

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

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## PETS

See what animals are available at the Tri-County Animal Shelter — A6



## SCHOOLS

Several groups announce scholarship winners — B1



## THIS WEEK

Effort to save Jockey's Ridge started on Aug. 15, 1973 — B4

# Waterfront, ABC Board Appointment Discussed

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

By the time our valued subscribers read the news about Monday's Hertford Town Council meeting, it may be a bit different as council opted to recess that multi-hour meeting to Tuesday night rather than burning the midnight oil.

Because of press deadlines, more on these matters will appear in a future edition of the Perquimans Weekly.

Still, here's some of what's being discussed this week among council members at the town's community center where the sound quality can be poor at times, particularly when compared to Zoom meetings posted to Facebook earlier this year.

During citizen's concerns, Tim Brinn of Front Street issued forth a call to action that began with seeking answers about any progress Town



Hall has made to make sure that plans for the West Hertford Historic District move forward rather than collecting dust in a file cabinet. A plan was approved by the state historic preservation office for Hertford to hire a firm and begin the process of documenting historic significance of this area.

Brinn noted the time, money and volunteer work that got that plan approved in 2019 but the clock seems to have stopped. Back in 1998, it took two years to do all the work and many volunteer hours.

Brinn also said while property value has increased countywide, the same can not be said of Hertford which lost \$15 million in value last year because of distressed housing and other factors. He spoke of the citizens' support for the 18 percent property tax increase to balance the

budget, but added that town needs to help itself by taking control of the blight which affects property values.

Also, Brinn said Missing Mill park is not being used, but the state has resources available to revive the park's usefulness.

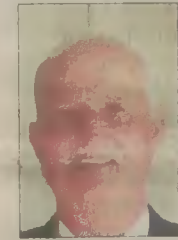
Though the sound quality transmitting Murielle Harmon's speech was poor, no one could doubt her passion for defending her Front Street neighborhood from those

See WATERFRONT, A3

# Stallings, Former School Leader, Joins God's Faculty

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Former Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dwayne Stallings died Sunday after a long illness at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.



STALLINGS

Stallings, 63, of Hertford had over 30 years invested in public education in North Carolina and 21 of those years he served as an administrator in Perquimans County.

"One of my favorite sayings is 'Your walk talks and your talk talks but your walk talks louder than your talk talks,'" Superintendent Tanya Turner said. "This is so very true of Dr. Stallings. He was a genuine person and it showed through everything he did. He was well respected by all because of his strong character and compassionate heart."

Turner taught in Perquimans for 10 years, first at Perquimans Central and then at Perquimans County Middle School before moving to the Chowan school system.

Turner had kind words for the man who spent his life serving the school district.

"He always encouraged me throughout my career and was extremely supportive of me when I became superintendent of Perquimans County Schools," said Turner who was hired as superintendent in 2019. "He would freely lend a listening ear and always offer valuable words of wisdom and support. Dr. Stallings touched the lives of many. His memory will live on in the hearts of countless students, school system employees, and community members. I am blessed to have known him. He will be missed!"

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday in the Perquimans County High School Gymnasium and will be conducted by the Rev. Darryl Stallings. A private burial will follow in Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Elizabeth City.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be

See STALLINGS, A2

# CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020



Congratulations Class of 2020! During the course of the last several days, Pirates' parents have submitted photos of newly minted alumni hailing from the Perquimans County High School Class of 2020. Note the smiling faces filled with optimism about the future. To see more, check our photo collage on page B1. Lady on the ground Katelyn Sharber; left of picture — Danielle Hurdle, Macee Russell, Madison Jennings, Elizabeth Story, Shelly White, Allison Copeland, Jenna O'Neal and Maggie Williams.

# COVID Claims 2nd Death in Chowan County

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Staff writer

Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) reported a second death associated with COVID-19 in a Chowan County resident on Monday.

The individual was over the age 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. To protect the family's privacy, no further information about this patient will be released.

Also, ARHS Director Battle Betts rebutted the suggestion that the transparency and manner of COVID-19 counts is politically motivated. He provided answers as to why the most up-to-date numbers are available to the public via phone, but not necessarily released on a daily basis via email to the media or posted to social media for public awareness.

