

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023

\$1.50



PAGE 2
Masons fund-raise for youth camp trip



PAGE 3
Conner, Russell earn Honeyblue-Tolson, Byrum scholarships



PAGE 6
Lady Pirates knock off Knights in 2nd round of playoffs

282 8 HER_944_8_#
*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
514 S CHURCH ST
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225

District has unpaid fines, but not discharging raw sewage

Flores: No discharge from Minzies Creek into canal

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — As state environmental officials pursue action to recover \$152,000 in unpaid fines assessed against the Minzies Creek Sanitary District, its officials are getting the word out that none of those penalties resulted from discharge of untreated wastewater.

Standing next to the treatment plant on Friday, May 12, Minzies Creek Sanitary District Commissioner Daniel

Flores said the plant has never discharged untreated wastewater — raw sewage — into a nearby canal.

The Minzies Creek plant is designed for a treatment of capacity of 30,000 gallons of wastewater a day, but actually processes 3,000 gallons or less each day, Flores said.

Flores said that while the plant has sometimes been cited for violations, those have never involved discharging raw sewage into canals.

Officials with the state's Division of Water Resources have told The Daily Advance that some of the violations involve discharge

of water that has not been treated fully according to permit requirements.

Although no specific fish kills or algal blooms are known to have been linked to the violations, DWR officials say that falling short of treatment requirements could result in fish kills or the growth of algal blooms.

Flores noted that there are numerous chemicals and compounds that are subject to state-mandated limits and testing, and some of those levels may be exceeded at some times.

"It's an important process and there is testing for everything," Flores said.

N.C. Division of Water

Resources spokeswoman Anna Gurney said last week that the Minzies Creek Sanitary District's unpaid civil penalties total \$152,256, involving violations from 1992 to this past January.

"Penalties paid total \$2,079, so a total of penalties assessed would be \$156,199.51," Gurney said. "In addition Minzies Creek paid a \$2,000 penalty as part of a Special Order by Consent in 2016."

Gurney said DWR refers unpaid penalties to the NC Attorney General's Office for collection as set forth in state statute.

See CREEK, A6



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Minzies Creek Sanitary District Commissioner Daniel Flores holds a container of treated wastewater next to the district's treatment plant on Friday, May 12. Although the district owes the state more than \$152,000 in unpaid fines, the fines are not for discharging raw sewage into a nearby canal, Flores said.

Author! Author!



VERNON FUESTON/CHOWAN HERALD

D.F. Walker teacher Latavia Thomas (left) holds a copy of the book, "Finding Out Fifth Grade," and poses with its authors: fifth-graders at the school. The students recently penned a book of essays on the challenges and stresses of fifth grade that was published by Student Treasures.

Walker 5th-graders pen book of essays

'Finding Out Fifth Grade' details challenges, stresses

BY VERNON FUESTON
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Latavia Thomas said she could see the difference in her incoming class of fifth-graders this year at D.F. Walker Elementary School in Edenton. After two years of pandemic lockdowns, her students were behind emotionally, socially and academically.

"Post-COVID, I was finding that a lot of students

were struggling to connect, both socially and emotionally, even for basic human relationships like they experienced pre-COVID, their interactions with each other," Thomas said.

When her students tested at 40 percent on reading skills at the beginning of the year, Thomas said she found that unacceptable. A score of 40 percent meant that only 40 out of 100 students scored higher on the test than the mean test score. A score of 50 percent would mean her students were, on average, at grade level.

Thomas' students needed to increase their proficiency in language arts and learn how to work collaboratively at the same time if they were going to overcome the learning deficits caused by COVID-related lockdowns and periods of remote schooling.

So Thomas partnered with a company called Student Treasures to publish a book of her students' essays and artwork. The company gave her two options: the class could publish their book online, or they could go to the trouble and expense of printing a paper book.

Thomas chose the book.

"I always tell them there is nothing like reading a book you can hold in your own two hands," Thomas said.

She said there is a difference between reading from a screen and reading from a physical book. That is why she encourages her students to read both ways.

