

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Band seniors honored, 6

## Sheriff to present church safety program

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White remembers the time when churches in the county kept their doors open, all the time, day or night.

It's not that way now for many of them.

"Some churches have already started locking their doors during the service,"

White said. Somebody in the church might be stationed to watch the door to let people in and out.

Tragic events have forced many churches to rethink how they operate. White plans to host a program for them on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at the media center at Perquimans County High School to talk about how to keep members of the congregation safe.

Some church members

may be arming themselves. That could deter or stop an attacker, but Sheriff White said it could end in tragedy.

He said just because someone has a gun doesn't mean they have the skill or the mental mindset to use it in an emergency.

White said he tells people taking his concealed carry class "just because you own an airplane doesn't make you a pilot."

White said if he's going to church he doesn't carry a weapon, concealed or otherwise.

"I could, but personally I never have."

But he said taking another person's life, even in the call of duty, takes a toll.

"I've seen people who have dealt with it and it's hit them hard, very hard. I don't want to have to shoot anybody and I never have, but I

will. It's my job."

A shooting in Charleston, S.C. in 2015 helped shatter the idea that churches were always a place of safety. A white supremacist murdered nine African Americans at Emanuel AME Church.

On Nov. 5, a 26-year-old man walked into a church in Sutherland Springs, TX, and killed 26 and injured 20. The killer apparently shot himself after the shooting spree.

The North Carolina Sheriff's Association's program for church safety includes:

- Conducting a security risk assessment.
- Developing a security plan for a place of worship.
- What to do during the critical incident.
- What to do immediately after the critical incident.
- The need to provide crisis intervention stress management afterward.

## Christmas parades coming Saturday

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Perquimans County will be filled with holiday lights and sounds this Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, Historic Hertford Inc. will hold Grand Illumination from 6-7 p.m. on the courthouse square.

Most merchants will be open to kickoff holiday sales.

There will be holiday music, dance and a free gift for children.

On Saturday come the parades.

The Town of Winfall will kick off the first — an "Old Fashioned Christmas Parade" — at 11 a.m. starting at Perquimans County Middle School. The lineup starts at the school at 9:30 a.m.

The 1965 State Championship football team from Perquimans Union High School will serve as Grand Marshals. The route heads down Main Street to Winfall Boulevard and ends at Winfall Town Hall.

For more information on registering contact the Winfall Town Hall at 426-5015.

At 2 p.m., the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade in Hertford.

The Grand Marshal for

See PARADES, 4

## SANTA MAKES EARLY VISIT



Top, Santa Claus and the Grinch wave to motorists on the S-Bridge causeway last week.



Left, Perquimans Central students lean over to get a glimpse of Santa Claus Tuesday on their bus route over the S-Bridge causeway.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Bridge contract expected soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The opening of bids to replace Hertford's S-Bridge, first planned for last week, has been delayed. However DOT officials say the milestone moment on the \$40 million project may just be days away.

Three firms, Archer Western Construction, McLean Contracting and PCL Civil Constructors, made the short-list of companies wanting the contract.

The work involves removing the old bridge, replacing it with a similar swing span, and building an elevated deck over the existing causeway.

DOT still hopes construction can start in late 2019.

Jay McInnis, the project engineer for DOT, said before the contract can be awarded the state needs a signed agreement with the parties involved in the project.

"The MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) has to be signed then the state can sign off on the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) before the contract can be awarded," McInnis said.

The documents are designed to show that if a negative impact will happen,

See BRIDGE, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rocky Hock Opry cast will perform its annual Christmas show on at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Perquimans County High School Auditorium

## Rocky Hock Opry coming to PCHS auditorium

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 The Chowan Herald

The Rocky Hock Opry cast will perform its annual Christmas show on at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Perquimans County High School Auditorium

But this won't be just another pair of shows. By the time they are over, emcee Steve Evans says, the cast and crew expect to have reached an important milestone — they will hit the

half-million dollar mark in fundraising that Steve's dad, Jack Evans, set about 15 years ago. That's when he and some musician friends started the Opry shows as a way to raise money for cancer research after family members' lives were impacted by the disease.

"We're right there," Steve Evans said of reaching that goal. "These shows will put us over the top if folks just buy some tickets."

Like many of the oth-

ers attached to the show, Steve Evans is a veteran cast member. He said that he could recall missing performing only once, when his son was among a group of local students competing in an out-of-state Odyssey of the Mind competition. That time, he said, he had to call on his brother to stand in for his familiar comedic character, Flatbilly Bob.

The show will include both country songs and Christmas music.

"We're going to do the first half with country songs and then we'll come back in the second half with pretty much all Christmas songs," he said. "We've got some special things planned for these shows that we think the audiences will really like including some new music we've never done before."

The musical numbers will be complemented by the comic antics of Evans

See OPRY, 2

## Scholarship deadline coming Jan. 4

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Schools Foundation has announced the availability of the following scholarships for high school seniors attending Perquimans High School. Deadline to apply for each scholarship is Jan. 4.

■ Bessie Smith Harrell Scholarship — The Bessie Smith Harrell Scholarship of \$750 is given in honor of Bessie Smith Harrell, a native and lifelong resident of Perquimans County, who passed away in 2004. The intent of the donor, David Jordan, is that this award will encourage studying basic or applied fields of science by students. Recipients are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and character.

■ Rhonda Gregory Business Scholarship — This

\$1,000 scholarship is a scholarship sponsored by Danny and Rhonda Gregory and is offered to a PCHS senior planning to attend College of the Albemarle and entering the field of business. Recipients are selected based on financial need and academic standards.

■ Shearman Athletic Scholarship — Dave Shearman, a Perquimans County resident, sponsors the annual Shearman Athletic Scholarship of \$500 to a PCHS athlete who participates in at least one sport, has no

disciplinary referrals and maintains high academic standards.

■ Bogue Scholarship — The Bogue Scholarship of \$2500 is given by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Bogue, Jr. in memory of his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Bogue, aunts Margaret B. Butler and Edith B. Spivey, and all the descendants of the first William Bogue of Perquimans who have called Perquimans County their home for more than

See DEADLINE, 2

## Entries sought for Senior Games

From Staff Reports

The Albemarle Senior Games will kick off in March.

The Albemarle Senior Games is sponsored by the Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging, Elizabeth City Health & Rehabilitation, The Downtown Café & Soda Shoppe, Southern Insurance Agency, Humana, and Columbia Pharmacy, in addition to the counties of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washing-

ton. The Senior Games is a health promotion program for adults 50 years of age and better. There are activities designed for individuals at various fitness levels. Some of these activities are golf, bowling, tennis, track, bocce, pickleball and swimming, as well as special programs such as SilverStriders, the national award-winning walking program and SilverArts, the statewide arts program that celebrates the accom-

See GAMES, 4

