



Rec winners, 7

"News from Next Door"

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Local, state and federal emergency officials met recently at Perquimans County High School to discuss hurricane preparedness.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Isabel's memories linger

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

As the 15th anniversary of Hurricane Isabel approaches, county officials say they are better prepared to handle a storm that size, but they aren't letting down their guard.

Before Isabel, the worst hurricane locally was Hazel in 1954, officials say.

Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon said being better prepared is an ongoing process.

"Because of a continuous process of improvement, Perquimans County is much better prepared than we

were 15 years ago. There were a lot of lessons learned from Hurricane Isabel," he said.

To get everybody on the same page, the county hosted a meeting recently with state and federal officials.

The included Nixon, Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath, Mike Strayberry from the N.C. Emergency Management agency, Jeff Orrock from the National Weather Service, Capt. Benjamin Watkins from the N.C. Civil Air Patrol, First Sgt. Zach Fromme from the N.C. National Guard's 42nd Civil Support Team, Chief Michael Peaks from the N.C.

Regional Response Team, Capt. Steve Harris of the Medical Ambulance Bus, Justin Williams from the American Red Cross and Bill Blake from the American United Way.

Nixon said the last time the county has on a meeting of this scale was in 2015.

"Prior to that, Jarvis Winslow held one annually for several years," Nixon said. "I believe this is the first time we've had this many resources or outside agencies present. The goal was to share with first responders and our partner agen-

See ISABEL, 2

CREEK DRIVE BRIDGE CLOSED



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Signs show that Creek Drive near the Perquimans County Emergency Management office is closed. DOT closed the road Monday so the bridge can be replaced. Creek Drive should reopen in November.

Winfall man gunned down

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
 AND PETER WILLIAMS
 Staff Writers

An Elizabeth City man with a prior criminal history that includes convictions for violence is being held without bond at Albemarle District Jail after being charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of a Winfall man in southern Pasquotank County last month.

Dazis Davante Bonds, 22, of the 1100 block of Wood Street, was arrested July 2 in connection with the slaying of Devon Khamari Revelle, 21, of Perquimans County, Pasquotank Sheriff Randy Cartwright said in a press release.



REVELLE

Cartwright said deputies received a call at 6:45 p.m. June 30 that a person had been shot on Esclip Road. When deputies arrived, they found a man lying in the roadway with multiple gunshot wounds. Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Medical Services pronounced Revelle dead at the scene.

A memorial tribute on the Dennis J. Stallings Memorial Funeral Home website said Revelle, known as "Dookie" had a love for playing drums and supporting his team, the Duke Blue Devils.

A funeral service was held for him Saturday at Melton Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Winfall. He was the son of Paulita Powers and Dexter Revelle.

Cartwright didn't release anything further about the investigation into Revelle's death, except that the probe remains in its early stages. He thanked the State Bureau of Investigation, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement, N.C. Community Corrections, the Dare County Sheriff's Office and Elizabeth City police for assisting with the probe.

"I am happy with the work these agencies have done in getting this person off our streets so quickly," he said, referring to Bonds.

Bonds has a history of prior convictions in Pasquotank County, including felony accessory after the fact for his



BONDS

See COACH, 2

Schools hire three new football coaches

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County High School will host a meet and greet tonight at 6 p.m. in the high school gym with players and three new football coaches.

Randy Awrey will take the helm of the Pirates varsity team this season. The Michigan native has more than 30 years of football coaching experience and comes to Perquimans from Concordia University. Also new this year will be John Nixon who



AWREY

will head the jayvee program and Lenard Bartlett who will be head coach at Perquimans County Middle School. Awrey joined the Concordia program in the spring of 2013 and since then has had a record of 12 wins and 36 losses. Over the course of his college career, his record is 134-106-1.

Awrey, 62, said he's making the switch in part for family reasons. He also said he's disillusioned with football at the college level.

Awrey said he was impressed with the people in Perquimans County.