As of Tuesday's press time, this is the COVID-19 count:

■ Pasquotank County — 388 lab confirmed cases — 67 active, 300 recovered, and 21 deaths

■ Perquimans County — 80 lab confirmed cases — 25 active, 53 recovered, and 2 deaths

■ Camden County — 68 lab confirmed cases — 28 active, 38 recovered, and 2 deaths

■ Chowan County — 150 lab confirmed cases — 35 active, 114 recovered and 2 deaths

■ Currituck County — 72 lab confirmed cases — 9 ac-



BETTS

tive and 63 recovered

■ Bertie County — 263 lab confirmed cases — 34 active, 224 recovered and 5 deaths

■ Gates County — 46 lab confirmed cases — 2 active, 42 recovered, and 2 deaths

■ Hertford County — 316 lab confirmed cases — 47 active, 257 recovered, and 12 deaths

In an email exchange with the Chowan Herald/Perquimans Weekly, a concerned citizen asked why ARHS doesn't share the most up-to-date information on social media each day as it would make it easier for all to stay informed.

As the numbers may change daily, if someone wants calls ARHS and selects option 1, folks will hear a daily update, by county, of total cases — active, recovered and deaths.

Responding to the email exchange from concerned citizens seeking answers and the Chowan Herald/Perquimans Weekly, Betts said this information line is updated every 24 hours, including Saturdays and Sundays. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services also provides links to cases by zip code on its site.

Another question from a concerned citizen was why doesn't ARHS include county hospitalization counts like Dare County does.

Vidant Health does give a daily census of COVID inpatients across their entire system on their website, but the count lags one day.

Responding to these inquiries, Betts issued this statement.

"I would encourage caution using that data however, as the cases are often assigned to an improper county by the state and have to be corrected at the local level," he said. "The data we provide locally is real time as we are informed by the surveillance system and reporting labs."

Betts said the ARHS is committed to transparency.

"ARHS prides itself with our utmost transparency and commitment to educate and inform the citizens we serve," he said. "I would be more than happy to further discuss any issues or concerns you may have. ... All total and active case counts as well as deaths are updated daily. Our website, arhs-nc.org, is also a valuable tool to utilize for the most current information. We have also established 338-WELL for citizens to obtain the most current case numbers, active cases, and deaths."

July 24, Chowan County

See COVID, A2

## ROUND-UP

# Word of Thanks

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

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

School starts Monday, Aug. 17 — good luck!

This will be the weekly schedule as long as Perquimans Schools are in Plan B.

Perquimans Central: 8:05-3:15

Hertford Grammar: 7:55-3:10

Perquimans Middle School:

■ Tuesday through Friday is 5th and 6th grade at PCMS 7:55-3:00

■ 7th and 8th grade on Tuesday and Wednesday at PCHS 9:30-1:30

Perquimans High School: 7:55-3:05

Monday: 9-12 is Face to Face at PCHS and K-8 is remote.

Tuesday: K-6 is Face to Face (K-2 at PCS, 3-4 at HGS, and 5-6 at PCMS)

■ 7-8 is Face to Face at PCHS (9:30-1:30)

■ 9-12 is remote.

Wednesday: K-6 is Face to Face (K-2 at PCS, 3-4 at HGS, and 5-6 at PCMS)

■ 7-8 is Face to Face at PCHS (9:30-1:30)

■ 9-12 remote

Thursday: K-6 is Face to Face (K-2 at PCS, 3-4 at HGS, and 5-6 at PCMS)

■ 7-12 is remote

Friday: K-6 is Face to Face (K-2 at PCS, 3-4 at HGS, and 5-6 at PCMS)

■ 7-12 is remote.

Last Thursday, St. Paul's AME Zion Church gave away food and offered free COVID-19 testing.

Partnering with HUB Laboratories/Ottendorf, free testing was conducted by nurses/health care professionals.

Pastor Todd French said, "It went GREAT!! We serviced around 100 families getting food and had around 50 or so get tested! Very nice event."

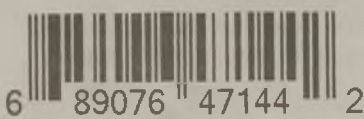
More Perquimans Class of 2020

See LAYTON, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Last week, the crew at St. Paul AME Zion Church did God's work by distributing free food while health care professionals were testing folks for COVID-19.



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