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State reports first flu death of season

From Staff Reports

Officials with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health announced the first reported flu-related death of the 2019-20 flu season occurred the first week of October.

It involved an adult in the central part of the state. To protect the privacy of the family, the person's hometown, county, age and gender will not be released.

"We are very saddened by this death and send condolences to the loved ones of this person," said State Epidemiologist Zack Moore, M.D. "Flu is a serious illness and in some cases can lead to complications and even result in death, which is why we strongly encourage people to get vaccinated every year."

During the 2018-19 flu season, 208 flu deaths were reported in North Carolina, down from 391 deaths during the 2017-18

flu season. Of those 208 deaths, 133 were people age 65 and older and five were under the age of 18.

The CDC recommends vaccination against the flu for everyone 6 months and older with any licensed, age-appropriate flu vaccine.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent infection with the flu. Vaccination can also make illness milder for those who do get the flu, making it especially important for those at higher risk of more serious outcomes, such as people over 65 years old, children younger than 5, pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

Flu vaccinations are available at hospitals, pharmacies, private medical offices, some federally qualified health care centers and local health departments. To find a flu vaccine near you, visit flu.nc.gov.

PCMS KING AND QUEEN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dakota Mayo and Harley Hunter were crowned king and queen at Perquimans County Middle School's homecoming.

VOTING

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Police Chief Dennis Brown said Monday he has seen and posted on Facebook, video from a Hertford Housing Authority camera on King Street that

shows somebody, perhaps on a bike on King Street. Brown said that if the person is caught they could be charged with a misdemeanor or larceny for each sign that was taken. Brown encouraged any candidate who had a stolen sign to contact police.

Jackson said he is ready for the election to be over.

"I am in the 'whatever' mode," he said. "Whatever happens, happens. I have seen a lot of true colors of a lot of people."

Even if Jackson lose, he still has two years in town council post.

He said all of the candidates "have been cordial with one another."

Their supporters might have been.

He estimates the cost of the stolen signs at \$400. He still expects to spend less than \$1,000 on his campaign, the threshold at which do-

nors and expenses must be reported to the state elections board.

Brown, who is running against Jackson, said she hasn't seen a large number of signs for either of the candidates missing. She said she talked with residents of one development who

wanted a sign and then said later they couldn't put it up because the landlord didn't want it.

She said she put out about 90 signs.

Early voting continues all this week from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the elections office at 601 S. Edenton Road St.

CHAPPELL

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did.

ECU is the third largest university in North Carolina with 21,589

undergraduate and 5,797 graduate students. Her high school had fewer than 500 students.

The day Chappell was crowned was also the same day that Dan Gerlach, the interim chancellor, stepped down over

an issue with him being in a bar late at night.

"That was very sad, but I understand his decision and I respect that," she said.

Among her accolades was being a Golden Leaf Scholar at a

time when Gerlach was in charge of Golden LEAF.

In addition to being in the ECU Honors College, Chappell is a business scholar, a peer tutor at the Pirate Academic Center and works as a customer service

representative at Dowdy Student Stores.

The Homecoming King is Noah Rodgers, somebody Chappell said she has known since she has been at college. Both are in ECU's Honors College.

MURDER

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for a death sentence, including that the murders were especially heinous, atrocious and cruel. The victims were hit with hammers, punched and stabbed with knives made from scissors, he said. The throats of two of the victims — Darden and Smith — were cut.

As the district attorney recounted the horrific manner in which the four murders were carried out, friends and family members of the victims passed around tissue to wipe their tears. They also patted one another in a comforting manner.

Womble also recounted how an inmate who testified during Brady's trial described witnessing him

beating Corrections Officer George Midgett with a hammer.

"He said Brady was beating him (Midgett) like he was breaking concrete," Womble said, recounting the inmate's testimony.

After beating Midgett — who is now permanently disabled as a result of the attack — Brady and the other three inmates entered the prison yard and headed for the prison's fences, Womble said. There they stabbed and hit other officers, he said.

