want this to be a fun thing and the premier event in the county."

There are plans to have



an art walk on the courthouse green and HHI and the Rotary are working on having a mini version of the Toast The Perquimans at the town docks, Smith said.

Food and entertainment will be provided. A fishing event for kids is also on the list.

For more information or to get involved, contact Smith at 426-5657.

The Riverbash weekend already has two events that were already scheduled that will be bringing people into the county - the fourth annual Unhilly Hundred bike race and the eighth annual Master Gardener's plant show at the Perquimans County Recreation

Department.

Katy Shook, the head of the Master Gardener program for Perquimans, Chowan and Gates County, estimates about 500 or 600 people attend that event. It runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Unhilly event draws about 50 riders, but Julie Phelps, a founder of the event, said she has high hopes there will be more. The route depends on how far riders want to go, up to

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Turnout numbers low in early voting

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

If early voting totals are any indication, just a handful of voters will be deciding who will occupy four seats on the town boards of Hert-

ford and Winfall for the next four years.

As of the close of early voting Saturday, just 218 of the 1,383 registered voters in Hertford had cast a ballot. That amounts to about 15 percent. There were 72 votes cast between noon last Monday and the end of voting on Saturday.

In Winfall, the number

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Trust funds installation of bus 'hot spots'

From Staff Reports

A \$2,000 grant by the Albemarle Community Trust to the Perquimans Schools Foundation will pay for the installation of "hot spots" on the three activity buses in the Perquimans County fleet.

Students riding the buses will have immediate access to wireless Internet while being transported to and from games, special events and field trips. Students can use the time to electronically submit class work or

homework on activity buses that have been installed with technology.

All students in Perquimans County have access to a "hand-held" device for schoolwork. According to Foundation President Antoine Moore, the school foundation board was looking for ways to eliminate any downtime during trips to extracurricular activities.

"All schools are wireless, ensuring all students have access to use their digital

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman poses with Foundation Executive Director Brenda Lassiter, Chief Technology Director Martha Nixon and Chris Powell of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation.



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