

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

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 Columnist says he's "in rehab" for being a tightwad



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 Perquimans Recreation Department announces fall leagues' top teams



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 Perquimans beats Riverside to advance in NCHSAA 1A football playoffs

'Just show up': Mobile Food Pantry in need of volunteers

Perquimans pantry distributes food in recreation center parking lot

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

There's a chance to combat hunger among your Perquimans County neighbors on the second Friday morning of every month.

The Perquimans Mobile Food Pantry distributes food in the parking lot at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Volunteers are needed especially at 9 or 9:30 a.m. when the truck arrives with food for distribution from Food Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

Some of the food is already boxed or bagged but other items must be bagged by volunteers before it's distributed.

The food meets a need in the community.

One of those who received food from the Mobile Food Pantry on Friday was Joyce James.

"I come every month," James said. "When you get a certain income you've got to come every month."

Jason Stanberry, who volunteered Friday alongside fellow members of the U.S. Coast Guard, said he was glad to have the opportunity to help with the Mobile Food Pantry.

"It's a big need now with the COVID going on and the loss of jobs and all that," Stanberry said. "It's good to give back to the community."

Bette Butler, who helps run the monthly mobile pantry and has volunteered with the program for a decade or more, explained that people don't need to call or pre-register to volunteer.

"All they need to do is show up," Butler said.

Butler said Oak Grove United Method-

ist Church, where she's a member, took a central role in operating the Perquimans Mobile Food Pantry about 10 years ago and has been working with the program ever since.

Her twin sister Bonnie Jensen also is a longtime volunteer with the Mobile Food Pantry.

Butler noted the work is often challenging. As volunteers hurried and scurried to get food bagged and boxed, hundreds of recipients were already forming a long line in their waiting cars.

"But it's rewarding," she said. "It's something we can do to serve the community."

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White and sheriff's deputies provide volunteer support for the Mobile Food Pantry on a regular basis.

Other organizations and churches provide volunteers from time to time and some people also volunteer on an individual basis.



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volunteering at the Perquimans Mobile Food Pantry Friday were (clockwise from front left) Jason Stanberry and Jason Upshaw from the U.S. Coast Guard and Joe Elliott and Danny Stallings from Masonic Lodge #106 in Hertford.

Honoring their service

Veterans Day speaker honors true heroes

Earhart: Heroes not rock stars or pro athletes

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

The speaker at the annual Veterans Day observance Thursday challenged the audience to give diligent consideration to what it means to be a hero.

"We're in a time and a place in our nation where we are in need of real heroes," said Eric Earhart, founding pastor of Upper Room Assembly Church in Gatesville and a veteran of the U.S. Army and Virginia National Guard.

Societies have a propensity toward creating "mythological heroes" and in contemporary American society those include rock stars, actors, athletes and others associated with a visible showing of "flash and fire," Earhart said.

He contrasted the mythological image of a hero with real heroes such as a young man he knows from Gates County who lost an eye serving in Afghanistan and has returned home to raise a family and go on with his life. The young man would never consider himself a hero, "but that's exactly what he is," Earhart said.

Vincent Denny, First Class Scout of Troop 150, led the Pledge of Allegiance



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Presenting the Colors at the Veterans Day program in Hertford Thursday, Nov. 11, were (l-r) Dean Engelhardt, American Legion Post 126 vice commander and a U.S. Navy veteran; Gary Kollmann, American Legion Post 126 adjutant and a U.S. Army veteran; Jeff Creasey, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran; and Charles Overton, American Legion Post 362 member and U.S. Army veteran.

at the Veterans Day ceremony which was attended by approximately 80 people.

Benjamin Roberts, a U.S. Army veteran and chaplain of American Legion Post 126, gave the invocation, praying for peace and giving thanks for veterans' service.

The flags of the armed forces were also posted by the following: Wilson

Rountree, U.S. Army veteran, the U.S. Army flag; Pete Perry, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, the U.S. Marine Corps flag; Terry Swope, U.S. Navy veteran, the U.S. Navy flag; Ken Rominger, U.S. Air Force veteran, the U.S. Air Force flag; Dean Engelhardt, U.S. Navy veteran, the U.S. Coast Guard flag; and Pete Perry the U.S. Merchant Marine flag.

Engelhardt explained the significance of the empty chair and table setting in remembrance of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action.

In closing remarks, American Legion Post 362 Commander and U.S. Army veteran Reggie White told the audience that they are surrounded by heroes in Perquimans County.

Ex-town clerk: Firing wrongful

Simpson opposed editing of minutes, improper notarization

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

The town of Hertford's former clerk publicly told members of Town Council last week she was wrongfully terminated because she refused to accede to requests she believed were wrong.

Olga Simpson, who according to a member of council was fired by a split 3-2 vote on Sept. 13, publicly objected to her dismissal during the council's meeting

on Monday, Nov. 8.

Simpson said she expects many citizens are wondering why she is no longer town clerk.

"I am wondering that myself since I did nothing to warrant my dismissal and I was terminated wrongfully," Simpson said.

Simpson said she has requested a formal letter of termination from the town but had not yet received one.

"I am here tonight because I have not received such a letter," she said.

Simpson said she also

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Board approves grandstand pact

Schools will own 300-seat grandstand once completed

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Education has approved an agreement with the Perquimans County Schools Foundation Inc. for the grandstand project at the baseball field at the high school.

The board approved a memorandum of understand-

ing for the project at a special meeting Nov. 9.

The board also approved a contract with WYN Technologies Inc. for video surveillance equipment for Perquimans County High School. The contract pays WYN \$47,854.64.

Under the grandstand project agreement, the schools foundation agrees to perform volunteer services as specified "in an effort to improve the physical condition of the

See **GRANDSTAND**, A7

Awrey: Coaching venues may change, principles don't

Former college coach brings same approach to high school game

BY MIKE WOOD
 Correspondent

HERTFORD—If you were told to find a football coach for your school, you would probably start with the following requirements:

He would have to love football,

and be willing to work a lot of hours, maybe even sleep in the office once or twice. He would know how tough it is to win, but he wouldn't have any doubts about his ability to motivate kids. He would be part ambassador, part father figure, and all man. He would have a heart for the over-achiever, but be able to hand out discipline like a drill sergeant.

He would look like Kevin Costner, and come into the room like he was leading a parade with a smile for everyone. He would never duck responsibilities, be a strong family man, and have the morals of a minister. He would make friends easily, promote the program, and make everyone in the building feel a part of something great. And, by the way, it would help if he had a lot of experi-

ence.

When Perquimans County High School hired Randy Awrey to coach their high school football team in 2018, they pretty much checked all the boxes. Well, the coach is a little shorter than Costner.

It was sort of a "perfect storm" that brought the coach to the area. He had been coaching in the college ranks for about 35 years, and had been a head coach at four different universities. There was Kentucky Wesleyan (1990-94), Lakeland College (Sheboygan, Wisconsin, 1994-98), Saginaw Valley State University (University Center, Michigan, 1999-2007), and finally Concordia University (Chicago, 2013-17). He had come



ANDRE ALFREDO/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Randy Awrey is in his fourth season as the head football coach at Perquimans County High School.

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