

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

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## PAGE A5

With God, never too late to start the new year right



## PAGE A6

PAL honors Brinn for contributions to arts, culture



## PAGE A8

Simple healthy resolutions easier to keep

## State board nixes fast-track OK for charter school

Board chair: Efforts to open Elaine Riddick not derailed

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The State Board of Education has rejected a request to expedite the application for the Elaine Riddick Charter School in Perquimans County.

The accelerated application process would have allowed the planned charter

school to open this August.

The state's Office of Charter Schools clarified Jan. 11 that the State Board of Education's unanimous rejection of the accelerated application at its Jan. 5 meeting means the school will have to reapply for fast-track status in the next application cycle.

The State Board of Education in its decision cited the recommendation of the Charter Schools Advisory Board, which recommend-

ed the Riddick school's fast-track application not be approved.

Despite the setback, the chairman of the Elaine Riddick Charter School Board said efforts to establish the school are ongoing.

"Yes, of course, we're obligated to our youth," Riddick responded when asked if the school is still moving forward with plans to open.

"We've been obligated to

See CHARTER, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Shown Friday is the site of the proposed Elaine Riddick Charter School off Harvey Point Road in Perquimans County. Meeting on Jan. 6, the N.C. State Board of Education denied the school's application for fast-track approval to open this August.

## Motorist charged in fatal collision

Two pickups collided on Harvey Point Road Monday

From staff reports

A Currituck County man has been charged with felony death by vehicle and driving while impaired following a fatal head-on collision in Perquimans County on Monday.

Bryan Keith Harrell, 45, of Moyock, was charged following the collision on Harvey Point Road that killed Levery Butts, 71, of Hertford, the N.C. Highway Patrol said.

Sgt. B.P. Daniel said Harrell was driving a Ford F-150 pickup west on Harvey Point Road when his truck appeared to go left of the center line and collided head-on with Butts' 1990 Chevrolet Silverado traveling east on the road.

Butts died at the scene. Harrell was transported to Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth City for medical treatment. He was later released and transported to Albemarle District Jail where he was being confined in lieu of a \$50,000 secured bond.

Harrell's blood-alcohol level was not available Tuesday. A test of his alcohol blood level at the time of the collision will be performed at a state crime lab, Daniel said.

The collision happened about three miles south of the town of Hertford, Daniel said.

## Eyes on Promised Land



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The Rev. Kera Johnson, pastor of Bethlehem Apostolic Church in Hertford, speaks to those attending an observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Winfall Landing Park in Winfall Monday morning.

## King speaker: Faith key in pursuing justice

Dozen vehicles took part in annual motorcade to Winfall

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

WINFALL — The speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance in Perquimans County Monday encouraged those assembled at Winfall Landing Park to walk in faith as they seek justice and equality.

"Don't miss the Promised Land," said the Rev.

Kera Johnson, pastor of Bethlehem Apostolic Church in Hertford.

Johnson based his message on Deuteronomy 3:21-29. He talked about how both Moses and Martin Luther King Jr. got a glimpse of the Promised Land but did not enter it.

"What do you see as your Promised Land?" Johnson asked.

Johnson said King had a dream of love, equality and acceptance for all people. He noted that the dream contradicted the

way Black people in this country had been treated for four centuries.

Johnson talked about the Jim Crow era, in which Black men were lynched and Black women raped without the murderers and rapists ever being brought to justice.

"Don't you see the same thing happening today?" he asked.

Johnson spoke about how during the Civil Rights Movement people were killed for pursuing civil rights and churches were

bombed.

"Can't you see the same thing happening in this day and time?" he asked.

Johnson said Egypt in Moses' day and the Jim Crow system that King struggled against both embodied powers that sought to oppose God's will for justice.

Such powers are doomed to fail, he said.

"Just encourage yourself: One day my dream will become a reality,"

See MLK, A3

## Suspect charged in armed robbery

Johnson also charged with kidnapping, assault

From staff reports

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office has charged a local man in connection with last month's armed robbery of the Family Dollar-Dollar Tree Combo store in Hertford.

Reese Devon Johnson, 52, of Dobbs St., Hertford, was arrested Friday and charged with committing the Dec. 27 robbery, according to Sheriff Shelby White.

## INSIDE

Sheriff: Hertford not seeing recent increase in crime. Page A2

Johnson is being confined at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$200,000 secured

See ROBBERY, A3

## Mizelle's 'Transition' commemorates AP clubhouse's 30th year

Painter likes to document historic scenes, landscapes

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Painter and Albemarle Plantation resident Alvin Mizelle has commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Albemarle Plantation Clubhouse with a painting called "Transition."

The painting "Transition" de-

picts the Albemarle Plantation Clubhouse from groundbreaking to completion and features four men who were at the groundbreaking ceremony: developer Ralph G. "Pete" Boshier, Sound Golf Links developer Dan Maples, Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter, and developer Elwood "Woody" Perry.

Hunter autographed baseballs at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Mizelle explained that the painting, which now hangs in the hallway at the clubhouse, will remain there as a commemoration of the groundbreaking and the clubhouse's history.

Mizelle donated a painting of Hunter to the Catfish Hunter museum in Hertford, which is now being incorporated into the new

Perquimans County Heritage Museum. Mizelle explained that the painting shows Hunter in three different poses in front of Yankee Stadium.

Mizelle said he expects to donate additional paintings to the museum in the future. Works by Mizelle also hang in Hertford Baptist Church and in St. Anne's Catholic Church in Edenton.

Mizelle said he used to paint portraits for people but became frustrated with the way people expected his work to be a photographic-type likeness.

"I'd rather paint what I want," Mizelle said.

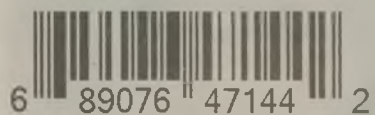
What he wants to paint has included historic scenes from Perquimans and from his native

See MIZELLE, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Artist Alvin Mizelle stands next to his painting hung in a hallway at the Albemarle Plantation Clubhouse during a reception Jan. 12 recognizing the clubhouse's 30th anniversary. Depicted in front of the clubhouse in the painting are (l-r) developer Ralph G. "Pete" Boshier, Sound Golf Links developer Dan Maples, Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter, and developer Elwood "Woody" Perry.



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