



Chamber director speaks to Rotary, 2

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

\$1.00

Late decision consolidates two precincts in Perquimans

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County voters who would normally cast a ballot at the Perquimans County Courthouse were instead directed to go to Louise's Event Center because the Chief Judge for the courthouse "backed out."

Elections Director Holly Hunter said the situation happened about 6 p.m. Monday night so the decision

was made to consolidate precincts. The event center is at 1132 Don Juan Road about three miles away. During the first three hours of voting, poll workers redirected about nine people to the temporary location.

Hunter said the Chief Judge "basically controls everything that happens at the precinct." She declined to name the judge because "I don't want to put them

See PRECINCTS, A2

Sunday voting proves popular

BY REGGIE PONDER
AND JULIAN EURE
Staff Writers

Democrats and Republicans may not agree on much anymore. But there could be one thing that brings them together: Sunday voting.

Voters in six area counties got a rare chance to vote on a Sunday last weekend, casting early ballots at their local board of elections office for

Tuesday's special election in the 3rd Congressional District.

The State Board of Elections approved Saturday voting in 11 of the 3rd District's 17 counties, and Sunday voting in the other six after all election offices in the district were forced to close at least some portion of Thursday and all of Friday as Hurricane Dorian neared and then passed over the state.

Five of the six counties approved for Sunday voting were given three extra hours — from noon to 3 p.m. — to accommodate voters. The other county, Dare, was allowed an additional eight hours — from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — of early voting.

While not every county's voters took full advantage of the extra hours — Currituck reported 50 and Camden reported 27 — Pasquotank and Perqui-

mans reported 210 and 89 voters, respectively. Perquimans Elections Director Holly Hunter said the 89 was the most of any early voting day.

Tim Corprew said he had planned to vote late week but was unable to because of the storm. He said he came in Sunday to "avoid the rush" and get his ballot cast before election day.

See VOTING, A2

County escapes major storm

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County weathered Hurricane Dorian with little serious damage compared to other areas in eastern North Carolina, officials say.

"We were very fortunate," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath. "We were blessed. We had water on the usual roadways but the winds weren't too terrible. We had some tree limbs in the road, but the fire departments, N.C. Forestry and DOT did a pretty quick job cleaning it up."

A tornado did touch down early Friday morning near Belvidere, but apparently missed any people or buildings.

"We should have more information in the future," Heath said. "The National Weather Service is coming to take a look at it and don't have the full story right now."

Julie Solesbee, a spokesperson for Perquimans EMS, said the weather service reported that the tornado appeared to touch down near Poplar Neck and Chinquapin Roads.

"Based on the maps at the NWS, they felt the impact was mainly to farm land," Solesbee said.

Power was cut off for more than 1,000 Albemarle Electric Membership cus-

tomers because the service from Dominion Power was cut off to AEMC. Likewise, Hertford customers were without power for more than three hours Friday afternoon when power was lost from Dominion.

"Based on a report from the National Weather service, we picked up between 4.5 to 5.5 inches of rain, on a countywide average," said Emergency Services Director

Jonathan Nixon. "We probably had frequent gusts of 60 to 65 mph with sustained winds around 40 to 45 mph for a time."

A local State of Emergency was declared effective noon Thursday. There was a curfew declared for Thursday night at midnight until Friday morning at 6 a.m. It did not include vehicles traveling on U.S. 17 and 37.

A voluntary evacuation for low-lying areas and manufactured homes was called for.

All county offices were closed on Friday.

Schools were closed Thursday and Friday "in anticipation of the arrival of Hurricane Dorian and out of an abundance of caution," said Perquimans County Schools spokesperson Michelle Maddox.

Superintendent Tanya Turner said Friday the schools appeared fine.

"A few minor leaks and



Employees of Perquimans County Social Services and the Red Cross prepare to serve lunch Friday to the 23 people who sheltered overnight at Perquimans County High School. The meals were prepared by Captain Bobs and delivered to the site.

some debris seem to be only noticeable effects," she said. "Hopefully that will hold true."

The Red Cross opened at emergency shelter at Perquimans County High School about 5 p.m. Thursday.

Eight employees of Perquimans County Social Services arrived at the shelter 4 p.m. Thursday and they stayed the night. They were still there until the shelter closed at 3 p.m. on Friday.

"I hate it, but it was their call," said Susan Chaney,

See STORM, A2

Schools earn "C" grade

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County High School slipped from a "B" to a "C" in the latest state testing and Perquimans County Middle School and Hertford Grammar School maintained their "C" grade.

The high school and middle school met expected academic growth, but the grammar school did not. None of the schools were considered low performing.

"While there are many successes in our schools to celebrate, there are also many opportunities for improvement," said Superintendent Tanya Turner. "We will be focusing instructional efforts on increasing math rigor and integrating reading into all subject areas this school year. I look forward to working with our teachers, school leaders, and parents towards maximizing our students' potential in all subject areas."

Michelle Maddox, the spokesperson for the school system, said the state testing for 2018-19 is far more in depth than just grades, like B, C and D.

The schools were closed two days last week because of Hurricane Dorian.

"We haven't really had a chance to to through everything like we would like to," Maddox said.

But she said the state had a new high school math test this year and because it was new, students weren't allowed to retake a second time like they could last year.

"I do think the inability to retake affected the high school's letter grade."

Four child sex offenders set to face new charges

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Four men with a history of child sex offenses were either arrested or are being sought for not properly notifying the state about

where they lived, said Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White.

White said there are 41 people on the list in the county. They routinely are sent out certified letters from the state to their last

known address.

If the person gets a letter, they are supposed to take it to the sheriff's office and sign a form.

Those with more serious

See OFFENDERS, A2



RUE JENSEN PREBLE DEGLAU



Johnny Greene puts up metal storm shutters Thursday morning at the Food Lion store in Hertford. The store was open, but had few shoppers at the time.



The George E. Major House.

Jollification to focus on Hertford

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The fourth annual Jollification — a tour of historic homes and dinner — will be held Sept. 28 in Hertford.

In previous years, the event has focused on either Belvidere, Bethel or New Hope.

There are 14 homes and three other

sites planned for this year. All are centrally located on Church, Front, Grubb and West Market streets and Punch Alley. The buildings range in age from 1775 through the very early 1900s.

One on North Front Street was once rented by bank robbers. The husband was killed in a robbery and the wife sent to prison. She wrote a letter to the community thanking them for be-

ing so kind to her children who were in school at the time of the robberies.

Another house was once a funeral home and another served as a Temperance Hall.

The tour this year focuses on historic homes that have been restored and renovated to preserve their history

See JOLLIFICATION, A2

Camp Cale acquires land for expansion

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Camp Cale used some of proceeds of selling

land it couldn't use for 10 acres of land that it can near the entrance to the facility.

The deal was finalized late last month. It brings the total size of Cale to about 86 acres.

The late Carolyn McNair Carl left Cale two lots totaling about 20 acres

in Grassy Point. But the property came with a deed restriction that limited its use for single-family housing.

"We really didn't want to sell them, but we couldn't use them," said Director Matt Thomas.

One of the 10 acres lots was sold about three or four

years ago.

The new purchase is a triangle-shaped plot with the narrow end near the entrance.

"We are working on a long-range plan for what to use it for, but right now we just plan on cleaning it up.

See CAMP, A2



Camp Cale purchased the 10-acre triangle-shaped piece of property last week.

