

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

\$1.50



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Hundreds attend Pig on Perquimans; event featured cookoff, hoops tourney, 5K



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Rain forces PCRA's annual Living History Day indoors



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Providence MB Church refurbishing roof, spire, dome

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Perquimans awards \$1.2M contract for high school track

Chesson to begin work in Dec., track to be ready in spring

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Williamston-based contractor A.R. Chesson has been awarded a \$1.2 million contract to build the new outdoor ath-

letic track at Perquimans County High School.

The Perquimans County Board of Education voted unanimously to award the construction contract to the Williamston-based firm at its Monday, April 24 meeting.

This time last year, Perquimans school officials were expecting to have the

new track at the high school ready for the 2023 track season.

That didn't come through, but school officials now are hoping to have the track completed by this December. That timetable will have the track in place for the spring 2024 track season.

The board voted at its February 2022 regular meet-

ing to secure CHA Consulting to design the new track.

The design and construction management firm was hired to develop a project budget and bring it back to the school board for its consideration. The firm's fee is based on the total project budget.

Representatives of CHA told the school board in

January 2022 that a track typically takes six to seven months to complete.

Board members stated during discussions last year that they liked the work CHA did on the football stadium project at the high school.

To pay for the project, the Perquimans County Schools applied for a feder-

al grant administered by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction in July 2021.

A month later, the district got the green light to move forward with planning the project.

The track project is expected to be a multi-year project. During phase one,

See **TRACK**, A7

Masters of the Garden



VERNON FUESTON/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

An unidentified vendor (right) talks with a potential customer (left) at the Master Gardeners' 11th annual Spring Garden Show at the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Center in Hertford, Saturday, April 29. More than 500 people were expected to attend the show, an organizer said.

500-plus attend Spring Garden Show

Vendors sold plants, garden accessories, arts and crafts

BY VERNON FUESTON
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — A crowd estimated by organizers at more than 500 turned out for the Albemarle Master Gardeners' 11th annual Spring Garden Show on Saturday, April 29.

The show attracted more than 40 vendors who set up booths at the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Center in Hertford and sold plant cuttings, herbs, garden accessories, and garden-oriented arts and crafts. Along with the vendors, Albemarle Master Garden-



VERNON FUESTON/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Vendors at the 11th annual Albemarle Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Show arrange plants at their booth at the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Center, Saturday, April 29.

ers members were also on hand to dispense gardening advice.

The show has been held

in Perquimans County for 11 years, though the COVID pandemic canceled two shows. Proceeds from the

show are used to provide \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students who plan to attend a college or university and study either agriculture, horticulture or natural resources.

Lines in front of vendor booths were constantly two to three deep, with garden enthusiasts waiting to ask vendors or the Master Gardener volunteers questions.

One vendor, Sherry Beauchamp of Verdant Vittles, sells microgreens, sprouts and herbs that she grows at home.

"I believe in health and happiness, and I try to spread that in what I grow," Beauchamp said.

See **GARDEN**, A7

Search continues in Camden for missing Edenton woman

Anderson last seen in Camden Point area April 25

BY JULIAN EURE
Managing Editor

CAMDEN — The Camden Sheriff's Office resumed its search Monday for an Edenton woman reported missing on April 25 and whose car was found abandoned in the Camden Point area on Saturday, April 29.

Sheriff Kevin Jones said the search continues for Shannon Dionne Anderson, who was last seen in the southern area of Camden between 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. on April 25.

The search in Camden for Anderson, 50, of Chowan Gardens, Edenton, began Saturday, April 29, after her 2018 Ford Escape was found unattended by sheriff's deputies on Broad Creek Road, nearly four days after she was reported missing.

The Edenton Police Department said in a Facebook post April 25 that Anderson was last seen



ANDERSON

that day on cameras leaving the Chowan Gardens property.

According to Jones, Anderson apparently drove up to a gate on Broad Creek Road Tuesday night and stopped her vehicle. He said Anderson got out and knocked on the door of a house and told the resident who answered that "she was looking for somebody."

The house where Anderson stopped is in Camden's Vietnamese community, so the residents weren't able to fully communicate with her. They did recall her asking for a person by name, Jones said. Further investigation by the Camden Sheriff's Office determined the person Anderson was seeking lives in Virginia, he said.

After residents of the Broad Creek Road home

See **ANDERSON**, A7

Graham's message in Edenton Sunday to be 'God loves you'

Evangelist to speak at Legion Fairgrounds at 4 p.m.

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Franklin Graham's message in Edenton this weekend will be the same message he has proclaimed for decades — and the one his father preached around the world, according to event organizers.

"The message is the same," Steve Rhoads, vice president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, said in an interview last week. "It's the message that 'God loves each and every one of us and has provided a way for us to have a relationship with him through his Son Jesus Christ.'"

The message is always "God loves you," Rhoads said.

Graham will speak at the American Legion Post 40 Fairgrounds in Edenton Sunday at 4 p.m. as part of the six-city "God Loves



GRAHAM

You" Tideswater Tour. The tour started today in southwestern Maryland. Graham's last tour in North Carolina in 2019 visited Greenville.

Music for the event in Edenton will include award-winning contemporary group the Newsboys, worship leader Marcos Witt, and longtime BGEA musical partner Dennis Agajanian.

"That draws all kinds of people," Rhoads said of the variety of musical performers. The event is designed for families and will draw "all walks of life, young and old, people from all races and backgrounds," he said.

Beyond the music, the need for hope "is what draws people," he said. "We live in a day when

See **GRAHAM**, A7

New Edenton downtown director hired

Chesson 2008 Holmes grad, former naval aviator

From staff reports

EDENTON — An Edenton native who went on to become a Navy aviator and helicopter instructor for 11 years is returning home to head Edenton's Main Street

Program.

James "Ches" Chesson has been hired as executive director of Destination Downtown Edenton, Town Manager Corey Gooden and the Destination Downtown Board of Directors announced last week.

"We are absolutely elated to announce Mr. Chesson as the new executive director for Destination Downtown Edenton," Gooden said in a press release. "He brings smarts, savvy and familiarity of his native community to the table. We look forward to working with

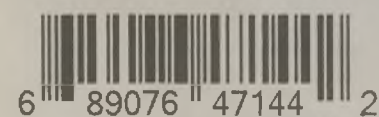


CHESSON

him closely as we chart a path forward toward economic vitality downtown as well as the preservation of our historic district."

Chesson is a 2008 graduate of John A. Holmes High School who became a naval aviator and instructor for the Navy's MH60R Seahawk helicopter after attending at Annapolis, Maryland.

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