

Commission Receives COVID-19 Update

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Ashley Stoop of Albe-
marle Regional Health
Services provided Per-
quimans County Board
of Commissioners an
update about the re-
gion's response to the
COVID-19 pandemic.

During the Dec. 7
meeting, Stoop spoke
of the color coding
system designating the
spread of those infect-
ed with the virus.

In recent weeks,
Perquimans is among
North Carolina coun-
ties seeing "critical"
community spread of
COVID-19.

According to the lat-
est ARHS statistics,
Perquimans County
has 34 active cases of
covid, four deaths, 359
recovered cases - 397
cases total.

As of now five of the
AHRs eight counties
are in the red with the
potential to see more
red spread across the
region and state in the
new report that comes
out later this week.

The number of red
counties has more
than doubled from the
November 23 County
Alert, up to 48 from

20 counties. There are
34 orange counties as
compared to 42 coun-
ties in that last report.

To compile the Coun-
ty Alert System report,
state Department of
Health and Human Ser-
vices compared coun-
ties according to their
COVID-19 case rates
per 100,000 people,
their percentage of
positive tests and the
impact virus cases are
having on their com-
munity hospitals.

DHHS then categor-
ized counties into
three tiers, with those
coded red reporting
critical community
spread; those coded
orange seeing substan-
tial community spread;
and those coded yel-
low seeing "signifi-
cant" spread.

In other news, com-
mission granted a two-
year extension for a
conditional use permit
for Perquimans Solar
LLC.

The company sited
COVID-19 delays that
are holding up devel-
opment of the proper-
ty.

Miles Layton can be
reached at m Layton@ncweeklies.com



On behalf of the Perquimans County Commission, Commission Chairman Wallace Nelson presented a plaque to Brenda Lassiter for her 14 years of service on the Planning Board. Her final term with the board ended in November.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

OBITUARIES

Betty Gail Sawyer

HERTFORD - Betty Gail Chappell Sawyer, 71, of Dobbs Street, Hertford, formerly of Belvidere, passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, in Chesapeake, VA., after a brief illness.

Born in Pasquotank County in 1949, she was the daughter of Juanita Virginia Spivey Chappell of Hertford and the late Gailey Lee Chappell.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by a nephew, C.W. "Trey" Overton, III. A member of Whiteville Grove Baptist Church, she was a devoted caretaker to her mother, of the home, as well as a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend to many.

Besides her mother, she is survived by a son, Thomas Wayne "Buddy" Sawyer (Amy) of Belvidere, and daughters, Lisa Gail Sawyer Jackson (Sean) of Cary and Lori Leigh Sawyer Haines (Caleb) of Elizabeth City.

She is also survived by five grandchildren, Thomas Christopher Sawyer and Matthew James Sawyer, Dylan Sinclair Jackson and Effie Dare Jackson, and Riley Hunter Haines; two great-granddaughters, Paisley Marie Sawyer and Bailey Lynn Sawyer; by her sisters, Peggy Lynn Spruill (Billy) of Winfall and Vicki Leigh Overton (C.W.) of Belvidere, as well as two nieces, Melanie Shoaf (Chris) of Hertford, and Amy Comoroski (Steven) of Winfall. She also leaves behind her dear cousin, Arlene (Bobby) Weeks of Southern Shores.

A private graveside service to celebrate Betty's gracious and loving spirit will be held on Thursday in Cedarwood Cemetery, and will be conducted by Pastors Lonnie Coker and Michael Haines.

With restrictions associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic, no formal visitation will be held. However, friends my visit with the family at her son's home, 124 Drinking Hole Road, Belvidere. Safety protocols including masks and social distancing guidelines will be followed for both the service and times of visitation.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral and Cremation Providers, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, is assisting the family with arrangements, and online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email obits@apgenc.com and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email obits@apgenc.com. We do not accept

notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition. Death notices are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans Sheriff's arrests between Dec. 4 and Dec. 10:
 ■ Christopher Young of Virginia Beach was arrested Dec. 4 and charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a stolen firearm and larceny of a firearm. Bond was set at \$6,000 secured.
 ■ Joel McClenney of Crescent Drive, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 5 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000 secured.
 ■ Clayton Rockwell of New

Hope Road, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 5 and charged with communicating threats. Bond/other
 ■ Morgan Key of Elizabeth City was arrested Dec. 8 and charged with driving while license revoked and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bond was set at \$500 unsecured.
 ■ Jonathan Hansley of Pennsylvania Avenue, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 10 and charged with assault and battery. Bond was set at \$1,000 unsecured.