"The people were probably the biggest seller for me." He mentioned Principal Wayne Price and Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman.

Awrey said he wanted to move closer to his daughter and her four children. She lives

in Apex now, but they are looking to move to Virginia Beach where her husband's parents live.

"If you know anything about grandchildren, they steal your heart," he said. "I am a man of faith, and I prayed about it. I think this is a calling for me and it's going to be a welcome change. At the collegiate level, it's more about business. I believe in doing what's right for student athletes."

Book hopes to inspire, educate others

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Johnnie Finch came about the practice of law a little later in life than some. One reason could be he didn't see a lot of people like him, black and from a rural area, doing it.

But now at age 37, Finch has written a book to show others that it is possible if they are willing to work at it.

"Black Lawyer Confidential: Keys to Success" is a self-published book available on-line.

Finch graduated Perquimans

County High School in 1999 and went on to graduate from Elizabeth City State University. He found a career in the juvenile justice system as a youth counselor. When he was about 27 he met a judge for lunch through a relationship with his father that changed in path.

"After that, I found it (a law career) was obtainable," Finch said.

He enrolled in Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. to study law.

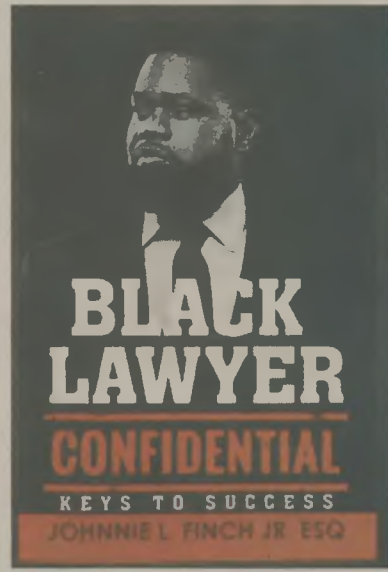
"I found law school so different than anything I'd experi-

enced going to Perquimans and ECSU. When I got to Regent, there were some many different people, some rich, but if there was a class of 100 people, there might be only two or three minorities."

It was then that he started to keep a journal to chronicle his thoughts.

He went on to graduate, pass the bar, and was sworn in as a lawyer in the old Perquimans County courthouse in October 2013.

See FINCH, 2



Black Lawyer by Johnnie Finch

See MURDER, 2

Albemarle Commission agency spearheads Dementia effort

(COMING NEXT WEEK: How Vidant Chowan Hospital is training staff there.)

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is stepping up

efforts to increase awareness about Dementia and show how communities can better deal with it



LAMB

As part of that, three informational sessions are planned in the coming months to introduce the Dementia Friends North Carolina program. Two will be in Chowan County and

one in Perquimans.

The AAA is one of the agencies within the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission. The commission covers a 10-county of north-east North Carolina. Ashley Lamb is an aging program specialist with the AAA

Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an umbrella term that describes a group of symptoms associated with a decline in memory or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday

activities. Alzheimer's disease accounts for about 60 to 80 percent of cases.

Lamb said it's critical to increase awareness and support now because the diseases tend to hit older people the most and the average age of people in the area is already high compared to national data and will only get higher.

"Statistics show that one in eight people age 65-plus and one in three age 85-plus are living with dementia," Lamb said.

The figures come from the group Dementia Friendly America.

The first local Dementia Friends meeting is Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. at Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church in Tyner. The second one is Aug. 22 at noon at the Chowan County Senior Center. On Oct. 31 at 11 a.m. there will be one at the Perquimans County Senior Center, 1072 Harvey Point Road.

Lamb said what somebody does after the hour-long session is up to them.

"The task can be as big or as small and they want it to be."

"One of the things they'll talk about is normal aging vs. signs of Dementia and when you might need to go to the doctor," Lamb said. "They'll talk about basic communications techniques."

One suggestion is to not ask a lot of questions in one big chunk. Someone may not be able to process that. Instead ask just one

See DEMENTIA, 2



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