

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PHS honors Class of 2020, A6-B1

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

\$1.00

NEWS

Steinburg: Stay-at-Home Order Should End Soon — A2

OPINION

Columnists, Newspaper gives Opinions on Stay-at-Home Order, COVID-19 — A4

KIDS' CORNER

Earth Day is the Theme of this Week's Page — B2

CHURCH

Gospel that Harms, Hurts then Heals — B4

Country Doctor Retires After 35 Years of Service

Dr. Neal Denunzio's known for house calls, dry humor

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Maybe the rest of the nation is transfixed by the latest developments arising from the coronavirus, but in Perquimans County — folks want to know more about how their neighbors are doing with the latest tidbit being the big news about Dr. Neal Denunzio's retirement.

"He's a funny guy," said Ashlea

White Davis of Hertford who has known the good doctor for 35 years. "Dry humor and he's quick with a joke with many of his patients. A compassionate man, he is a caring doctor who strives to figure out problems. Truly thankful for his care and friendship."

Under Denunzio's care, Mary White lived to a ripe old age.

"My mother, Mary, who taught many, many students over the years, was a patient of Dr. Denunzio," said Glenn White, also a patient of Dr. Denunzio. "He always took the time to see her for any ailment she might have had. I credit

him for helping to keep her stay active over the last several years of the 104 years she lived. He brought his whole family to her 100th birthday celebration we had for her at Piney Woods Friends Meeting."

Like mother like son, White trusts this doctor with a proven track record.

"When I came back to Perquimans County after having lived in Fayetteville for many years, Dr. Denunzio was the natural choice of a doctor for me," he said.

See DOCTOR, A3

SUBMITTED PHOTO
After 35 years serving patients in Perquimans County, Dr. Neal Denunzio is retiring. Thank you for your care and service to the community.

ARHS Gives Update on COVID-19 Cases

BY STAFF REPORTS

ELIZABETH CITY — Albemarle Regional Health Services reports that as of Monday, there are 4,816 lab confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases across the Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) region include:

■ Perquimans County — 4 lab confirmed cases — 2 active and 2 recovered

■ Pasquotank County — 15 lab confirmed cases — 7 active and 8 recovered

■ Camden County — 0 cases

■ Chowan County — 3 lab confirmed cases — 2 active and 1 recovered

■ Currituck County — 3 lab confirmed cases — 2 active and 1 recovered

■ Bertie County — 12 lab confirmed cases — 1 active, 10 recovered, and 1 death

■ Gates County — 4 lab confirmed cases — 0 active and 4 recovered

■ Hertford County — 4 lab confirmed cases — 1 active, 2 recovered, and 1 death

Cases identified as recovered means individuals have had no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever, have been without symptoms for at least seven days, and other symptoms have improved. ARHS will continue to update the 338-WELL line with active and recovered cases.

As Tarheels begin the third week of the Stay at Home order it is imperative that folks continue to practice preventive and safety measures that will help prevent the spread of the COVID-19. These precautions include:

■ Avoid close contact with peo-

See COVID-19, A3

EDITOR'S NOTE

Due to technical difficulties, a story about Hertford Town Council's Monday meeting will appear in next week's Perquimans Weekly. Like many municipal governments, council is using technology to keep connected during the coronavirus pandemic. Council meetings are conducted via Zoom, a teleconference application.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

No, that's not the "White Rabbit" from Jefferson Airplane nor the one from "Alice in Wonderland" but is instead the Trix' cereal Rabbit's more successful/better looking brother, the Easter Bunny. This traveling rabbit brought joy to children near and far as he crisscrossed Perquimans County.

Traveling Easter Bunny visits

Thank-you Easter Bunny!

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Easter Bunny visited Perquimans County to help boost the spirits of children who weren't able to attend egg hunts at church on Sunday because of the coronavirus and social distancing measures.

"I decided to do this because in a time of need, the community needed something to bring joy to them. I wanted to give back to the community and have something they would remember in spite of our current national circumstance," said the Easter Bunny, aka Darius White.

Easter Bunny hopped to places near and far including Winfall, downtown Hertford, Stokes Street, Meads Mobile Home Park, Wynne Fork Court, Snug Harbor, Holiday Island, New Hope, Woodville, Chapanoke, Cottonwood and then hippety-hoppety back to Win-



Easter Bunny's posse includes the driver, Elbert Sawyer, Sheila Glasscock riding shotgun, and beside the Easter Bunny is Kelsey Anderson — all staff at Perquimans Middle School. Be epic if the Jeep's stereo was playing, "Ice, Ice Baby" as they cruised through the county, "Rollin' In my 5.0 with the rag-top down so my hair can blow..."

fall.

"The Easter Bunny brings excitement to kids. However, this Easter Bunny was special. This Easter Bunny brought joy to everyone no matter the age in such a difficult time as this,"

said the rabbit.

Pirates's Class of 2014, this proud native son of Perquimans County works as the health and physical education teacher,

See BUNNY, A3

ROUND-UP Rabbits & Easter

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

Gold star to Mayor Earnell Brown and PNC Bank! At the request of a Hertford citizen needing access to PNC's downtown bank, Brown reached out to the bank executives to ask them to please reopen. Bank's services are needed, especially for seniors with limited transportation. Mayor reports that PNC reopened their drive-up windows on Monday!

Hours:
M-F, 10-2 p.m. (April 13-17).
M-F, 10-5 p.m. (April 20-until).
You must call for an appt. to go inside.

Monday's storm was wild — Per Albemarle Electric, there were nearly 500 customers without power — most in the southern end of the county. Winds blowing between 50 mph and 6 mph blasted through the region. Rain gauge says .37 inches.

White caps in the Sound, so not a good time to be sailing or kayaking (joke). During what could be called the storm surge, the Town docks by Hertford Bay Marina

See LAYTON, A3



PHOTO BY MARTHA BORDERS

Easter Bunny or Trix the Rabbit from the cereal box?

Pierce Plants PQ County's Future Farmers

Instructor named NC Farm Bureau's Teacher of the Year

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perquimans Central School teacher Stacey Pierce has been named N.C. Farm Bureau's 2020 Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.

"Yes, I was very surprised to win this award," she said. "My first thought was 'Wow! I was picked for teacher of the year out of all the wonderful teachers in North Carolina! I am truly humbled and blessed!'"

Pierce's approach to integrating agricultural concepts into

classroom curriculum was judged to be the most effective among her peers, according to information provided by Farm Bureau. Pierce has hosted numerous ag science events at school and won several Going Local classroom grants.

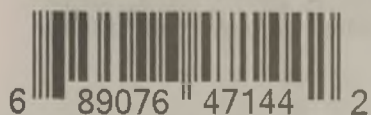
"Agriculture is an important part of everyone's life," said N.C. Farm Bureau President Shawn Harding. "Clothing, food, fuel, housing, medicine, and much more are rooted on the farm. Agricultural issues can support the teaching of many academic disciplines. Stacey is a shining example of a teacher who truly cares about the students and what they

See PIERCE, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Congrats goes to Perquimans Central School's Stacey Pierce who has been named NC Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom's Teacher of the Year.



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