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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

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## Deputies respond to skull found, shooting

Travonte Madison, 23, suffered serious injuries from gunshot wounds at his home on Chestnut Street. Madison was airlifted to the hospital.

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

A resident in New Hope discovered a human skull Saturday on the shore near Web Street, Perqui-

mans County Sheriff Shelby White said Tuesday.

Sheriff Shelby White said the location is at the very end of New Hope where it meets the Albemarle Sound.

The skull was sent to the medical examiners office in Greenville.

There are two boaters who have been missing in waters in the area. It's also possible the skull could belong to 26-year-old Kelvin Singleton. He had escaped from law-

men in Edenton and his headless body was found April 7, 2017 in a remote Bertie County field.

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin said Singleton was not killed where the body was found. His body was identified by his fingerprints. His head was not located.

White does not believe the head belongs to Karen Bosta, a 39-year-old Perquimans County woman who has been missing.

At the same time deputies were

responding to the case of the skull, they were called to a shooting in Snug Harbor.

Travonte Madison, 23, suffered serious injuries from gunshot wounds at his home on Chestnut Street.

White said he was airlifted to a hospital, but would not say which one. He believes that robbery may have been a motive.

White said the sheriff's office has a "person of interest" that may have been involved.

### INSIDE

Three months after a deadly escape attempt, Pasquotank Correctional Institution remains seriously understaffed, based on numbers the N.C. Department of Public Safety reported Friday.

There are 104 vacancies currently at PCI, DPS spokesman Jerry Higgins reported in an email to The Daily Advance.

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## Plans for new building now on hold

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The Hertford-based Albemarle Commission will be looking for how it can use what it already has since plans for a new building have been put on the back burner.

The Commission serves a 10-county area and needed buy-in from leaders in those counties in order to borrow the money for a new building.

The Commission now leases a building owned by Perquimans County on Church Street.

Executive Director Cathy Davison said her board endorsed plans for a new building. One reason is they wanted to bring in all the employees under one roof. There was not enough space to do that with the old building. There also wasn't enough room to store some things and the Commission had to rent storage units.

"It's not about just getting a new building, it's about providing efficient services," Davison said.

Davison said the Perquimans County Commission was willing to donate property for the new \$2.2 million, 17,000 square foot structure across the street

See BUILDING, 2

## CHAMBER BANQUET AND AUCTION



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Doug Layden (right) auctions off an item held by Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce director Sid Eley on Friday night during the chamber's annual banquet held at Louise's Event Center.

## Military test to be offered

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Students at Perquimans County High School took a lot of tests this month, but this week students who want to, can take one to find out their career options in the military.

For two hours, they'll be taking the ASVAB, a multiple-choice test, administered to determine qualification for enlistment in the military.

Army Staff Sgt. Latoria Hinton said other high schools in the region have been offering it to their students, but Perquimans hasn't in the past. Hinton is a recruiter based in Elizabeth City.

"Most of the schools administer it mainly because it's a career exploration tool," she said. "It shows what kinds of jobs they would qualify for after graduation even if they don't join the military."

Administering the test at the high school has advantages, Hinton said. Otherwise students would have to schedule a time and travel to Elizabeth City and the recruiting office and take it there.

"This way they take it at their own school with their peers," Hinton said.

Taking the test doesn't require a student join the military, but it does show them what jobs they would qualify for.

"Some parents, and I'm a parent only are looking at college as an option. Sometimes you need to think outside the box."

Hinton, a native of Rocky Mount, is the mother of two.

She has one child in college and the other is a senior in high school.

Velvet Jennings Harris is also a mother of two, and both of them graduated Perquimans County High School. Both also joined the Army and Harris couldn't be happier.

The oldest, Michael Spearman, is now a Staff Sergeant and has earned a Master's Degree in college while in the Army.

"Some kids struggle in school, and he was one of them. I cried every night just hoping he would pass," Harris said.

He did graduate and joined the Army in 2008.

That meant he left home, but Harris said the military would offer him a future.

See MILITARY, 2

## Riverbash to feature 'Dine, Drink and Dance'

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

As the time draws closer, the details of this year's Riverbash Festival are coming into focus.

The event will be held April 27-28.

The inaugural Riverbash is timed with the 350th anniversary the formation of government as we know it in northeastern North Carolina. Perquimans County was formed in 1668 when Olde Albemarle was divided into what would become the first counties of North Carolina. Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Chowan represent the beginnings of local government in the state.

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

county."

Most of the events will be free, but tickets to the "Dine, Drink and Dance" event are \$25. It's being co-sponsored by Historic Hertford Inc. and the Hertford Rotary and will be held on the waterfront behind Hertford Town Hall on April 28 from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The tickets provide you a meal of steamed shrimp, or steamed crabs, or ribs; two sides and two drinks (beer, wine or soda). The location will be the parking lot behind Hertford Town Hall next to the town's dock. ID will be required for all alcohol sales.

Beverages, shrimp and crab will be available at an additional cost until sold out.

Tickets go on sale starting Feb. 5 and only 200 will be sold. Tickets will be available at Carolina Trophy, 109 N. Church St. No tickets will be sold after April 13 and no tickets

See RIVERBASH, 2

## Perquimans Library closes for relocation

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Library will be moving this week, and as a result both the old and new locations will be closed to the public.

"Hopefully everything

goes smoothly and it won't be more than a couple weeks," said Librarian Michele Lawrence.

With the move, the library's computer services will be lost and without that, it can't check out books.

"We're excited about getting back to normal," Lawrence said.

The move involves moving some 41,000 books to the new location in the 500 block of West Church Street.

## Plantation women look to help others succeed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Sometimes a little bit of help can go a long way, so once again the Albemarle Plantation Women's Club is opening up the annual Women In Transition grant program.

The APWC also funds traditional scholarships for high school seniors, but it also awards up to \$1,000 to a woman who have a strong work ethic and a plan for advancement. Applications are due back to the APWC Community Giving Committee no later than March 23.

The WIT grants are based on character, ability, having a plan and the need for financial aid, said Lisa Gregor, a member

See WOMEN, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last year's Albemarle Plantation Women's Club scholarship recipients (left to right) Amanda Pulley, Toni Woodward, Shykesha Kee, Jessica "Winter" Money, and WIT recipient Sarah Branham, and the 2017 Community Giving Co-Chairs Lisa Gregor (far left) and Patty Walsh (far right) pose with their mothers or friends. Scholarship recipients not pictured are Taylor Green and Christin Castro.

