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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

75 cents

Jackson: Former town officials will be jailed

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson said an ongoing outside investigation into former town officials will result in jail terms for them and when it's over, he will step down from the town board.

"I will not stop until every one of you is thrown in jail," Jackson said at a meeting



JACKSON

cal about how the town has been run in the past. Jackson also blamed the

Monday night. He did not specify who the town officials were and what they did. He has been critical about how the town has been run in the past. Jackson also blamed the

media and specifically The Perquimans Weekly for coverage about him. He was also called members of the public for being critical of the current town board. He did not mention names.

"It doesn't define who I am as a man. It's easy to sit out in the audience, but while I am here, I'm still going to advocate for what's right."

Jackson openly praised

Police Chief Dennis Brown for the job he has been doing.

"Thank you," Jackson said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Brown responded that he was just following the law.

Brown was hired last fall. Jackson has had fewer kind words for some previous police chiefs.

In 2011 Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos was fired

after the town manager said he posted information on the Hertford Police Department's Facebook page that violated the town's personnel policies.

Jackson was running for town council in 2011 when then Chief Joe Amos posted about Jackson's arrest for failing to pay child support. Jackson lost that race.

In the 2017 election Jackson and Frank Nor-

man unseated two white incumbents and shifted the balance on the five person board from having three white members and two black members to having four black members and one white member, Councilman Sid Eley. The racial makeup of Hertford is about half black and half white.

Councilman Norman also

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Fordham honors Janice Cole

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

On the 100th anniversary of the year the first women were admitted to Fordham Law School, Janice McKenzie Cole was one of those who have been honored for her contributions.



COLE

The Black Law Student Association honored 16 living alumnae, four future alumnae and three past alumnae. The ceremony held on Feb. 26.

"We were happy to honor her at our museum entitled 'Lawyer Beyond the Shadows: Telling Her Stories,'" said Melissa Romain, the president of the Black Law Association at Fordham.

Cole started thinking about law in childhood.

"When I was young, I talked a lot and people would always say I should become a lawyer," Cole said last week. "Then I saw '12 Angry Men' and 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and that's what gotten me thinking about becoming a trial attorney. It was what I wanted to do."

Cole started working as a New York City street cop back when women didn't do that. She took courses at night at John Jay College where she graduated.

She picked Fordham Law School because a fellow police officer was going there and said the program was good and they had an evening program.

Since graduating Fordham Law in 1979, she has tried to remain active with the university but since she and her husband, Superior court Judge J.C. Cole live in North Carolina, she hasn't been able to attend events as much.

For that reason, Romain

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

N.C. Sen. Bob Steinburg speaks to Republicans Saturday in the historic Perquimans County Courthouse. Seated is Michael Stallings, president of the Perquimans County GOP.

GOP hears from candidates

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Seven of the 17 Republican candidates for the 3rd District Congressional race were represented Saturday at the Perquimans County GOP Convention at the old Perquimans County Courthouse.

Five of the candidates appeared in person: Michele Nix, Phil Law, Jeff Moore, Celeste Cairns and Mike Payment. Surrogates spoke for two others: Dr. Joan Perry and Dr. Greg Murphy.

Perquimans Republicans were warned that if the GOP doesn't fight back, they could lose the seat held by the late Congressman Walter Jones.

"This is an extraordinary year," said local GOP secretary Geoff Byrd. "We're in danger of losing this election."

No candidate has the luxury of time. The primary election is April 30, and a runoff primary is scheduled for July 9. With a field so large, the odds of getting a 30 percent majority are low, and so a runoff will be needed, Byrd said.

Dianne Layton, a former chair of the Perquimans GOP, spoke on behalf of Murphy. She said he is open and accessible, and has a "We The People" platform. She called him a Constitutional conservative.

"He represents our values," Layton said.

Cairns said like President Donald Trump, she is not a political. She grew up in rural Georgia.

Early voting hours set

From Staff Reports

Early voting from the primary election for the 3rd Congressional House seat will be from April 10 through April 26.

No weekend hours are scheduled and there will be no voting on April 19 for Good Friday.

Perquimans Elections Director Holly Hunter said the hours for early voting are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Voting takes place at the

elections office 601 S. Edenton Road Street.

