



Senior walk, 6

"News from Next Door"

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75 cents



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

The lack of rainfall is taking a toll on the corn crop in many areas of Perquimans County.

Lack of rain taking a toll

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A lack of rainfall has taken a toll on some area crops, especially corn, said Dylan Lilley, an extension agent in Perquimans County.

"We need rain, no doubt about it," Lilley said last week. "I've talked to some farmers who say they are seeing the bottoms of ditches that they've never seen before."

At least one Perquimans County farmer said last week if he didn't get rain by the weekend, his corn crop

would be gone for this season.

Higher powers must have heard that, because between Friday and Sunday the airport in Elizabeth City recorded just over three inches. How much fell in Perquimans County depends on where you measure it.

But before the rain, Lilley said some corn crops had suffered permanent damage.

"Some areas have been going five or six weeks without rain. Corn is our biggest worry right now.

A certain point, each day without

rain can equal a loss of one to three bushels an acre of yield. On average, Perquimans County corn has a yield of about 160 bushels an acre, Lilley said.

There is no way to say a harvest will be good or bad because soil conditions vary widely in the county, Lilley said. Some areas are very sandy and crops there are suffering, but some soils are heavier.

But Lilley points out while north-eastern North Carolina is dry, farm-

See DROUGHT, 2

Goodwin proposes ferry trial

BY JON HAWLEY
 The Daily Advance

State Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, is pursuing a trial run of an Inner Banks ferry this fall, saying he hopes it's a step toward the Harbor Town Ferry project that would link waterfronts across the Albemarle Sound.



GOODWIN

Goodwin, a former state Ferry Division director, said he's seeking other lawmakers' support for operating a ferry this fall. Whether other lawmakers will back funding for the ferry remains to be seen, but Goodwin said everyone he's presented the idea to thinks it's an "interesting project." Ferries can drive up tourism, grow businesses and spur waterfront improvements, he said, citing the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry as an example of that.

Goodwin also said the trial ferry should help make the case for the Harbor Town Ferry project. Proposed over a year ago by Nick Didow, a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill business professor, the idea calls for buying five fast ferries and starting a service connecting Edenton, Hertford, Elizabeth City, and

See FERRY, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A firefighter works to open a door during a drill Friday on Burnt Mill Road.

Counties hold hazmat drill

From Staff Reports

Chowan and Perquimans County public safety personnel joined together on Friday to conduct a joint training exercise on Burnt Mill Road.

The exercise was designed to test hazmat response and decontamination, mass casualty triage and transportation and communication between the counties' 911 centers.

The exercise began at 5 p.m. when both Chowan and Perquimans County 911 Centers received a call for a motor vehicle collision on Burnt Mill Road. The wreck consisted of two vehicles with a number



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Firefighters work to decontaminate a hazardous material during a drill Friday on the Perquimans-Chowan county line.

of occupants that had injuries ranging from minor to critical and included a patient that was entrapped in the vehicle. With several patients, that allowed EMS

personnel the opportunity to implement the triage process and fire department personnel the ability to practice vehicle extrication, said Jonathan Nixon, Perquimans County's EMS director.

Just inside the Chowan County line a separate incident was staged with a vehicle pulling a trailer that jackknifed causing a hazardous materials leak. Public safety personnel had to determine the best and quickest way to seal the leak, as well as ensuring that any spilled chemicals were properly handled. Due to the hazardous

See HAZMAT, 2

County tax hike proposed

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath is proposing raising the county's property tax rate by two cents next fiscal year to reduce the reliance on spending reserve funds to balance the budget.

If adopted by the county commission at a June 17 public hearing, the tax increase would be first in almost 10 years that wasn't related to revaluation of property tax values. In the past, the county has raised the tax rate when property values have fallen so as to raise the same amount of dollars as they did the previous year. Heath's proposal raises the tax rate in a non-revaluation year.

Heath cautioned his board Monday night that continuing to draw down reserve funds to pay large operating expenses was not sustainable. The county earmarked \$990,000 in reserve funds this year to fund expenses and it is expected to use about \$732,000 of that. Even the two-cent increase in the tax rate would not totally wean the county off using reserves to balance the budget next year. The proposed 2019-20 budget includes \$597,000 in reserves.

"To begin to stabilize the effects of our reliance on fund balance in previous budgets, I am recommend-

See BUDGET, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lauren Winslow (right) is the valedictorian of the PCHS Class of 2019. Samantha Midgett is the salutatorian.

Winslow earns Tom's scholarship

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Clinton White Toms made the offer and this year Lauren Winslow is taking him up on it.

Winslow is the valedictorian of the 2019 class of Perquimans County High School and will be attending Duke University in the fall.

Toms, a Hertford native and teacher, school superintendent, businessman, and

philanthropist had a standing offer for a Perquimans County student who got accepted to Duke University he would pay for it. Clinton lived from 1868 until 1936.

He named the scholarship after his wife Mary Newby Toms, also of Hertford.

But over the years, few have taken him up on the scholarship offer. Winslow said the scholarship is valued at \$69,000 a year for four years.

In 1990 Stuart Rayburn earned the Toms scholarship. He graduated from Perquimans County High School, attended Duke University for four years. He graduated in 1994 with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

While Winslow knew she was going to college, she admits hadn't really considered Duke even though she's been a straight-A student her entire life.

She said Randy Awrey, the lead instructional support teacher at the high school, strongly urged her to apply to Duke.

Awrey said it was a team effort.

"I can't take credit for that, Mr. (Wayne) Price and Mr. (John) Manning and Mrs. (Tina) Meiggs and Mr. (Isaac) Lister and Mrs. (Teresa) Blanchard and ev-

See GRADUATION, 2

State to monitor algae in area rivers

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

State officials are monitoring algae in the Perquimans, Chowan and Little Rivers.

Water samples were taken on May 13 near Harrellsville and the next day near Hertford.

On May 29, there were reports of algal blooms on the Chowan River near Harrellsville, the boat basin on the Edenton waterfront, and some canals on the Little River. Also algae was in an area on the east side of the Perquimans River.

What was observed in Perquimans on May 14 appears to fall short of the Division of Water Resources standard for an algal "bloom."

Algal densities were low and did not support the presence of an active bloom at the time of sampling. Preliminary results of cyanotoxin testing were negative for microcystin.

However the sample tak-

en from the Chowan clearly does qualify as a "bloom."

Generally speaking, some species of cyanobacteria (commonly called bluegreen algae) have the ability to produce harmful compounds called cyanotoxins, according to Sarah Young, a spokesperson for the Division of Water Qual-

See ALGAE, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A photo shows a portion of the Chowan River on May 13.

