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"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

\$1.00



**NEWS**  
 Town Council asks County Commission to remove Confederate statue — A2



**NEWS**  
 Coast Guard honored for rescue in Sound — A5



**COMMUNITY**  
 Local churches host Vacation Bible Schools — B1, B2

## Hurricane Isaias Invasion Leaves Thousands in Dark

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Hurricane Isaias left a path of destruction Tuesday as it invaded eastern North Carolina.

Rain gauge in downtown Edenton showed 2.31 inches of precipitation as waves and strong winds in excess of 40 mph pounded the bulkheads bordering the bay by Water Street in Edenton.

Two people were killed and several were taken to the hospital after a tornado touched down around 2:30 a.m. and destroyed at least 10 homes within the Ce-

dar Landing neighborhood south of Windsor in Bertie County, according to Bertie County Emergency Management Director Mitch Cooper.

A tornado warning was issued around 2 a.m. but ended around 3:30 a.m. Tuesday morning in Chowan and Perquimans counties. No reports of injuries in either county.

Early Tuesday, Dominion Power reported 1,625 customers in Chowan County and 588 customers in Perquimans County without power.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation reported

4,000 members without power.

The majority of the outages were in Chowan and Perquimans counties. By Tuesday afternoon, Albemarle EMC restored power to 1,678 members.

Though power outages were reported near and far, line crews had restored electricity by mid to late afternoon.

Street crews were busy in Edenton and Hertford clearing debris.

Sailboats docked at Colonial Park, Edenton Marina and Albemarle Plantation Marina showed no signs of damage.



PHOTO BY MARTHA BORDERS

During Hurricane Isaias' torrent of rain and strong winds, a hollow tree collapsed into a vacant building at the corner of Dobbs and Woodland Avenue in Hertford.

## Schools March Toward First Day

BY STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tanya Turner said due to the high demand of families who have chosen Option B Face to Face instruction, Perquimans Schools will no longer be able to switch students from remote learning to face to face instruction. This is due to bus capacity and classroom capacity to allow for the 6 feet social distancing.

School system will re-evaluate our numbers once school begins. If your child is registered for face to face instruction under Plan B and you wish at any time to change to remote learning, you will still be able to make this change by contacting your child's school.

In addition, school system need to finalize the bus routes as soon as possible. In order to do this, school system need to make sure all parents who are coming for face to face instruction and need bus transportation have filled out their transportation intent form.

This form can be found on the school system website at www.pqschools.org or you can contact the central office for a form as well. These forms are necessary for accurate and efficient bus routes especially considering our blended schedule.

All students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade will receive a Chromebook this school year. Please attend one of our Back to School Bashes located behind the central office on Tuesday, August 4th, or Wednesday, August 5th from 7:30-5:30. Parents will complete the paperwork, pay the tech fee, and pick up their child's Chromebook at this time.

Chromebooks are \$20 per child with no family having to pay more than \$50 if they have 3 or more children. Remote tech support and hot spot information will be given out during pickup.

Many folks have been asking about class letters and teacher assignments. Principals and office staff at each school have

See **SCHOOLS**, A3



Best graduation photo comes from April Story, thanks!

## Pirates Awarded Diplomas

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Congrats to the Perquimans County High School Class of 2020!

Saturday, Pirates gathered at the Nixon Athletic Complex on the Charles H. Ward football field. Masks were worn and people practiced social distancing as a COVID-19 precaution.

Many people sent in photos from graduation, all of which can be viewed on the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page.

See Class valedictorian Claribel Ordaz-Rios' speech, which is published below in its entirety, offered this advice to her peers.

"Always try to be the best that you can be," she said, "because no matter what, your character and your efforts

See **DIPLOMAS**, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Longtime friends who grew up with each other, strike a pose on graduation day.



Trio of terrific seniors (l-r) Lizzy Story, Claribel Ordaz-Rios and Morgan DeCastillia.

## 'Be The Best That You Can Be'

BY CLARIBEL ORDAZ-RIOS  
 PCHS Valedictorian

**Editor's Note:** Published below is the remarks given by Perquimans County High School Class of 2020 valedictorian Claribel Ordaz-Rios at the Pirates' commencement ceremony.



ORDAZ-RIOS

Good evening everyone. On my personal behalf, I would like to welcome and thank you for being here tonight as we celebrate the graduation ceremony for the

See **ORDAZ-RIOS**, A2

## 'Oh The Places You'll Go'

BY ALLISON COPELAND  
 PCHS Salutatorian

**Editor's Note:** Published below is the remarks given by Perquimans County High School Class of 2020 salutatorian Allison Copeland at the Pirates' commencement ceremony.



COPELAND

Good evening everyone. Wow how the time has flown- 13 years ago, this day seemed as if it would never come.

See **COPELAND**, A2

## ROUND-UP St. Paul AME Zion and Surfer's Prayers

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, **St. Paul AME Zion**, located at 329 Dobbs Street, Hertford, will be giving away food and offering free COVID-19 testing.

Partnering with HUB Laboratories/Ottendorf, testing will be conducted by nurses/health care professionals. Testing is FREE, no insurance needed - just bring identification.

Folks will be giving out frozen food, hamburger meat and grocery items.

**Pastor Todd French** said testing and the food giveaway will take place outside the church.

"We're doing this as part of our community outreach and as an effort to try to stop the virus," he said. "Food ministry is a blessing too."

Praise God for this church and its blessings to be able to provide this service to the community. More good news like this is what we all need!

See Vacation Bible School photos on pages B1 and B2 - a good way to instill faith in a new generation of Christians.

School is around the corner, so Perquimans Weekly columnist **Ashlea White-Davis** wrote a column about school supplies. Remember Trapper Keepers, Star Wars backpacks and getting the 64-pack of different colored Crayola crayons?

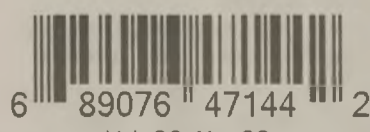
In other news, congrats to Jill Cohen, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director with Perquimans County Schools, who has been named the Regional CTE Director of the Year. She deserves the honor. Another note about Cohen, she is an accomplished sailor. Her videos showing her and her husband navigating the Albemarle Sound are inspiring to would-be mariners.

Beach Boys sang about 'Surfing Safari'... but this was probably not what they had in mind.

Sunday with Isaias perched off the coast, wind speed increased thus offering an opportunity to go surfing/sailing.

My kayak/surfboard has a sail, so after launching from a sandy beach in Bertie County, I crossed the mouth of the Chowan River, then headed for the open water of

See **LAYTON**, A2



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