The newly appointed board includes Democrats Vera Murrill, Mae McGee and Devin Wilder and The Republicans are John McGowan and Shirley Ashworth. Murrill will serve as chairman.

The primary is April 30. If a runoff is required, it will be held on July 9. The general election for the House seat is set for Sept. 10.

"I grew up with two hard working parents," she said.

She became an accountant and worked in the corporate world then married a U.S. Army Green Beret she knew in high school and lived through his deployments overseas. The couple now live in Emerald Isle and have two children attending East Carolina University.

She said the left wing has become increasing more radical and called herself a true Conservative, who will protect the unborn.

"I will fight with President Trump to build the border wall and I will protect the Second Amendment," she said.

Jeff Moore grew up in Morehead City and still lives there. He's worked in the financial trading in-

dustry and he too believes in President Trump.

"We have to pull ourselves back from the fiscal cliff," he said.

Phil Law of Jacksonville said serving in the U.S. Marine Corps made him "learn a lot of lessons fast. I am not trying to replace Water Jones, we can't do that."

He vowed to fight illegal immigration.

"There is a battle going in Washington D.C. and I want to go there to fight for you," Law said.

Jim Perry spoke for his wife, Dr. Joan Perry who could not attend.

Dr. Perry is a pediatrician, a world-class triathlete, and a "very strong woman," her husband said.

See GOP, 2

Tougher firearms laws sought

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A New Hope man recently implored the Perquimans County Commission to adopt tougher rules on how far hunters can be from the property or other people when they shoot.

Steven Samonsky and his wife moved into their home in late 2016. They went off for the weekend one time and when they came back there was a duck blind erected nearby the home.

"I went out with my rods and my reels to go fishing, and there are two guys with 12 gauge shotguns 400 feet away."

Samonsky said he talked with local law enforcement and wildlife officials and they said that was perfectly legal. So he spoke to the county commissioner during the public comment period on March 4.

"The shot people use today will really travel," he said. "It's totally unsafe and it's ridiculous to have a 400-foot limit," he said. "You might bag a homeowner."

The commission listened to Samonsky's request but took no action. It would require a commissioner to ask the issue to be placed on a future agenda for anything to move forward and it would require a majority vote to approve any such measure.

Samonsky is 69-years-old old and he said he has nothing against hunting.

"I first went hunting when I was 13 or 14-years-old," he said. "I am not saying don't go somewhere to shoot, but make sure you have a 2,100 foot distance or 110 percent of the carry distance from any public or private school, any churches and all county offices, hospitals, residential subdivisions or residences, business and public or county roads or highways."

Samonsky served in the U.S. Air Force and worked

See FIREARMS, 2

Woman, 48, refuses to let terminal cancer ruin her life

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The prospect of death has given Amy Woodard a powerful perspective on life.

Woodard, 48, has been diagnosed with Stage III metastatic cervical cancer.

"What I want people to know is it doesn't matter what someone tells you. Your life doesn't just stop. None of us knows when the end is and I just decided 'so what, I have cancer.'"

"When the doctor said it is incurable ... that it was terminal, I told him that he's terminal too."

Her meaning was, we're all going to die of something sometime. She may just go a little sooner.



WOODARD

have lost but then I remember if today is my last day I don't want to spend it that way."

"I'm stubborn and it's not the boss of me. Don't get me wrong, occasionally I feel sorry for myself about all I

The native of Wheeling, W.V. has lived in northeastern North Carolina for the past 26 years. She is an exceptional children's teacher, and worked in Pasquotank County before coming to Perquimans County Schools.

She still works, but now as an EC instructional coach to help other EC teachers. She credits the school system for allowing her to continue to work, but not be tied to

a classroom. Her radiation treatments are every day Monday through Friday.

For Woodard the journey started in May 2017 when she had issue and was diagnosed soon after. The radiation soon followed and was completed in August 2017.

A scan in October of that year was inconclusive, and in January last year spots were found in her lungs and bone. More radiation followed.

"In August of 2018 I didn't have any evidence of anything new, and in November I had a scan and there was new bone spots and my neck and chest area were swollen."

She started taking chemotherapy in November and should complete that by the end of the month.

As bad as it all sounds, Woodard said none of it

See CANCER, 2

