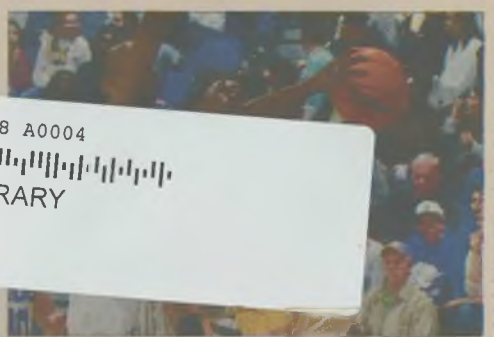


# THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY

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Basketball teams take on Camden, A6

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

\$1.00

## Albemarle Commission executive director resigns

Accepts job in Selma, Ala

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Albemarle Commission has announced that Executive Director Melody Wilkins is resigning, effective Friday. "Over this past year, I've

developed personal relationships with the folks who live in Hertford and will remember them all with fondness," she said.

Bob Murphy will serve as interim director starting Feb. 3, according to documents obtained by the Perquimans Weekly.

Albemarle Commission

Board of Delegates will be advertising for the executive director's position.

Based in Hertford, the Albemarle Commission serves Perquimans and nine surrounding counties, and plays a role in services for seniors, transportation planning, and economic and workforce development.

Wilson tendered her resignation during the Board of Delegates meeting Jan. 16.

Wilkins, 53, who was raised Selma, Alabama, where she still has family, will begin work as the executive director of the Selma Housing Authority, effective Feb. 3.

"As I begin this new

chapter of my life, I would first like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunities given at the Albemarle Commission," Wilkins wrote in her letter of resignation. "Many have shown me guidance and friendship during my employment. I cannot say

See DIRECTOR, A3



WILKINS

### ROUND-UP

#### Dogs, cities and connections

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

Recently, Hertford Town Council approved plans to implement a K9 program – police dogs. Hertford Police Department has a dog – Diesel – who is undergoing training and works with Officer Castellanos.

Sad to report some sad news – second dog, Gary, that had been donated to HPD was diagnosed recently with early onset Lymes disease, according to HPD. Gary will spend his last few months with his owner.

Prayers for Gary. In happier news, Perquimans Middle School achieved success in the Future City competition, a project-based learning program where students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future.

The Future City Competition engages more than 45,000 middle school students each year throughout the United States and abroad. Students repeatedly report that the program increases their motivation and excitement about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). In addition, students and teachers report a marked improvement in students' 21st Century skills.

Perquimans Weekly's advertising guru Bev Alexander's daughter gave birth last Thursday to a 9-pound, 6-ounce baby girl – Payton Rose. Congratulations!

Apparently, the crud is going through town, so stay home, drink plenty of vitamin C, get some rest and mark your calendars for the start of spring, March 19, roughly 50 days away.

Met Elizabeth Jones of Hertford on Sunday at the YMCA in Elizabeth City. She lives in that white house with the long white picket fence located at the corner of Punch Alley and North Church Street. Near as I can remember from our conversation, Jones' mother and grandmother were librarians at Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton.

See LAYTON, A2



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

During Sunday's children's service, Pastor Pugh created a demonstration with balloons to illustrate the power of faith with the chapter "The Fiery Furnace" from the Book of Daniel.

## 'Bloom where you are planted'

Piney Woods Friends Founded on Faith

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

BELVIDERE – Piney Woods Friends Meeting traces its roots back to Colonial times with a Quaker faith that endures and continues to inspire.

Founded in 1723, Piney Woods is the oldest continuous Quaker meetinghouse in North Carolina, the cornerstone of a Quaker presence that stretches from Ocracoke Island to the Piedmont and beyond. At one time, North Carolina had the largest Friends presence outside of Philadelphia. In 2017, there were 377,557 adult Quakers, with 49 percent in Africa.

Located deep in the heart of Perquimans County, the Quakers meets at 118 Piney Woods Road on the same land that has served the congregation since 1743



Piney Woods Friends Meeting Pastor Jeremy Pugh gives a sermon about how best to share the God's word.

when Thomas Blichenden conveyed one acre of land for the future church. Wednesday evenings, there is a covered dish meal at 6 p.m. along

with prayer and Bible study at 7 p.m.

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and worship starts at 11 a.m. Attendance on most Sundays

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Last October, when this country editor and his family attended Belvidere Days, we learned more about the Quakers' influence in Perquimans County. When looking for a church to profile, the Quakers came to mind so as to learn not only more about their faith, but local history in these parts.

Our intent as part of this ongoing series is to get more people in the pews no matter where they choose to worship. A brief history of the church appears at the end of this article and a video snippet of Sunday's service appears on our Facebook page.

If you would like to have your house of worship profiled, contact the Perquimans Weekly at mlayton@ncweeklies.com

averages around 60 people, sometimes there are 50, and sometimes 70. All

See FRIENDS, A2

## Connor qualifies for regional swim meet

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Perquimans Pirates' swimmer Joleigh Connor has qualified in the backstroke and freestyle for the NCHSAA 1A East Regional Championship.

Hundreds of swimmers from across the state will compete at the meet Friday at Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary.

A freshman, Connor is seeded 22nd for the 100-meter backstroke (1:13 minutes) and 19th in the 100-meter freestyle (1:02).

"I'm so excited and scared," said Connor who started swimming when she was 6 years old. She took swim lessons at the YMCA so she could ride



CONNOR

the slide. Recently, Connor crushed the competition in the 100-meter backstroke (1:22 min) to earn her first Albemarle Athletic Conference title. And Connor was runner-up in the 100-meter freestyle. Placing in the two events netted the Pirates only points – 10 for the meet – because remember, Connor is the sole member of Perquimans team.

Over the river and through the woods, John

See SWIM, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Albemarle Athletic Conference 100-meter backstroke champion Joleigh Connor has qualified to compete in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A East Regional Championship. A freshman, this proud Pirate says she's excited and ready to do her best.

### BEYOND THE BOOKS

#### Fun facts about the Super Bowl

The Big Game is coming up! To get you in the spirit of the game, here are a few interesting



MICHELE LAWRENCE

Super Bowl facts I discovered on History.com. The National Football League formed

in 1920. Forty years later a group of businessmen wanted an opportunity to own football franchises. The NFL denied them, so the group formed the American Football League.

These two leagues were completely separate until 1966 when they merged in order to share fans, players, and, of course, the money that was to be made from this endeavor.

Super Bowl I was played January 15, 1967, with the Green Bay Packers beating the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10. This is the only Super Bowl that did not sell out. The average ticket price for that game was \$12, which is equivalent to about \$92 today.

If you want to score tickets for Super Bowl LIV on February 2, expect to shell out over \$5,000!

Pittsburgh Steelers have the most wins (6) and the Denver Broncos suffered the most losses at four.

The New England Patriots played most often with six games but several teams have never been at all, including the Detroit Lions.

If a trip to Hard Rock Stadium is not in your plans for the Big Game join us at the library Friday, January 31, from 3- 5 p.m. for our Super Bowl Party, which will include snacks and a friendly game of trivia.

**New Books:**  
 Fiction: Lilac Girls – Martha Hall Kelly  
 Shattered – Allison Brennan  
 Nonfiction: First in Freedom – John Locke Foundation  
 Minding the Helm – Kevin Gilheany  
 The Odyssey of Echo Company – Doug Stanton

Michelle Lawrence is the Perquimans Library librarian.



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