

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

P9/C9*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008 D0017
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 514 S CHURCH ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



Women of Excellence, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

75 cents

Victims of fatal car accident are remembered

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The four young men involved in an accident June 17 were trying to make a better life for themselves and were willing to work hard to do it, say people who were close to them.

Tyrell Davis, 30, Kristopher Midgett, 29, and Marquarize Hunter, 23, died of their injuries in the wreck in Currituck County. A fourth

"These guys got together, found a job and drove an hour and a half or two hours to work. That says something about these kids. They wanted a better life for themselves."

Frank Norman
 Hertford town councilman

man, Damon Hunter, 26, was also transported to Sentara Norfolk with non-life threatening injuries,

The accident happened about 7 a.m. as Davis was driving the 2001 Dodge Stratus northbound on U.S. 158

after the four finished up working at a nightshift at a Walmart in Kitty Hawk.

They were headed home. "I knew all four of them through my children," said Frank Norman, a Hertford town councilman and a resident of Wynne Fork Court. "Marquarize practically lived at my house. Not because of any problems he had at home, but just sometimes he and my son might be going somewhere the

next day.

"They were good kids," Norman said. "Tyrell was like a big brother to them."

Funeral information, a photo and details on Tyrell Davis were not available at press time. He lived on Wynne Fork Court, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol. Midgett lived on Helmlock Street, Hunter West Market Street and Damon Hunter on Belvidere Road.

Norman said he was in

Ocracoke with a group of other elected officials when he heard the news about the accident. He said it highlights the need to create good jobs closer to home.

"These guys got together, found a job and drove an hour and a half or two hours to work," Norman said. "That says something about these kids. They wanted a better life for themselves."

See VICTIMS, A2

Yates retiring from ECSU

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

For the first time in more than a quarter-century, Fred Yates won't be an Elizabeth City State University trustee.

Yates recently left the ECSU Board of Trustees after 24 years — nearly all of which he served consecutively — saying it's time for him to focus more on his other longtime job: mayor of Winfall.

Trustee appointments at ECSU are for four years and are renewable for a second four-year term. After eight years a trustee is required to leave the board but may be appointed to another term after one year.

Yates has taken that required year off and then gone back on the ECSU board three times. But he said he's not looking to return as an ECSU trustee this time.

"I think somebody else needs an opportunity to serve," he said.

Yates, who is mayor of Winfall in Perquimans County, said he needs to focus his energies on being the town's mayor on the next mayoral election in November.

"Winfall is basically where my heart is now," he said.

Yates said he has enjoyed his tenure on the ECSU board.

"I served with some good boards," he said.

Yates' service as an ECSU trustee spanned the tenures of six different chancellors:

See YATES, A2



A float by Bethel Baptist Church rides past the Perquimans County Courthouse during the parade in 2017.

Lineup for July 6 parade grows

From Staff Reports

Organizers are expecting more than 60 entries this year for the Perquimans County fourth annual Independence Day Celebration on July 6.

Event is open to all and entries are still being accepted for the parade and all types of entertainment. The event calls for decorating bicycles, tricycles, wagons, cars, trucks, buses, vans, boats, trailers,

lawn mowers, golf-carts, and pets in red, white and blue and waving flags. Stores asked to decorate their windows in the best patriotic way.

For more information, call Vanora Brothers at

426-5956 or Sharon Smith at 426-5657.

Entries so far include C&C Stables, the Truckers Club Inc., the Albemarle Antique

See PARADE, A2

Storms cause damage in area

From Staff Reports

A storm last week left hundreds without power and may have caused a fire that destroyed a Perquimans County home.

Three local fire departments responded to a fire Thursday evening that destroyed the structure in the 400 block of Chinquapin Road.

When they arrived, firefighters from Belvidere, Hertford and Winfall saw smoke coming from the home, but could not contain the blaze. The family was not home at the time. EMS Director Jonathan Nixon said EMS and the American Red Cross are working to provide assistance to the family.

A go fund me page has been established for Rebecca Turner at

See STORMS, A2

Two officers join Hertford police department

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford has two new police officers.

Both Marlos Downing, 24, of Edenton and Victor Sullivan, 23 of Camden recently passed the state exam and have joined the department, Chief Dennis Brown said this week.

The recent graduates of the 17-week Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program have to complete the classes and then pass the state exam to serve

in North Carolina. Failing means they have to take the entire class again.

Even with their hiring, the additions won't bring Hertford up to full staffing levels. The department is funded for 11 officers, including Brown, plus an administrative assistant. Right now the department has seven officers.

"This helps toward our goal of being fully staffed this year," Brown said.

In the short term to fill the gap, the town has contracted with the Perquimans

County Sheriff's Office to use their off-duty deputies to cover some town shifts and the county is paid for that out of town funds.

Brown said the relationship between the two law enforcement agencies is good.

"We have always had an excellent working relationship with the sheriff's office."

In the long term Brown said the Hertford Town Board has also been very

See OFFICERS, A2



Marlos Downing (left) and Victor Sullivan have joined the Hertford Police Department.

Perquimans groups prepare for hurricane season now

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Community groups got together recently for a seminar on preparing for hurricane season.

It was hosted by the Albemarle Plantation Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Hurricane season runs through Nov. 30.

"This was a most worthwhile educational experience," said Roy Carpenter, the leader at the newly formed Shores at Lands End CERT. "Lois Pencinger and

Paul Holtz provided much needed advice and information for preparing."

The Plantation group also donated an automated external defibrillator to the Shores at Lands End group.

"Once again our generous neighbors at the Plantation have taken steps to help their fellow Perquimans County residents," Carpenter said. "We would not be able to get where we (Shores at Lands End CERT) if it not for Lois and Paul and their team members. We're extremely grateful. This is a huge step to ensuring that we are proactive in taking care of ourselves in the case of emergency."

Perquimans County Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon

said there are things people can do now to be prepared.

"You can start now by gathering your checklist of items," Nixon said.

A list is on the emergency management website at <http://www.perquimanscountync.gov/departments/emergency-management.html>

People with special needs, can also add themselves to the county's private registry.

"In the event of a storm, we share the information with the appropriate fire departments and ask them to check on the residents."

The registry form is two pages long and is kept confidential. It includes information on special needs or like the need for electricity for

things like oxygen, a ventilator or feeding pump.

For more information, call 426-5646.

Researchers at North Carolina State University are predicting a normal hurricane season for this year.

The 2019 season should see 13 to 16 named storms forming in the Atlantic basin, which includes the entire Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, according to Lian Xie, professor of marine, earth and atmospheric sciences at NC State. That is slightly higher than the long-term (1950 to 2018) average of 11 named storms, it is in line with the recent (1995 to 2018) average of 14.

See HURRICANES, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) at Albemarle Plantation recently donated an automated external defibrillator to the newly formed CERT unit at Shores at Lands End. Pictured are Lois Pencinger and Paul Holtz from the Plantation and Roy Carpenter, the team leader at Shores at Lands End.

