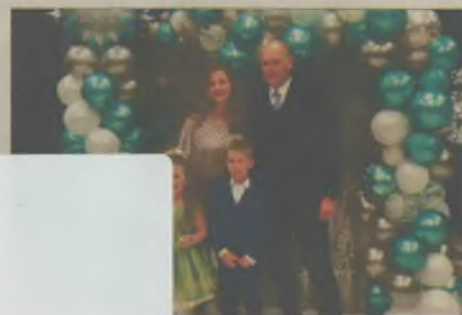


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School hosts Snowflake Dance, A7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

\$1.00

## Commission Seeks Funding to Restore Monument

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Though temperatures were in the 70s Monday with light wind making it a perfect day to be on the water, the Perquimans County Commission was busy at work.

Among the items included in the meeting's agenda,

Commissioner Joseph Hoffer and the Perquimans Tourism Development Authority are working on improving the Civil War monument located at the corner of King Street and Hyde Park Street across from the Cedarwood Cemetery entrance.

TDA has applied for grant funding to make repairs and

improve the monument. Efforts are underway now to clean the monument dedicated to the United States African-American Troops who fought during the Civil War.

In other matters, Perquimans Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon updated the commission among other public officials regarding

emergency management activities for 2019. Nixon's report included information about grants, what's new, improvements and other matters.

Speaking of first responders, spurred by Commissioner Alan Lennon, the commission approved a resolution that encourages businesses to allow volunteer firefighters to

respond to calls during working hours. The resolution said there is a shortage of those first responders who are able to respond to calls, causing other departments to rely on mutual aid more.

The resolution said because a majority of volunteer firefighters in Perquimans County work during normal business

hours, it's important that businesses allow these first responders to attend to emergency calls when practical and possible for business.

In other news, commission approved lease/purchase agreement with Nationwide Capital LLC for equipment

See **MONUMENT, A3**

### ROUND-UP

## Matt Perry, Small and Politics

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Perquimans County farmer **Matt Perry** produced a soybean yield of 71.4 bushels per acre – the highest recorded yield in the Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, and Perquimans area. Perry took top honors for farming skills at the Soybean Festival hosted by the Pasquotank County Cooperative Extension in January at Elizabeth City State University.

Because of farmers like Perry, soybeans are king in the northeastern corner of the state. In 2018, Pasquotank ranked second in the state, producing 2.1 million bushels. Perquimans County was sixth, harvesting 1.7 million bushels.

Sunday was **Groundhog Day**, which revealed that there may be an early spring. Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, predicting an early or late spring during the 134th Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pa. Not going to jinx the forecast, but so far it's been a mild winter.

Trusting a rodent to forecast the weather is much like watching political pollsters predict who's going to be the Democratic candidate for president.

On that note, it's interesting that a staffer that I've never met for a Democratic candidate sent me a text message Sunday afternoon – "Hi, I'm Dona, a volunteer with (Elizabeth) Warren for President. Is this Miles?"

So many thoughts... Speaking of democracy, there is a race for Perquimans school board. Incumbents **Leary Winslow, Russell Lassiter** and **Arlene Yates** are being challenged for their seats by **Joseph Silva**. The

See **LAYTON, A2**

## Achieving the American Dream

Perquimans High School senior is a role model

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

When the Perquimans Weekly was seeking to feature a Student of the Month, Superintendent Tanya Turner suggested Claribel Ordaz-Rios.

A senior at Perquimans High School, Ordaz-Rios is "absolutely a role model. Well respected by staff and students," Turner said.

A quick call to school's guidance counselor John Manning echoed much the same sentiment.

"A good student, very special – one of the best. Claribel has a very compelling rags to riches story," he said.

Intrigued, the newspaper met Ordaz-Rios to learn more about this student, see what the hype was all about.

Truly, this college bound kid is the real deal.

Ordaz-Rios, 17, was born in Chowan County and raised in Perquimans County. Her parents are immigrants who came to this country seeking a better way of life.

A strong sense of family motivates Ordaz-Rios to succeed.

"What motivates me



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ordaz-Rios won the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation's essay contest and was awarded with a trip to Washington DC. (R-L) Perquimans Principal Wayne Price, Ordaz-Rios and Chris Powell of AEMC.

overall is my family, my background, how and where I grew up. My mom (Juana) was a single mother for about 5-6 years before remarrying," she said. "In order for her to make ends meet she would pick up 2-3 jobs. There were some days in which I didn't see her at all. In 2008 when the economic recession hit, she had just had my younger sibling. I remember that year be-

ing hard on us."