Most kids get more than enough screen time, so they are used to reading things on the internet. But Thomas said she encourages her students to check out books from the

See WALKER, A6

Patrol: Edenton man hit, killed walking on US 17

Patrol: Cooper stepped into roadway, struck by vehicle

From staff reports

HERTFORD — A 36-year-old Chowan County man was struck and killed by a vehicle after stepping into traffic on U.S. Highway 17 in Perquimans County Tuesday, May 9, the N.C. Highway Patrol said.

Torry Cooper, 36, of Edenton, was pronounced dead at the scene near U.S. 17 and N.C. Highway 37 in southern Perquimans County, said patrol Sgt. Blake Fisher.

The accident occurred in the northbound lane of U.S. 17 not far from the Chowan County line just after 5:30 p.m. May 9. According to Fisher, Cooper stepped into the highway

and was struck by an oncoming vehicle.

Fisher said the Highway Patrol is still trying to understand why Cooper was walking along U.S. 17. There were no vehicles parked on the shoulder or other signs to suggest why he might have been there, he said.

"At this time we're not sure why he was in the road," Fisher said.

No charges will be filed against the driver of the vehicle, Morgan Chase, 25, of Hertford, Fisher said.

Perquimans Emergency Services said in a press release Tuesday, May 9, that the county's 911 center received multiple calls around 5:41 p.m. of a vehicle striking a pedestrian. Deputies were the first to arrive

See PEDESTRIAN, A6

Food trucks OK'd at Colonial Park one Sunday a month

Council OKs health policy renewal, timber sale at airport

BY VERNON FUESTON
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Edentonians and visitors will be able to sample food from food trucks at Colonial Park one Sunday a month this summer.

Town Council approved the idea at its meeting last week, with members expressing pleasure that another vendor will be catering to Edenton's visitors during the summer months.

Councilors also agreed to renew the town's health insurance programs for employees following a report from Lynne Goodman of One Digital, the company negotiating the policy's renewal.

Goodman said the town will see a 4 percent increase health insurance costs, but said she also negotiated an \$11,000 credit

for the town. Dental insurance will go up 4.5 percent, she said.

Councilors seemed pleased, saying the cost was less than they had expected.

"Thank God for good news" First Ward Councilman Hackney High said.

The proposal was presented to council on April 24 and unanimously accepted at its May 9 meeting.

Council also approved natural gas easements for the alleys on Norcross and East Edenton streets. The additional service is being added at the request of local downtown businesses, but it was unclear which companies will be taking advantage of the service.

Councilors also approved the sale of timber on a 24-acre parcel of land the town owns on the east side of the airport. The standing trees are being cleared to allow

See COUNCIL, A6

Hughes went from pitmaster to eatery owner

Old Colony Smokehouse owner spoke at History for Lunch

BY PAUL NIELSEN
The Daily Advance

Attendees received a treat both during and after last Wednesday's History for Lunch program at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

First they got to hear pitmaster Adam Hughes detail his journey from traveling the country competing in weekend barbecue competitions to opening the popular Old Colony Smokehouse

restaurant in Edenton with wife, Elizabeth, in 2019.

Then they were treated to a free barbecue lunch courtesy the Hughes' Old Colony Smokehouse.

Hughes' passion as a pitmaster started in college at East Carolina University when he pulled an old grill from a dumpster and started cooking for Elizabeth — who he was dating at the time — and friends.

Hughes graduated from ECU and began a career in construction management. But he continued to grill on the weekends while always looking to perfect his recipes while always seeking out new ones.

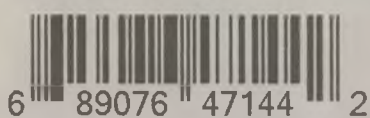
Hughes entered his first pitmaster competition in 2015 in Richmond, Va. and despite finishing



PAUL NIELSEN/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Old Colony Smokehouse co-owner Adam Hughes discusses his journey from traveling pitmaster contest competitor to Edenton restaurant owner during the History for Lunch program at Museum of the Albemarle, Wednesday, May 10.

See HUGHES, A6



6 89076 47144 2
Vol. 88, No. 20
WWW.PerquimansWeekly.com
©2021 Perquimans Weekly
All Rights Reserved