

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2018

75 cents



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Jackson arrested for being late to court

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson was arrested last week for failing to appear in court on the charges of breaking and entering and first degree trespassing.

Jackson was scheduled to be in district court on Wednesday. When he didn't



JACKSON

show up on time, Perquimans County deputies notified Jackson of the warrant for his arrest and had been issued. Jackson was released on \$5,000 secured

bond and he didn't have to go jail.

The charges stem from a dispute between Jackson and a cousin, Catherine Flowers, over property Flowers owns on Brace Avenue in Hertford.

Jackson maintains it's not that he failed to appear, he just wasn't there when court opened. He also said he was led to believe the case had

been continued because Flowers was out of the country and couldn't attend the hearing.

"I didn't fail to appear I came to court late," Jackson said.

Jackson said the court session started at 9:30 a.m. and he arrived about 11 a.m. Jackson claims normally a judge would strike the order for arrest for failure to

appear if the person showed up, but Judge Edgar Barnes would not.

"I accept the responsibility," Jackson said.

A Chowan County magistrate heard the case in June, but could not rule on it because magistrates only have authority to decide clear landlord-tenant disputes. That meant the case would have to be heard in District

Court.

Flowers was seeking six months of rent from Jackson — a total of \$2,400 — and \$200 for damages she claims Jackson made to the property.

In the case before the magistrate in June, Jackson said he and Flowers had an agreement, and Jackson

See JACKSON, 2

Schools look into trades program

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

There are good paying jobs locally that don't require a four-year college degree and Jill Cohen wants to make sure Perquimans students know that.



COHEN

Cohen is the director of the Career Technical Education (CTE) program within the Perquimans County

School system. She's exploring the idea of creating a new program that gives introductory instruction in skills like welding, electrical, carpentry and concrete and masonry.

She's in the process of trying to write grants to fund the program. The deadline to submit proposals to submit a proposal for the next round of Golden LEAF funds is coming up in September.

Cohen said the cost of such a program varies depending how much money is available.

"I haven't talked too much about it, because we're looking at the project that is still in the conceptual stage," she said.

If the funds can be found, the program would include a greenhouse, and buildings to handle some of the trade programs, like welding and carpentry.

The goal is not necessary

See PROGRAM, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

The Hertford Grammar School panther mascot greets parents and students coming to school on Monday.

Hundreds return to school

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

It was back to class Monday for more than 1,600 Perquimans County students.

The first day appeared to go on schedule with the typical number of hiccups, with some of the buses running late.

Perquimans had an expected enrollment of 1,677 students this year and all but 54 were in school on the first day. Last year on the first day of school, there were 1,609 students enrolled.

At Hertford Grammar School, the students were greeted by a new principal, John Lassiter. The Perquimans County native filled the vacancy when former principal Jason Griffin left to take a position as director of elementary education with the Craven County Schools.

Lassiter left Chowan Middle School to take the job in Hertford.

The principals at the other three schools remain the same.

Another thing that is new, Perquimans now has a School Resource Officer at all four schools.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

John Lassiter, the new principal at Hertford Grammar School, recites the pledge of allegiance over the school's intercom system at the start of the school year on Monday.

The county commission made the decision this spring to add the fourth armed Perquimans County deputy.

Perquimans Central has also taken steps to make sure a stu-

dent isn't sent home with someone who is not authorized to take the child. Central covers students from grades Pre-K through sec-

See SCHOOL, 2

Senior defense class planned

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Paula Saje said seniors don't need to be an expert in karate to defend themselves in many cases.

Saje, 65, will be teaching a one-hour introductory class on self-awareness and self-defense on Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Perquimans County Senior Center.

"A lot of people don't realize they don't need their own weapon," Saje said. "Their own weapon is their own mind. Your best weapon is your voice. You can scream."

She plans to teach people some basic release moves in case somebody grabs them. A large part of the lesson will be situational awareness.

"If you are feeling uncomfortable walking down the street, go walk on the other side of the street. Don't worry about what people might think."

"If somebody grabs both your arms with both of their hands, you still have two feet on in this case both of their hands are tied up holding you."

People may know Saje for things other than her fourth degree black belt in Isshin Shorinjiryu Okinaka-Te, a type of karate. But she's got one.

See DEFENSE, 2

Simmons nominated for national 'Health Hero' award

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Guy Simmons has received national attention for the work he does to improve healthcare in northeastern North Carolina.

Out of more than 200 nominees, the Hertford resident was one of 10 finalists for the National Association of Health Center's national



SIMMONS

Health Hero award. The award is part of National Health Center Week in August.

Simmons said he was honored just to be nominated. He

said the other nine finalists were "hands on" professionals that deal with patients, and they are the true heroes.

Simmons, 75, serves as the board chair for the Ahsokie-based Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center.

He started working with community health centers 20 years ago in Boston's in-

ner city community of Roxbury.

He moved to the region six years ago and spent two years in Edenton before moving to Hertford.

Simmons is a retired Navy captain who served for 27 years. Simmons is also active with the Rocky Hock Lions Club and the local Civil Air Patrol. He also works with veterans who

need help getting to medical appointments.

"Almost as soon as I got here, I started volunteering with the Habitat Restore in Edenton," Simmons said. "There I met a gentleman who was involved with Roanoke-Chowan and I decided to look into it."

He is now on his third year as chairman of the board. The previous two

years were as vice chair.

"One of the beautiful things about community health centers is every time someone becomes a patient, two things happen," he said. "Their overall quality of health care goes up and the total cost of health care goes down."

See SIMMONS, 2

Food Lion to hold events at 105 remodeled stores this week

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Hertford Food Lion and 104 others in the Nor-

folk, Va. market will hold ribbon cuttings today to mark the renovations of all of the stores.

The Salisbury-based company invested \$168 million in remodeling the stores and buying two mobile food trucks for food banks in Virginia. An additional 4,000 employees were hired.

Today at 7:45 a.m. there

will be a ribbon cutting at the store at 321 Ocean Highway South. After that, the first 100 shoppers will get a \$10 gift card and a thermal tote bag. One customer will get a surprise \$250 gift card.

At 5 p.m. the first 100 shoppers will receive a bamboo cutting board.

On Sept. 1 at 7 a.m., the first 100 shoppers will get a

\$10 gift card.

"Food Lion has nourished the greater Norfolk community for nearly 40 years, and we're excited to bring these improvements to our 105 local stores," said Meg Ham, president of Food Lion. "We've created a new grocery shopping experience through the significant investments in our stores,

customers, associates and communities."

With the completion of this market, Food Lion has remodeled 649 of its 1,030 stores in the last four years. Food Lion officials say they will continue to make enhancements to create a better shopping experience across all stores and remodel additional stores in other

markets.

Food Lion, based in Salisbury since 1957, has more than 1,000 stores in 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states and employs more than 63,000 associates. Food Lion is a company of Delhaize America, a U.S. division of Zaandam-based Royal Ahold Delhaize Group.