Talking to Ordaz-Rios, she has a strong resolve tempered from lessons you can't read about in books, but experience first-hand.

"We struggled, but we made it through.

Even through the struggles, my

mom didn't let me worry about losing our home or whether or not we were going to be feed for the week," she said. "As the daughter of an immigrant family, there aren't many opportunities or resources available. Essentially I had to pull through and do most of my schooling by myself."

Bridging two different cultures, English is not Ordaz-Rios' first language.

"Growing up, the biggest struggles that I had were accommodating to my surroundings and the

See **ORDAZ-RIOS, A3**

PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

A senior at Perquimans High School, Claribel Ordaz-Rios is driven to excel and achieve the American dream. A top student, Ordaz-Rios will be attending UNC Chapel Hill in the fall.



## District Receives Grants

BY STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County School system has been awarded a couple of grants in recent weeks.

And custodian Brenda Jackson and first grade teacher Lacey Winslow were recognized for their contributions to the school system.

Also, a trio of Board of Education members were recognized for their achievements by the North Carolina School Boards Association for School Boardmanship.

**Grant success**

Perquimans Central School teacher Stacey Pierce was awarded an Ag in the Classroom Grant in the amount of \$495.

This Ag grant includes games, books and art supplies to use in her classroom. She will expose students to a large variety of games and art supplies to increase student interest.

Students will listen to agriculture books and gain knowledge and appreciation for agriculture within our county through farm related stories. By sharing games about agriculture, students will learn about the growth and needs of animals in our community.

Another grant comes from NC Beautiful, which has been a part of the state's environmental education for over 50 years, supporting awareness, education and beautification efforts that affect our quality of life.

A \$339 Windows of Opportunity Grant was awarded to Laura Duncan and the first graders at Perquimans Central School to grow a garden on school grounds. All supplies to grow the garden will be funded by the grant.

See **SCHOOLS, A1**

## PERQUIMANS COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Sports stars and newsmakers seem to always get ink, so why not put Perquimans County's academic all-stars – honor rolls from each school – in the newspaper too – starting on the FRONT page! Maybe that'll inspire a new generation of students to achieve more, become community leaders and much more. Published as promised, the Second Quarter Honor Rolls for each of Perquimans top schools.

### Hertford Grammar School Honor Roll

Grade 3  
A Honor Roll

Angelica Ainslie, Chase Baker, James Byrum, Brody Dail, Madison Davenport, Chloe Davis, Ethan Drew, Cassidey Graham, Laci-ana Hodges, Eliza Jethro, Mitchel Meads, Cole Petty, Izaak Pollock, Alayna VanHorn

AB Honor Roll  
Ariana Almodova, Bella Basnight, Landon Bissell, Jacob Brewer, Landon Brinkley, Matthew Clark, Olivia Glenn, Paige Guertin, Franco Gutierrez, Averie Hollowell, Amelia Kneut, Savanna Layden,

See **HGS, A2**

### Perquimans Middle School Honor Roll

6th Grade  
Principal's List

Ashley Boseman, William Byrum, LileeAnn Estes, Katie Fisher, Jack Goudy, Tyler Gregory, Aven Hall, Noah Miller, Madison Montgomery, Kendyl Moreland, Karen Nieto, Heather Smith, Khila Smith, Elizabeth Stottlemeyer, Ryleigh Watson, Tanner Wheatley, Collin Winslow, Mattison Winslow

AB Honor Roll  
Jack Bailes, Dontay Bilups, Nathan Biter, Benjamin Brown, Morgan Byrum, Evan Conway, Savannah Crowley, Elizabeth Damron, Marshall Davenport,

See **PMS, A2**

### Perquimans High School Honor Roll

9th Grade  
A Honor Roll

Jonathan Banks, Kenneth Barnes, Tyequasha Bemby, Landon Castle, Madilyn Chaulk, Dayne Colson, Maura Colson, Joleigh Connor, Reagan Elkins, Alicen Leary, Kaylie Hudson, Thomas Riddick, Sydney Russell, Liliana Sablon, Ariana Salupo, Eby Scaff, Emma Smith, Meadow Stacey, Noah Swinney, Heaven Tripp, Breanna Vaughan, Aiden White, Alexis Williams, Victoria Williamson, Macon Winslow

AB Honor Roll  
Carissa Baker, Stephen Butler, Da'Varia

See **PHS, A2**



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