

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



'The only things we have to fear ...', B4

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

\$1.00

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

Find out where you can go, what you can do — A3

OPINION

Columnists chime in on corona virus — A4

CHURCH

Pastors' sermons discuss Esteem, life amid pandemic — B1

KIDS' CORNER

Make your own bird feeder as part of STEM contest — B2

Pirates' FFA: 'People Helping People'

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perquimans High School's chapter of Future Farmers of America has been feeding families for years through the school's Hungry Heroes program — "Serving to Serve."

Times being what they are, these Pirates have more mouths to feed, but they are up to the job.

"The Hungry Heroes program has been making a difference in meeting weekend hunger needs for the past five years," said Jill Cohen, director of Career Technical Education for the county school system. "I have always felt that Perquimans County is a family that takes care of all its members. The Hungry Heroes program not only provides food, it teaches Agriculture students to be engaged citizens by helping others, developing leadership skills and an under-

standing of our community needs. Programs like this, people helping people of all ages, makes living in our county special."

Teachers Susan Perry and Kelly Russell oversee the program and have been delivering the food to homes.

"Over the past few years, we average about 40 families per week but the current situation has seen our program grow to over 70 families," Perry said. "We must remember that this number represents families and not just a student. I'm expecting more families to continually be identified over the next few weeks with lay-offs and people out of work due to quarantine status or closed businesses."

Tina Mathis and Jan Tripp, advisers for the PCHS LEAD club and the Breakfast Club have been a tremendous help with donations and deliveries to support the pro-

gram. The Hertford United Methodist Church and Hertford Rotary club have been on-going partners over the years.

"This is truly a community project of support. Many local churches and civic clubs have donated to the program in order to support our children," Cohen said.

Hertford Rotary also donates books to go in the boxes as well as individual bags of grooming supplies.

"Weekly donations from the Rotarians and a grant have been extremely helpful," Russell said.

Give Hertford Rotary a tip of the hat for taking the initiative.

"Hertford Rotary Club is honored and engaged to assist the students of our community with supplemental food and supplies. We are advocates for our youth and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County High School's chapter of the Future Farmers of America's Hungry Heroes program provides food to more than 70 families.

See FFA, A2

ARHS Confirms COVID-19 Case in PQ

8 people in region now tested positive for virus

FROM STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

The first lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in Perquimans County was reported Friday by Albemarle Regional Health Services.

ARHS reported that Health Director R. Battle Betts Jr. had received notification of the case in Perquimans.

The health agency did not identify the person, saying only they are in isolation.

ARHS is following N.C. Department of Health and Human Services guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with the person.

Close contact is defined as being in direct contact with, or being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for at least 10 minutes, while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

Caregivers and household members of COVID-19 patients are considered close contacts.

The Perquimans resident is the eighth person in the region to test positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus. Three Bertie County residents, two from Hertford County, and one each from Pasquotank and Dare counties have tested positive for the virus.

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services reported more than 760 positive COVID-19 cases statewide as of Friday morning, 125 more than Thursday's tally. More than 200 of the cases are in Mecklenburg County and over 100 in Wake County. More than 75 people are hospitalized statewide, according to the department.

Meanwhile, the death of a Johnston County resident on Thursday brings the number of deaths reported by DHHS to three. The patient, in their mid-60s, had underlying medical conditions, Johnston County said in a news release. Cabarrus and Harnett county residents also have died. A fourth person from Virginia who died of COVID-19 complications in North Carolina is not in the state's official count.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Ms. ELVA

PQ Schools Bus Driver Leads by Example

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Trying times that we live in call for heroes to emerge, make things better.

Longtime school bus driver Elva Lee — "Ms. Elva" — drives a route that crisscrosses Perquimans County to bring meals to kids near and far. After 34 years of service, Lee not only knows the students who live along her route, but a lot about their families and communities where they live.

"Ms. Elva is a true pillar on our community, knows everyone and cares about all children," said Jeffrey Miller, PQ Schools' Transportation Director. "She has been delivering meals on the bus, additionally she has taken meals door to door to students she knows are in need and have hardships that can't get to the bus stops after completing the route. She has a outstanding rapport in the community and with students, especially our exceptional children population."

School officials and the Perquimans Weekly worked together to keep this story a secret from Lee so as to give her a nice surprise in today's newspaper.

Miller described Lee as indispensable when the call came out



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

God puts people in the right place, at the right time. Because of longtime school bus driver Elva Lee's knowledge of the people and places in Perquimans County, she's making a difference during these difficult times when heroes are needed most.



Elva Lee is hand delivering hot food to two students, who are among the hundreds of Perquimans County children who are served meals each day.

See ELVA, A5

ROUND-UP Embrace Hope, not Fear

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

First, embrace hope; do not give into fear. People have been in Perquimans County since the 1600s during which time we've survived the Revolutionary and Civil wars, Reconstruction, the Great Depression, world wars, and much more, so we're not going to let a virus defeat us.

In recent weeks, we've come together as we often do across northeastern North Carolina to rise to any occasion and help our neighbors.

While it's not easy "social distancing" especially when we're so used to seeing/talking to people walking by on Church Street downtown, it's for the greater good to stay-at-home.

To the Perquimans person recently diagnosed with COVID-19, the community's hearts and prayers go out for your recovery. We're all in this together, so let folks know if you need anything.

Tip of the hat to Mayor Earnell Brown, Town Council and many other volunteers for delivering meals to folks near and far during these trying times. Group is checking on and bringing meals to nearly 40 senior citizens.

See LAYTON, A5

K9 Officers Get A Treat

Emergency Personnel to use Mannequin Dog for CPR Training

BY STAFF REPORTS

During the past several months, Perquimans County Emergency Services has been exploring ways to offer basic medical treatment to its K9 Officers in the event care is needed such as an accidental overdose or hemorrhage control.

These folks are even looking into ways to assist a dog or cat that is involved in an emergency where EMS is already on site, such as a structure fire.

The nearest emergency veterinarian would be at least a one-hour transport and in some

situations, some basic life support skills may help to stabilize an animal until further care can be administered by a licensed Veterinarian. Animal Welfare of the Albemarle Region Everyday (AWARE) is supporting PQ Emergency Service's efforts by donating "Casper", a dog mannequin used to train first responders in providing CPR to animals, in memory of Trish Signor, vice president and co-Founder of AWARE.

Signor was a regular volunteer at AWARE's rabies clinics and other local events and a tireless promoter and supporter of AWARE's spay neuter programs. She also

See K9, A5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Animal Welfare of the Albemarle Region Everyday (AWARE) is supporting Perquimans Emergency Service's efforts by donating "Casper", a dog mannequin used to train first responders in providing CPR to animals, in memory of Trish Signor, vice president and co-Founder of AWARE.



6 89076 47144 2

Vol. 86, No. 14
©2020 Perquimans Weekly
All Rights Reserved