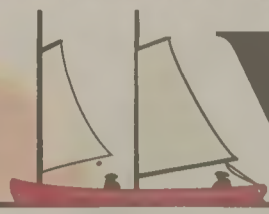
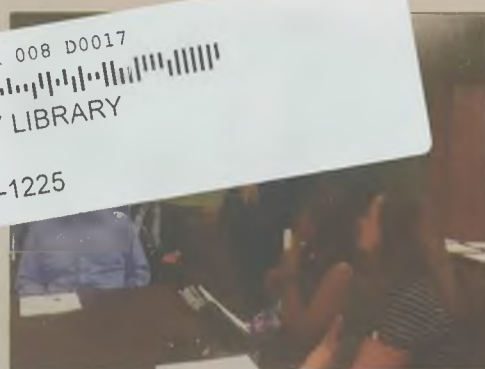


THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY



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



Tour touts benefits of high speed ferry, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

\$1.00

DOT seeks change in water quality permit

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation is seeking to modify a water quality permit in order to allow a contractor to build a 200-foot long temporary trestle, some of it over wetlands, for the construction of the replacement of the S-Bridge. The trestle is needed so

a barge with a crane can access pilings and other materials in a staging yard, according to the request filed on July 29.

The crane is driving five pilings that will serve as a test to make sure they are the proper length. Once that is done, eventually 190 more pilings will be needed for the new bridge. The contractor, McLean Construc-

tion, needs a place to store the pilings on land and then access them with the crane.

Finding an appropriate site has taken time, said Tim Hass, a spokesman for NC DOT.

"It took the contractor more time than expected to find a suitable staging area for the project, which I'm told will be at the old Davenport Motors site," Hass said.

DOT looked at four other sites, but ruled the one behind Bear Garden Road was the best location for a staging area.

Two of the sites were located upstream from the S-Bridge. One was the vacant Feed and Seed location on Grubb Street. DOT ruled that out in part because it would introduce a number of large, heavy trucks

onto smaller town roads. It would also face the same problem with a site near Winfall Town Hall. The main issue was both of those would require navigating through the existing bridge.

"The use of this site would require frequent opening of the existing swing span bridge," DOT wrote in its request for the change. "In addition to traffic nuisances

this would cause, the potential for bridge malfunction increases each time the span is opened."

Another site was downstream near the foot of the U.S. 17 high-rise bridge on the Winfall site. It was ruled out because the water depth was less than three feet and it would have required a

See DOT, A2

New SRO hired for Perquimans

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

When the opening was created for a School Resource Officer in Perquimans County, Stacey Edwards took it.

"I've been in law enforcement for about 15 years, and I was looking to expand my law enforcement career and I already live in Perquimans County," Edwards said.



EDWARDS

Edwards, 35, is coming to the Perquimans sheriff's office after a year and a half spent as an officer at Elizabeth City State University. Prior to that she had eight years with the Elizabeth City Police Department. She's also worked with the Pittsboro Police Department and the Gates Sheriffs office.

When school opens this month she will be the SRO assigned to Perquimans County Middle School. She's lived in Perquimans for the past 10 years and has a pair of 8-year-old twins.

"I always like the interaction with the community I am serving," Edwards said. "Law enforcement is ever changing, it's not your typical 9 to 5 job."

"I'm looking to interacting with the students," she said Friday. "I want to be somebody they can look up to."

Edwards and her family moved to Gates County when she was 10 years old. She graduated from Gates County High School, and then earned a four-year degree in criminal justice from Elizabeth City State University.

Edwards fills a voice since Brian Watson left the sheriff's department to work at the shipyard in Virginia. He had been at Hertford Grammar. Faran Sawyer, who is on maternity leave, is expected back in October. She was at PCMS. Tori Arroyo, will serve as SRO at Hertford

See EDWARDS, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Evan Copeland, the new band director at Perquimans County High School, gestures during a band camp last week.

Perquimans band directors wed

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

To say there will be close collaboration between the band directors at Perquimans County High School and Perquimans County Middle School might be an understatement.

They got married on Saturday.

Evan Copeland, 23, the new band director at the high school and Katelyn Lesko Copeland, 25, the band director at PCMS, had been dating since 2014. They met at East Carolina University.

The wedding was held at Pine Knoll Shores.

He said she is the largest reason he left as band director at Chowan Middle School to accept the PCHS

job. He is a Chowan County native.

"We've always wanted to team teach together so this has been a dream of ours," he said. "We make a good team and we've already been team teaching around the state."

"You know it's really nice to find somebody that shares the same passion as you do," Evan said about his wife and music. "We never run out of stuff to talk about."

Katelyn is starting her second year as band director at PCMS.

He is a tuba player by trade, and earned his Bachelor of Music Education in 2018 from East Carolina. "Katelyn plays piccolo

See WEDDING, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Katelyn Lesko (left) and Evan Copeland were married on Saturday. Katelyn is the band director at Perquimans County Middle School and Copeland is the newly named band director at the high school.

County hires fire marshal

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County now has a new, part-time fire marshal.



OVERMAN

The position was eliminated a decade ago after the last major recession, but is funded in the budget this year.

Barry Overman said he would start reaching out to local businesses to schedule appointments to stop by. State law requires the certain establishments get a fire inspection. For some, like schools and nursing homes, it is at least once a year or even twice a year. Others, like insurance offices and others, need to be inspected once every three years. It's that final category that hasn't been inspected as it should have been that Overman will also address in his new role.

Overman is not an unfamiliar face for many. He just retired after a 30-year career with the Elizabeth City Fire Department. Even when Perquimans was without a fire marshal on staff, Overman was called in to inspect the highest priority places, like schools, and investigate suspicious fires as a contractor.

Now Overman is on the county's staff as a 20-hour employee.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said Overman will provide help with the ultimate goal - keeping residents safe. Perquimans has seven volunteer departments and Overman will be there to help.

"He'll be available assist these departments. He

See MARSHAL, A2

Area first responders to be honored on Aug. 17

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The third annual First Responders Appreciation Day will be held on Aug. 17 at 3 p.m. at The Crawfish Shack.

Connie Brothers and her mother Vanora saw the idea of an appreciation day a few years back.

"I've never heard of anything being done in this area, and as someone who has had to frequently use

ambulances because of my asthma, we decided to do it," Connie Brothers said. "We all use their services one way or another."

The Perquimans County NAACP sponsored the first one and Lend A Hand Min-

istry, the second year. The Town of Hertford has earmarked \$500 for the event this year and proclaimed the date "First Responders Day."

Both of the first were held at the Perquimans

County Recreation Center. This year, the center is booked for that date, so Crawfish Shack was picked. "We think it will be great," Brothers said.

See RESPONDERS, A2

Meeting planned to discuss algal blooms

The Chowan Herald

Scientists and community leaders will come together on Aug. 24 to discuss harmful algal blooms in northeastern North Carolina.

This summer, state officials issued multiple warnings for residents and visitors to avoid contact with algae on the region's waters.

The meeting will be held at the College of the Albemarle's Edenton campus, in the Culinary Arts Building, 118 Blades St. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. with public presentations. At 11:15 a.m., partners from universities;

federal, state and local agencies; and community organizations, will hold a work session aimed at improving communications among organizations and for the public.

"The presentations will highlight what we know and are learning about algal blooms in the region,

See ALGAE, A2

Rock Autism



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crowds gather for the third annual Rock Autism Music Festival last weekend at The Crawfish Shack.



6 89076 47144 2