

# THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY



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Perquimans County High School graduation photos, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

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## Perquimans County tries to break drug cycle

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

For a someone overdosing on opioids, the drug Narcan can restore breathing but it can't cure the underlying problems that would cause someone to use opioids in the first place.

Perquimans County Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon said it is a real problem. Between May 31 and June 14, there

were five people in Perquimans County who overdosed on opioids. None of them died, thanks to Narcan administered by Perquimans County EMS.

Breaking the cycle of substance abuse disorders is the key, he said, and the county has started a new campaign to do that. The county applied for a \$33,500 state grant in January but the funds weren't available. Instead, the state

office of EMS offered to give \$30,000 in total to the counties of Perquimans and Pasquotank-Camden. The latter operate a joint EMS service.

It's called a Post Overdose Response Team (PORT).

Nixon said the funds will be used to send a pre-hospital care provider (Advanced EMT or Paramedic) within 24 hours of a post overdose event. Another visit will take place within 72 hours

of the original event. The second connection can take place either in person or over the phone.

EMS will not send an ambulance for the follow-up visits. They will use a zone car. The staff that go will be either supervisors or EMS employees who aren't scheduled to work that day. The grant money will pay for the overtime.

Nixon credits Kate Thomas, an EMS shift supervisor,

for putting the program together.

When an individual has a non-fatal overdose event, the goal of the team is to educate and provide harm reduction alternatives such as treatment or recovery options to the patients and their families.

Nixon said EMS has an edge that other health care providers don't have - trust.

"There are those that don't want any help. There

are those who say they don't want us to come back."

But for others, they will remember that it was somebody from EMS who responded when they were near death.

"We had one who said 'I didn't even know that anybody cared about me,'" Nixon said.

"We feel like we've made a connection between them

See DRUGS, A2

## Three killed in wreck

From Staff Reports

Three Perquimans County men were killed in a head-on collision in Currituck County Monday morning, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol and published reports.

Tyrell Davis, 30, Kristopher Midgett, 29, and Marquarize Hunter, 23, all of Hertford, were traveling in a Dodge Stratus driven by Davis about 7 a.m.

Sgt. Jeff Wilson of the highway patrol said a fourth person, Damon Hunter, was transported to Norfolk General with injuries. Wilson did not have an age for Damon but said he and Marquarize were cousins.

See WRECK, A2

## Early voting starts today

From Staff Reports

Early voting for the July 9 Republican run-off election for a U.S. House seat starts today and runs through July 5.

Early voting takes place at the Perquimans County Board of Elections office, 601A, Edenton Road Street from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. each Monday through Friday except for July 4, when the office is closed.

Republican Greg Murphy and Joan Perry were the top vote getters in the GOP race in April. Murphy got

See VOTING, A2

## HERTFORD HOUSE



BY PETER WILLIAMS/NEWS EDITOR

Staff photo by Peter Williams Construction is proceeding on Hertford House, a 100-bed assisted living facility on Church Street in Hertford. The project is expected to be open in early 2020 at a cost between \$11 million and \$13 million.

## Chamber of Commerce names new director

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce has named Katrina Leary Mann as its next director replacing long-time director Sid Eley, who retired June 14.

The announcement was made last week by board officials. Mann, 45, who was most recently employed by Albemarle Tradewinds Magazine, began her new job Monday. "Your business is my business," said Mann "Community starts with people working together and growing above our dreams. The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce is here to help promote and serve our local businesses. Let's put Perquimans back on the map for good."

"Katrina will be an asset to this



MANN

organization," said Chamber President Reginald White. "We recognize that and believe that she is going to connect with all the business people in our community in a very positive way."

"We are pleased to have Mann join our team," said Chamber Vice President, Sarah Weeks. "She has volunteered hands-on with area civic organizations for many years and we are excited to have her working with us to move the chamber forward."

Mann is the president of PQ Band Booster Inc. a non-profit that supports the bands at Perquimans

County High School and Perquimans County Middle School.

Mann is the mother of two daughters, one 27 and the other 16. She and her husband Charlie live on Beech Springs Road.

Mann grew up in Perquimans County.

"I'm a Wilson-Bundy-Colson girl," she said. "I'm probably related to half the county. My roots are heavy here."

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce represents more than 200 area businesses and individuals in its mission to promote business growth and to provide professional development opportunities while remaining active on public policy issues affecting our business community.

See CHAMBER, A2

## State relaxes rules on broadband, utilities

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The passage of a North Carolina law removing barriers to broadband access for electrical co-ops

is being met with different responses from two utilities that serve the area.

Hertford-based Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. said as a member-owned utility, it intends

to focus on its core job, providing electricity.

"While Albemarle EMC supports the facilitation of broadband deployment, our position remains that the return on investment is still

unknown," said Chris Powell, a spokesman for AEMC. "We are a member-owned non-profit company, and our core mission is to safely deliver affordable and reliable power. That's why

we feel telecommunication companies would be the best option to provide broadband service."

AEMC serves parts of

See BROADBAND, A2

## State issues warning about water

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The N.C. Division of Water Resources issued a warning June 11 urging the public to avoid contact with green or blue water in the Albemarle Sound or adjoining water bodies due to an algal bloom.

The first bloom was reported on May 14.

Blooms have been observed along the eastern and western banks of the Perquimans River, in the Pasquotank River near Elizabeth City, and on the western shore of the Chowan River. Counties currently affected include Bertie, Chowan, Pasquotank and Perquimans. Algal blooms tend to move around due to wind and wave action.

See ALGAE, A2

## Regatta provides chance to train rescue team

From Staff Reports

Members of the Perquimans County Water Rescue team were on standby to assist during the recent Albemarle Sound Sailing Association Challenge Regatta, sponsored by The Osprey Yacht Club.

Approximately 23 sailboats from four surrounding yacht clubs participated each day in the regatta.

The Perquimans County Water Rescue Team is a volunteer group comprised

of public safety personnel, county employees and a couple of experienced residents. The main water resources include a 25-foot Boston Whaler, a 19-foot Parker and a 15-foot Carolina skiff.

As most of these resources are not used routinely, it is important for the team to train regularly so that we will be prepared in the event of an emergency, said Perquimans County



BY PETER WILLIAMS/NEWS EDITOR

Submitted photo Members of the Perquimans County Water Rescue team were on standby during the recent Albemarle Sound Sailing Association Challenge Regatta.

See RESCUE, A2



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