"If you decide life without parole is appropriate for (the murder of) Darden, what about Smith, Shannon and Howe? How many do you get to kill?" he asked.

Womble's reference to Darden was apparently in response to Brady's re-

morseful testimony during the penalty phase that he considered Darden a mother figure — even though he didn't deny taking part in her murder.

Sentencing Brady to life in prison would be tantamount to declaring open season on correctional officers across the state, Womble argued.

Following Womble, defense attorney Thomas Manning made his case to jury for why Brady should be sentenced instead to life without parole.

Manning spoke quietly to jurors, recounting Brady's turbulent childhood, long history of mental issues and lack of proper medication both outside and inside prison. As he did so, jurors appeared to fidget in their seats, and the victims'

friends and family members shook their heads and rolled their eyes.

"There is no evidence from the state that he is not mentally ill," Manning said, referring to Brady.

He also pointed to conditions at Pasquotank Correctional Institution that he claimed showed the prison lacked the treatment and controlling environment Brady needed. Manning said that lack "could be considered a mitigating factor" against sentencing Brady to death. Manning also asserted that "if there had been better management, better control and rigor (at PCI) four people would be alive."

Earlier in the trial, after Brady's defense attorneys contended that prison understaffing and a lack of training were mitigating fac-

tors jurors should consider in their deliberations, Tillett disagreed.

"How does that third-party action make one less culpable?" Tillett asked rhetorically.

"If crime is committed on a full moon, would that be evidence?" he asked Manning.

Tillett said that testimony to be considered as mitigating circumstances should be about character history, not conditions that did not cause the crime.

Manning's co-counsel, defense attorney Andy Warmack, also took a crack at convincing the jury that death wasn't the appropriate sentence for Brady.

"Life without parole: the only way to get out (of prison) is in a pine box," Warmack said. "Don't con-

sider each mitigating factor alone but in total. Look at it all together: family abuse, history of mental illness, early development determines what you become as an adult."

Brady's records showed previous diagnoses for bi-polar disorder, post-traumatic disorder, major depressive disorder, attention deficit disorder, and, later in life, adult anti-social behavior.

CALE

Continued from A1

"We had a wedding out there two weeks ago," he said.

The center can seat 400 peo-

ple. With tables, it can handle 240.

Thomas said Cale raised \$2,500 the first week with little publicity. He thinks the \$30,000 goal is attainable.

Checks can be mailed to 377

Camp Cale Road, Hertford, NC. Include the words "Capital Campaign" in the memo line. Gifts are tax deductible.

Thomas said he hopes to have a master plan in a few months that will map out the future for Cale. Af-

ter the second bunkhouse, he said the next step may be to replace Jackson Hall, the dining facility that was built when Cale first got started.

"It's really tiny and pretty rustic," he said.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgenc.com. We do not accept notices by fax.

Obituaries must be received, processed, approved and paid if required by 2:30 p.m. to appear in print in the next edition.

Death notices can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

HEATH

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Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath will be the guest speaker for the annual observance.

Heath, originally from Kinston, has worked with Perquimans County government for 16 years, and county manager since 2011. He is a graduate of East Carolina University with a Masters Degree in public administration.

He is married to the former Roberta Chappell, from Perquimans County, and they have two children, son Nash, 17, and daughter Lauren, 14. They live in Durants Neck.

The program will begin with the posting of the nation's colors by the Post 126 Honor Guard. The Perquimans County High School Band, under the direction of Evan Copeland, will provide the National Anthem and service songs.

As with tradition, a POW/MIA remembrance will be presented.

The road in front of the courthouse will be blocked off for traffic, however, vehicles with handicapped will be permitted to drop off and pickup individuals. Street parking will be limited.

Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans and active duty members for their dedicat-

ed service to their country, and to celebrate and honor those who have served the U.S. Armed Forces.

The flags at the Veterans Monument will remain after conclusion of the program should individuals wish to take pictures or look at the monument's brick walkway which honors individual veterans.

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