

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Groups awarded \$34,690 in grants, A2

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019

\$1.00

Moreland, Gregory return to local schools

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Two principals are headed back to Perquimans County to fill vacancies.

Laura Moreland has returned to the position she left in December — principal at Perquimans County Middle School.

Tracy Gregory will trade one Central School — one in Elizabeth City — for another one and return to where she started. She will be principal at Perquimans Central School next school year. She spent



GREGORY MORELAND

the first 19 years of her career in Perquimans and is a Perquimans County native who has lived here her entire life.

The school board approved

both hires last week.

Moreland, 37, said she almost instantly missed her role at PCMS once she started working as human services director for the Dare County Schools earlier this year.

"I just missed it terrible," she said last week. "I am not meant for an office. I am the Energizer Bunny. Sitting in an office all day is tough. In the schools you can see the impact you make every day."

She also really missed life in Perquimans County.

"When you're in the military you move around a lot, but I never

found a place I would call home until Perquimans County. I missed it, my kids missed it, and my husband missed it. The kids missed working with me on game duty after school making popcorn in the concession stand. You wouldn't think they would miss that, but they did."

Moreland served in the National Guard for eight years. Her husband also served in the Army.

"This time we're laying down the law, we're not moving. After moving so much our entire lives, we finally found a home. I am

grateful for Dare County for taking a chance on me, and maybe when my kids are grown I may look for something else, but not now."

Moving back to Perquimans will mean the family will need to buy a new house. When they left, they put the one they had on Market Street up for sale and it sold in nine days.

"Right now I will be back at my old stomping grounds as of Monday," Moreland said on Friday.

Moreland said she is looking

See PRINCIPALS, A2

County asks for help with algae

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County is among others in the northeast that are asking the state for more financial assistance to help strengthen critical drainage and improve water quality.

Mark Powell, a project management consultant, made the request of the 10 counties. He works for the Edenton-based Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Algal blooms have returned the region this summer a little earlier than usual.

The Perquimans County Commission has been supportive of efforts in the past to restore water quality in area rivers, but the resolution said the state and others need to help.

Specifically the Perquimans resolution asks for monitoring of the rivers.

"We request funds to help identify the causes of and solutions to, the algal blooms."

The resolution points out the N.C. DEQ does not have monitoring stations that can

See ALGAE, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crystal Proud (right) a neurologist, checks on Kelli Price and her daughter Kaeli recently at King's Daughter's hospital in Norfolk, Va.

New drug offers hope for infants

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A Perquimans County infant may be able to live a normal life thanks to a new drug that comes with a record-setting \$2.1 million price tag.

Kaeli Price was born in March with spinal muscular atrophy, the top genetic

killer of infants.

She was diagnosed at eight weeks by doctors at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk. Kaeli's parents are Brandon and Kelli Price of Belvidere.

The hospital said Kaeli had a cry so weak she sounded like a kitten when she was born in March.

SMA is a progressive neuromuscular condition that gradually wears down muscles to the point where children are unable to walk or breathe easily. Children with the most severe forms of SMA need ventilators to breathe and usually die in childhood. The type of SMA Kaeli has kills most children by 2 years of age.

Neurologist Crystal Proud diagnosed the illness and a week later a new gene therapy drug, Zolgensma, was approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration, the hospital said.

It had only been used in the United States once

See INFANTS, A2

Local budgets are on hold

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The failure to pass a state budget has both Perquimans County and the school system out on a limb.

Until the state budget is passed, the school system won't know much my state funding it will get. As a result, Superintendent Tanya Turner asked her board to adopt a stopgap budget for now. The budget is supposed to be in place by July 1.

State funding makes up about two thirds of the local school budget.

Turner also has the issue of "low wealth funds." Even before the budget impasse, the county didn't get its share for next year.

"That is a big hit," she said. "Like a \$100,000 hit," she said.

Turner is perplexed because all the counties surrounding Perquimans got their low wealth money and nobody can tell her why Perquimans was left out.

See BUDGETS, A2

Parade, fireworks coming Saturday

From Staff Reports

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

See PARADE, A2

Volunteer fire department to get new brush truck

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department will soon have a new beast to contend with.

It is buying a Skeeter-model truck to fight brush fires to replace the converted 1980 International 4x4 it has been using.

"She is going to be a beast," Fire Chief Lee Dail said of the new truck.

It will replace a truck that can carry 500 gallons of water. The new one can handle 1,250 gallons. There is also a nozzle on the front that can be controlled from inside the cab with a camera to monitor where

the water is going.

The old truck had the nickname of "Big Foot." Dail said the department got it when from the old Virginia Electric Power Corp. and modified it with the tank and pumps.

The new vehicle can seat four, two in the front and two in the back. While driving through a field it can spray water in front and from both sides.

"We figured this truck would be an asset for Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank as well," Dail said.

The truck is being built in Texas and Dail expects delivery early

See TRUCK, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department will be buying a Skeeter model brush truck to replace one that is nearly 40 years old.

Work starts on historic house

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 The Chowan Herald

BETHEL — Tucked away behind some trees

along a curvy stretch of Holiday Island Road, a stately white plantation home in Perquimans County is receiving some tender loving care from Edenton-based Down East Preservation.

After sitting vacant for about 10 years, the Isaac

See HOUSE, A3

Municipal election filing starts Friday

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Candidates for municipal offices in Hertford and Winfall can start signing up to run on Friday at noon. The filing period ends at noon on July 19.

The seats up in Hertford are for Mayor Reid, Sid Eley and Gracie Felton. Felton was appointed to the board when former Mayor Pro-Tem Archie Aples resigned last December. Both Reid and Eley

were elected four years ago.

In Winfall it's Mayor Fred Yates, Preston White and Steav Congdon.

The municipal election will be in November.

Early voting for the July 9 Republican run-off election for a U.S. House seat runs through Friday. Votes can go to the polls on Tuesday.

Early voting takes place at the Perquimans County

See FILING, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Hertford Town Board met Friday in the former Historic Hertford Inc. business on the corner of Grubb Street and West Academy Street. HHI vacated the town-owned building to move next door to the former location of the Perquimans County Library. Councilman Sid Eley was absent from Friday's meeting. The board met briefly to adopt some budget amendments before the end of the fiscal year.



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