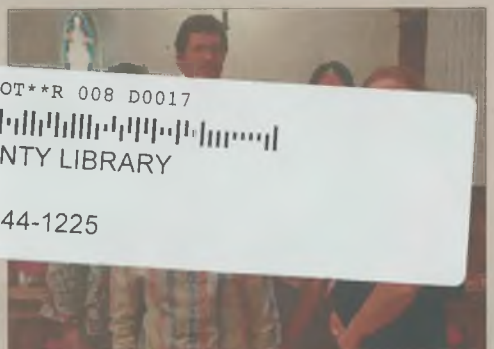


# THE PERQUIMMA WEEKLY



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HUMC awards 21 scholarships, 3

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2019

\$1.00

## School system's lottery fund request rejected

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission deadlocked in a 3-to-3 vote last week, meaning the school system, at least for now, cannot draw down \$146,000 from its state lottery construction account.

State law allots a certain amount of lottery proceeds to individual school districts for construction, but requires that the schools get

the approval of their county commission first.

Superintendent Tanya Turner was asking to draw down \$146,000 to make up for funds that inadvertently paid from the regular capital spending account and not from money set aside for the athletic complex. The money went for building a combination restroom and concession stand at the football field. The building is finished and Turner said the field would be ready for

use this football season.

Janice Cole, a former chairperson of the commission, spoke out against allowing more lottery money to be used on the athletic complex.

"It seems like our general fund will be used to pay for what the school system needs and the lottery fund is to be used for what they want," Cole said. "My point is that we, the residents of Perquimans County, seem to be victims of a backdoor

plan to have us foot the bill for the major expense of an athletic complex."

She fears the schools will continue try and tap the lottery fund for the athletic complex.

"Today it is the concession stand. But the field house is not complete, there is no ticket booth, there is no parking lot yet. How long before the school system comes before you to say that it is not safe for people to have to part at the high

school and cross the street to get to the field?"

While the field house is not finished, it is being paid for by a private donor.

Voting against the motion to approve was Chairman Wallace Nelson and Commissioners Kyle Jones and Fondella Leigh. Voting in favor of the request were Commissioners Joe Hoffer, Alan Lennon and Charles Woodard.

While a 3-3 tie vote is rare, it has happened once

before. A tie vote means the motion fails.

Jones has been critical of the increased spending on schools to the point he voted against adopting the county budget this year, even though school spending was flat.

"Our board should have slammed on the brakes last April when they requested \$56,000 from our fund balance to repair a broken

See LOTTERY, A2

## Schools to test remote learning

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans Schools will take a step toward a system that will allow education to go on even if kids aren't physically in school.

The school board has approved creating one "Remote Learning Day" for the 2019-20 calendar year with the option of two more days if needed.

The first RLD will be Nov. 1. That date was already scheduled to be a mandatory workday for teachers and a day off for students. With the test, it will be considered a regular school day for attendance purposes and count as a "make up" day even though students actually wouldn't be in class. Students will still be required to work, just not from school.

RLDs won't be good for everything, because they require giving teachers some time to prepare the remote lesson plans.

"If we know a hurricane is coming a few days in advance, we can use remote days," Superintendent Tanya Turner said. "If we wake up and there is suddenly snow on the ground, we won't be able to do that."

While each Perquimans student has a school-issued tablet computer, many

See REMOTE, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Sen. Bob Steinburg (left) presents the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Sid Ely Saturday morning at the Hertford Department. Ely, a former science teacher and current member of the Hertford Town Council, has served 50 years with the volunteer fire department.

## Sid Ely awarded Long Leaf Pine

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Sen. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) presented Sid Ely with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Saturday for his services to the town and Perquimans County at large.

The ceremony was held at the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department where Ely has been a member

for 50 years. Todd Tiley, the Perquimans County clerk of superior court and a firefighter himself, said in the history of the fire department, only two members have served 50 years. The fire department dates to 1879. Sid serves as the chaplain for the department.

Steinburg said the award is result of a bipartisan effort. It is awarded by the

governor, and Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat.

"This award is very special," he said. He said as a state representative and now a senator, he's had a lot of requests to honor someone with the Long Leaf Pine, but the governor in power determined many don't meet the level of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest civilian honor.

The senator praised all

volunteer firefighters, and singled out Ely as "the best of the best."

Ely, 72, also served the school system as a science teacher before he retired and then became the executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce until he stepped down this year. He's also served 28

See ELY, A2

## Objection raised to bridge plan

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Instead of destroying wetlands, one Hertford resident recommends closing the causeway early so the contractor building a new bridge can access materials from the road.

The contractor for DOT plans to use the site of the old Davenport Motors dealership to store materials. It is asking for permission to build a 200-foot long trestle toward the water so the crane can access piles and concrete. Some of that construction will require clearing wetlands.

"The best and least environmental damaging solution would be to use the existing causeway closed to traffic," wrote Sara Winslow in a letter to the N.C. Department of Transportation and the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

She admits the idea isn't likely to gain traction.

"When I spoke with the project manager said he said it (closing the causeway early) wouldn't be politically acceptable."

One of the main reasons DOT went with a design-build concept for the new bridge was to limit the amount of time the link between Hertford and Winfall is down.

Yet Winslow argues that the wetlands do play an important role, and it will take generations before the

See BRIDGE, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A boy kicks a Velcro-covered soccer ball at a Velcro-covered target last week at National Night Out at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. The event was provided by Camp Cale. There will be more pictures in the next issue of The Perquimans Weekly.

## National Night Out draws hundreds

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

County officials say the first National Night Out event a success.

By some estimates about 350 people showed up for the four-hour event Tuesday at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Some of the things included were fire trucks from every county department, informational booths, and crews from EMS and local

law enforcement.

Perhaps the biggest hits were the games from Camp Cale, the miniature horses from the 4-H High Achievers Club and a visit from the Nightingale medical helicopter, said Sheriff Shelby White.

Smaller Night Out events have been held in the past, but the event last week was the first of its size, White said.

"I think this first year was a really good test," White said. "I talked with a number

of vendors and they seemed happy. I know we had some vendors that wanted to get in at the last minute."

He said a survey would go out to vendors to see what they liked and what things that can be improved on.

While the event started at 4 p.m. the crowds really didn't start coming until about 5:30 p.m., White said.

"By about 7:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. it started to dwindle down."

Carla Thornton Bundy,

the coordinator for the 4-H horse program, said everybody seemed to have fun.

"We were very busy we had quite a few 4-H kids they are helping out," Bundy said. "I feel like things were very organized and they had a very good turn out. There was a nice variation of different organizations being represented and lots of free giveaways. The kids were very happy."

See NIGHT OUT, A2

## Hospital foundation awards grants

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
The Chowan Herald

Non-profits and government agencies received a share of \$100,000 grants to

help improve the health and well being of residents in four counties Friday.

The Vidant Chowan Hospital Foundation held its 14th annual Community Benefits Grant Program during a ceremony in the hospital's classrooms. The awards were given to groups that serve Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

Some grants supported food initiatives, while others went toward swimming classes for elementary-school students or opioid-treatment programs. Vidant Health provides the financial help to the foundation.

Brian Harvill, hospital president and foundation

See GRANTS, A2

## BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS



A mother fills out forms at a Back To School Bash last week at Perquimans Central School. Classes start on Aug. 26.



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