

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

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Dr. Seuss, 5

## Town Council calls for probe

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The Hertford Town Council claims between 18 to 25 police department weapons were missing or were improperly sold and called the N.C. Attorney's General's office to investigate.

In a press conference Friday, Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson said the State Bureau of Investigation has already con-

ducted an investigation and turned it over to the office of District Attorney Andrew Womble but nothing ever happened.

"The DA has already proven he doesn't care to prosecute," Jackson said. "We have no trust in DA Andrew Womble."

Jackson said some of the guns were ordered but not needed, or were defective but not returned to the manufacturer for repairs.

"People put a price on something and then sold it to themselves," Jackson said. "A lot of this has been swept under the rug."

Jackson said he spoke at the press conference because Mayor Horace Reid, Councilman Sid Eley and Town Manager Pamela Hurdle have all been refused from taking part in the investigation. Jackson said that is not because they have been accused of

anything. Mayor Reid was sitting on the front row during the press conference but did not say anything.

Jackson said Chief Dennis Brown is the point person for all contact on the matter and as Mayor Pro Tem, Jackson will head the administration of the investigation.

Without naming names, he said some of those

See PROBE, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson speaks at a press conference Friday.

## Firefighters battle cotton seed fire

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Some 40 firefighters along with EMS and Perquimans Emergency Management spent more than nine hours last week at a fire inside a building used to store cotton seed in Winfall.

The blaze at the Ward and Nixon Cotton Gin was reported at 1:15 p.m. on March 19. Firefighters from Winfall, Hertford, Bethel, Belvidere and Inter-County responded to the blaze.

The fire was inside a metal build that was 300 feet long, 100 feet wide and 40 feet tall. The seed was piled up nearly to the ceiling of the structure in some places.

The fire apparently was started by a small bulldozer used to carry seed.

"Nobody was hurt and everybody was able to go home that night, and that's what is important," said Winfall Fire Chief Thomas Roach.

After cotton is ginned to remove the cotton fiber, some of the fiber still clings to the seed. It's the fiber that burns, Roach said.

"It's not a conventional fire. You have to think outside the box. You may not see much, because it's going to smolder and smoke."

The Hertford Fire Department ladder truck was used to allow firefighters to spray water down on the fire through holes that were burned through the roof. Roach said that was limited use because the roof was too unstable to support fire-



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, firefighters use the Hertford Fire Department ladder truck to try and shoot water down inside a fire in a storage building used to house cotton seed on Tuesday. Right, Tyler Colson bends down so Tony McLawhorn can replace his air tank Tuesday at a fire at a cotton gin in Winfall. Both are with the Winfall Fire Department.



See FIRE, 2

## Billing error may be costly

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

A billing error means Perquimans County may be on the hook for \$118,000 in landfill fees.

The county has an agreement with Chowan and Gates counties for waste disposal. Perquimans operates a central transfer station on Perry's Bridge Road, but the waste is ultimately taken to a landfill in Bertie County.

The error occurred over a nine-month period between November 2017 and July 2018. The billing mistake meant Perquimans was charged too little and Chowan and Gates counties were charged too much. Chowan may have been overcharged \$51,900 and Gates \$66,170 and Perquimans will be asked to reimburse them.

"This is a punch in the gut," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath. "PCG

See BILLING, 2

## Jackson case is postponed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The felony case against Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson has been postponed until May at the request of his attorney.

A Perquimans County Grand Jury found cause to charge Jackson with perjury in April 2018 for statements he made in court. Jackson was in court for a number of things, but one was failing to obey a police officer.

Jackson was asked if he was on probation at the time of the Feb. 1, 2018 traffic

See JACKSON, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rotary Club of Hertford was awarded NC Main Street Champion for Hertford at the NC Main Street Conference in Salisbury on Thursday.

## Rotary wins state award

From Staff Reports

The Rotary Club of Hertford was awarded NC Main Street Champion for Hertford at the NC Main Street Conference in Salisbury on March 14. They were honored for the support of all activities in Hertford.

Most recently, Rotary

partnered with Historic Hertford Inc to put on the first ever "Dine, Drink & Dance" event on the Hertford waterfront. They have also been very active in the annual car show sponsored by HHI, and "Toast the Perquimans", another HHI event.

Hertford Rotary actively

promotes the community by providing scholarships to college students, provides books to the elementary schools, and sponsoring a leadership program in the high school. They also sponsor essay contests for local students, as well as a speech competition, actively mentoring participants.

## Alexander wins big at NC Press Awards

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Advertising representative Bev Alexander won multiple N.C. Press Association awards last week for the three newspapers she represents.

"The number of awards



ALEXANDER

she won speaks to the quality and effort that Bev brings to her job. She has always been a high-performing, caring sales representative," said Mike Goodman, the publisher of The Daily



SUBMITTED PHOTO

One of the panels in the historic Albemarle series talks about how the precincts were formed.

## History exhibit to be displayed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

A traveling exhibit on the Albemarle region 350 years ago will be on display at the Newbold-White House Visitor's Center starting on Saturday.

The exhibit was created by a 350th Anniversary Committee to mark the event. It has been traveling around the region and will be in Perquimans County through June 30.

By 1670, four precincts of Albemarle County had been formed: Shaftesbury, Currituck, Pasquotank, and Berkeley. In 1681, Berkeley was renamed Perquimans, and by 1685 Shaftesbury became Chowan.

The location of the exhibit in the visitor's center place it near where some of the early history of the region was written. The Newbold-White House dates to

See EXHIBIT, 2



See AWARDS, 2