City police said.

Three of the four juveniles were treated for non-life threatening injuries, at Sentara Albe-
marle Medical Center and released into police custody. A fourth juvenile ran from the vehicle and was not taken into custody.

The man who was shot in the incident was transported to a local hospital where he was treated for a gunshot wound and released, Duncan said. The man does not believe he was targeted in the attack, Duncan said. The man's name has not been released to the media.

A subsequent investigation by Elizabeth City police determined the vehicle involved in the incident had been reported stolen from the 100 block of Ward Street on Nov. 25, according to Sgt. Lamar Battle.

Julian Eure is managing editor of the Daily Advance. Perquimans Weekly Editor Miles Layton contributed to this report.

Suspects in Hertford Shooting Juveniles

BY JULIAN EURE
For the Perquimans Weekly

All four suspects in a shooting incident Dec. 4 in Hertford that sent a man to the hospital with a gunshot wound are juveniles, a Hertford police official says.

One of the suspects is already in custody and facing charges, while Hertford police await authorization from juvenile justice officials to file charges against three others, Detective Sgt. John Duncan of the Hertford Police Department said late last week.

The juveniles are suspected of taking part in the shooting of a 40-year-old man in the King and Stokes streets of Hertford the night of Friday, Dec. 4.

All four juveniles are between the ages of 13 and 17, Duncan said.

The 14-year-old juvenile who is already in custody is believed to have pulled the trigger in the shooting, Duncan said. Police have an eyewitness who saw the driver of the vehi-

cle fire gunshots at the man, he said.

The juvenile is charged with felony fleeing to elude arrest, assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, and felony conspiracy.

Duncan said the other three juveniles will face the same charges if officials with the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice sign off on the petitions for charges Hertford police have submitted.

Duncan said Hertford police know the fourth juvenile's identity but haven't located him yet. When they do, they expect to submit petitions to juvenile justice officials also charging him in the incident.

Duncan said juvenile justice officials signed off on the one juvenile's arrest because of his lengthy record of previous juvenile petitions. Duncan said some of the juveniles involved in the incident have had previous encounters with law enforcement. Officers heard what

appeared to be gunshots in the King and Stokes streets area around 9:53 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. Officers found a man on Stokes Street who had been shot.

According to Duncan, Hertford officers who heard the gunshots quickly responded and located a red vehicle believed to have been involved in the shooting. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle but were unsuccessful.

The officers began chasing the vehicle through a part of Hertford before following it onto U.S. Highway 17 North, Duncan said. The officers continued the chase across the Perquimans County line into Pasquotank County before turning the pursuit over to Pasquotank Sheriff's deputies as the vehicle crossed into Elizabeth City.

Not long afterward, the driver lost control of the pursued vehicle on North Road Street and the car struck a house in the 900 block of the street, Elizabeth

Vaccinations Begin as Spread of COVID Continues

FROM STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

The first inoculations with the Pfizer COVID-19 are expected in Pitt County on Thursday, three days after the biggest vaccination campaign in U.S. history kicked off with health workers across the country rolling up their sleeves for shots to protect them and start beating back the pandemic.

Monday's vaccinations brought notes of optimism even as the nation's death toll hit 300,000, record numbers of people were hospitalized locally and statewide, and daily new cases averages were at 115 locally and 6,000 statewide in the seven days between Dec. 8-14.

"I feel hopeful today. Relieved," critical care nurse Sandra Lindsay said after getting a shot in the arm at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York. "I feel like healing is coming."

With a countdown of "3-2-1," workers at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center gave the first injections to applause.

And in suburban New Orleans, Steven Lee, an in-

tensive care pharmacist at Ochsner Medical Center, summed up the moment as he got his own vaccination: "We can finally prevent the disease as opposed to

treating it." Other hospitals around the country, from Rhode Island to Texas, unloaded precious frozen vials of vaccine made by Pfizer

Inc. and its German partner BioNTech, with staggered deliveries set throughout the day and Tuesday. A few other countries have authorized

the vaccine, including Britain, which started vaccinating people last week, and Canada, which began doing so on Monday.

Vidant Health, which reported Monday that 172

people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in its system as of Sunday — the highest number yet — expects to administer its first batch of vaccine in Greenville on Thursday, officials said.

O Come Let Us Adore Him

December 24 5PM Christmas Eve Service
Hertford Baptist Church
 124 W. Market Street
 252.426.7460

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