

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Firefighters honored, 5

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The band Ellis Dyson & the Shambles is scheduled to perform in a free concert at the Riverbash event in Hertford on May 4.

## River Bash fest to return

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The second annual River Bash festival will build on the first event and span three days, not two on May 3-5.

Sharon Smith, the tourism development director for Perquimans County, said this year's premier event would be a Saturday block party on Church Street fea-

turing Ellis Dyson and the Shambles, a Chapel Hill band.

It is scheduled for May 4 starting from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The street will be blocked off from Market Street to Grubb and there will be food trucks and no admission charge.

"We are debating on calling it River Bash 2019, or Riverbash 2.0," Smith said. The theme will still be wa-

ter related. Last year it was "We'll need a bigger boat" and this year it's "Don't give up the ship."

Events will start on Friday with a fish fry by the Bear Swamp Ruritans from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Hertford town hall parking lot. From 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. there will be a Gospel Singspiration at Hertford Baptist Church. The same night there

will be a Star Wars-theme event at the Crawfish Shack to benefit the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Star Wars fans celebrate May 4th by saying "May the Fourth" be with you, a play off the movie line of "May the Force be with you," Smith said.

"It will be the third of May,

See BASH, 2

## Driver hurt in wreck

From Staff Reports

A 35-year-old Elizabeth City man was airlifted to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital after the car he was driving hit another car pulling out of a driveway in Winfall on Feb. 18.

N.C. Highway Patrolman Buddy Davis said Christopher Conroy Measmer suffered head injuries, but he was expected to make a full recovery.

Measmer was driving a 1996 Jeep southbound on Main Street about 8:45 p.m. when he struck a 2007 Mazda that was pulling out of a driveway in the 400 block of Main Street. It was driven by Diana Felisa Cooper, 41, of Elizabeth City. Cooper was cited for failing to yield the right of way.

The impact caused Measmer's vehicle to hit a pole and then it flipped over. He was traveling about 40 miles per hour.

No alcohol use was involved in the accident and both drivers were wearing seatbelts.

In addition to the highway patrol, the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Perquimans County EMS and emergency management and both the Hertford and Winfall fire departments responded to accident. Winfall Fire Chief Thomas Roach provided incident command.

Measmer was flown to the hospital by Vidant EastCare Medical Transport.

## New voting machines are coming

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

When it comes time for the municipal elections, Perquimans voters will notice a new kind of voting machine this fall.

Just what kind of voting machine isn't clear.

The county has been using a touch screen direct

See VOTING, 2

## BLACK HISTORY



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Students at Perquimans Central School sing the "Follow The Drinking Gourd" song during a Black History Month assembly this month. Escaped slaves were told to follow the Big Dipper or "Drinking Gourd" to freedom.

## Ward library prepares to open

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

In April the College of The Albemarle will unveil a renovated library named in honor of the late Perquimans County Commissioner, businessman and COA Trustee Charles H. Ward.

Ward died in September 2014 at the age of 76. He wanted to leave \$600,000 to COA for either a baseball field, or a new library. Ward made similar gesture to Perquimans

County, giving \$600,000 with the intention that it be used for either a new public library or a high school athletic complex.

By the time the gift was announced, COA had already suspended its baseball and softball programs. The college had also secured state bond funds for the library. Instead of starting a baseball program back up, the COA board agreed to apply the \$600,000 gift from Ward toward the library project and use apply that amount of other funding to other capital



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A rendering shows the outside of the Charles Ward Library.

projects.

In Perquimans County's case, by the time the Ward gift arrived, the county had already arranged funding for a new public library. Commissioners agreed to apply the \$600,000 from the Ward family toward the cost of a new athletic complex.

The ribbon cutting of the 21,000 square foot renovated library at COA will take place on April 4 at 10 a.m.

The renovations took about two years.

"The library renovation has been a significant project that we are excited to see come to fruition," said COA President Dr. Robert Wynegar. "The total project's budget, \$2.89 million, allowed for students to have an updated space for study and research, areas for collaborative work on group projects, and a second floor space for learning labs, tutoring, and placement testing. We express sincere grati-

See WARD, 2

## County considers Internet issue

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

A state lobbying group is trying to convince the General Assembly to drop a law that forbids local governments from getting in the Internet business.

Kevin Leonard, the executive director of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, said when the NCACC came up with a list of five priorities this year, broadband was at the top of the list. Leonard recently spoke to the Perquimans County Commission during their board retreat.

Commissioners agreed Perquimans has a lack of truly high speed Internet. In fact some areas of the county don't have Internet at all. Perquimans isn't alone. Many rural areas are in the same situation, Leonard said.

County manager Frank Heath estimates at least half the county lacks Internet.

"A lot of the areas are underserved, and I'm in one of them," said Heath.

Internet providers may steer clear of rural areas because there aren't enough customers to make offering the service profitable.

The 2011 state law limits the ability of local municipal governments to set up their own high-speed Internet service. The law spared cable companies from having to compete with municipal systems that could deliver the same high-speed Internet access at a lower price.

County commissioner seemed hesitant to the idea of using tax revenue to build the infrastructure to reach more people. Heath said it could be the county could apply for grants to pay for it, something a private supplier couldn't do.

"The goal is not to have us be the service provider, but instead be the infrastructure provider," Heath said.

See INTERNET, 2

## Quillon named new publisher

Adams Publishing Group

Robin L. Quillon has been named president of Adams Publishing Group of Eastern North Carolina, effective April 1. Quillon also will become publisher of The

Daily Reflector.

Most recently, Quillon has been CNHI senior vice president responsible for CNHI newspapers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and



QUILLON

See QUILLON, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The upgrade Crawfish Shack has plans to offer more to area residents.

## Crawfish Shack looks to expand

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

When The Crawfish Shack first opened, Marty and Sheryl Hurdle just wanted to be able to sell some of the harvest during the few months the crawfish were in season were in season.

That was allowed as a special events venue for farming operations. They can sell products that are raised on-site.

But as the business has grown, more and more events are taking place there on Swing Gate Road.

See EXPAND, 2



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