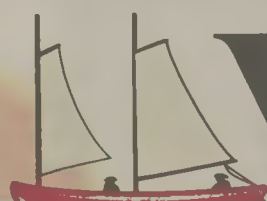


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Camp hosts Hunt and Fishing program, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

\$1.00

Effort gets lower fire rating

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Homeowners in the Durants Neck fire district could see a reduction in their fire insurance premiums as the result of an upgrade in the state fire rating.

Effective Oct. 1, the Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department will be rated 5/9. The fire department had been rated a 7/9. The department was able to get rating down because of a coordinated effort with the Inter-County and Winfall fire departments and the Perquimans County Water Department to prove that Durants Neck could sustain pumping 250 gallons per minute on a fire for two hours even if a hydrant wasn't nearby.

The department has two fire engines that can carry 1,250 gallons each but an engine without the resupply of water would run dry in about five minutes.

Instead water was trucked in and dumped into a portable tank near the fire and the truck or trucks can draw water from that. Durants Neck has a tanker that can carry 1,500 gallons, and with the help of Winfall and Inter-County, the department could prove to the N.C. Department of Insurance and the state fire marshal's office that it could sustain a long fight with a fire.

Fire ratings are determined by a number of factors, and Durants Neck Fire Chief Robert Eure said the ability to shuttle water is just one of the them. Manpower, training equipment, maintenance all play a big role.

Barry Smith, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Insurance, said Durants Neck residents should be proud.

"They worked hard to get this," Smith said of the department. "This didn't just happen overnight. They are all volunteers so they take time away from their families to do this. The reason why property owners should get lower insurance rates is because they are getting better fire protection."

Eure said he started filling out some of the paperwork to get the rate reduction in October and the process lasted until April 1.

See FIRE, A2



PETER WILLIAMS/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A crane lifts the new scoreboard in to place at the new Charles A. Ward Field at Perquimans County High School last week.

Football field nearly finished

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The new Charles H. Ward football field at Perquimans County High School is nearly complete.

The new scoreboard was installed last week. The scoreboard measures 14 feet high and 24 feet wide, which is much larger than the one on the old field. But Maintenance Director Jim Davison said that is the normal size high school scoreboard being built these days by Fair Play, the manufacturer.

The \$28,000 scoreboard

is not sponsored by a company, like Pepsi, which has a sign on the old scoreboard. Assistant Superintendent James Bunch said the school system did consider doing that to defray the cost. Life Touch, a company that takes school photos, offered a three-year deal to be a sponsor, but the school system decided against it.

Life Touch donates a portion of the money they get from taking school pictures to the individual schools right now.

See FOOTBALL, A2



The new scoreboard at Charles H. Ward Field was installed at the new athletic complex at Perquimans County High School last week.

Hertford, Winfall to see election contests

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

There will be contested races for mayoral seats in both Hertford and Winfall this November as well as a town council race in Hertford.

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid opted not to run for re-election. Earnell Brown and Hertford Mayor Pro-Tem Quentin Jackson will be seeking the mayor's seat. Brown is a political newcomer and Jackson is mid-way through his first four-year term as a town councilman. If he wins the mayor's race he will have to give up his council seat, but if he loses he will still retain the council position.

In Winfall, Mayor Fred Yates is facing a challenge from Councilman Preston White. Yates has been Mayor for 16 years. When contacted on the phone, he was traveling and said he would have a statement later.

White, 53, was first appointed to the Winfall Council to replace Frankie Etheridge. When that term ran out, White ran for office four years ago and won.

He is a Winfall native who is a supervisor at the Newport News Shipyard, where he has worked for the past 32 years. He is also a member of the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department.

White said he was encouraged to run for the mayor's seat by people in the community.

"A lot of people felt I would be good. I was born and raised right here in Winfall and I have always try to reach out and help people in the community."

White would like to see a playground in the immediate area of downtown Winfall with a basketball court. He'd also like to see a green walkway.

"People are trying to exercise more and there is nowhere to do it. When the main drag, Winfall Boulevard was widened, it was designed for a walkway but it was never built."

He'd also like to attract more small businesses to the town.

There are four people running for two seats on the Hertford Town Board.

See ELECTIONS, A2

Grant from Firehouse Subs to provide defibrillators to county

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Each Perquimans County Sheriff's Office vehicle and Emergency Service's support vehicles will be equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) by the end of this year thanks to a grant.

The \$36,433 is being provided by a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

The foundation began in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and the mission is to provide funding, life-saving equipment and educational opportunities to first responders and public safety organizations.

In 2018, the sheriff's office responded to 88 percent of all sudden cardiac arrest calls in Perquimans County. In several cases, deputies were the first to arrive on scene and initiated CPR but did not have the capability for early defibrillation.

Sheriff Shelby White welcomes

the addition of AEDs. The office has 17 sworn deputies and two animal control officers.

"To me it's another step forward to help the citizens of the community. It's a extra step because sometimes we can arrive before EMS does because we're in the neighborhood."

Deputies know how to do CPR and use it but the AEDs does things CPR can't.

The AEDs have sticky pads with electrodes that are attached to the chest of someone who is having cardiac arrest. The electrodes

See GRANT, A2

Policy on glass recycling changes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County still wants people to recycle glass, but it's asking

that glass be kept separate from our recyclable goods.

Perquimans operates five convenience sites around the county where residents can drop off their garbage and recycling. When the recycling program first started the county wanted glass to be separate but later adopted a policy where it

could be commingled with other recyclables like paper and aluminum. Having a single stream waste collection process increases participation in recycling, but it more costly, especially now.

Since China banned the import of recyclables there, things like glass and paper went from something the

county could get paid for, to something where it actually costs more to recycle it.

Now the company that handles glass for the county wants it to be separate.

The Perquimans-Chowan-Gates board decided in April to start the separating

See RECYCLING, A2

NEW DOLLAR GENERAL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Site work has begun on a new Dollar General store near Albemarle Plantation.

