

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

75 cents



Bittner invited to Kennedy Center, 5

## Turner named superintendent

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans County School Board named Tanya Turner as their new superintendent Monday night.

Turner, 49, currently is the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction with Edenton-Chowan Schools.

But Turner is a Perquimans County native, a product of the Perquimans County Schools system and still lives in Perquimans County, said Chairman Dr.

Anne White.

After graduating from Perquimans County High School and Methodist University, Turner taught in Perquimans for 10 years, first at Perquimans Central and then at Perquimans County Middle School before moving to the Chowan school system where she has been for the last 17 years.

"Serving as the superintendent of Perquimans County Schools means so much more to me than a promotion, a title, or another step in my career," Turner

said. "Perquimans County is my home and this is where I want to be. I am passionate about the possibility of making this district the best in the state.

"The strength of any school system lies within its human capital and its effectiveness in impacting student achievement. I have had the opportunity to work with and coach many different employees during my 17 years in leadership roles and I believe that can use that strength to improve all areas of Perquimans County

Schools. I am excited to have been selected as superintendent of Perquimans County Schools and I look forward to the challenge of leading leaders, maximizing the potential of each individual and building relationships that will impact the future of students."

Turner replaces Matthew Cheeseman who announced in December he had taken a job as superintendent in Beaufort County. Cheeseman was in for Perquimans

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Tanya Turner signs her contract Monday night after being named the new Superintendent of Schools for Perquimans County.

## Town to tackle list of issues

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The situation didn't get this way overnight, and Hertford Public Works Director Greg Benton said it won't be fixed overnight, but he's trying to tackle a backlog of maintenance issues within the department.

Benton recently presented the town board with a list of nearly 50 things that need addressing. Some are vehicles that are past due for serving and others involve equipment that needs repair or replacement.

Benton stresses that none of the issues are keeping the department for doing the job, but they do need to be addressed.

"It's a lack of redundancy," he said. "We have no redundant systems. But we can still perform our mission. But we're one causality away if we had a storm or loss of power."

Public works covers a wide expanse of what the municipal government does. Under Benton are the electrical department, the water and wastewater departments, and the streets division. That includes street sweeping and road repairs.

One problem that didn't crop up overnight is cracked sidewalks. Sometimes tree roots growing up under the sidewalk can cause the crack and other times it may be the ground settled.

In some instances in the past, crews have used a grinder to wear away the concrete to make it smooth again, but Benton said that doesn't cure the underlying problem.

One day recently, Benton set out walking sidewalks in Hertford armed with a clipboard and spray paint to mark cracked sidewalks that need attention and note their location.

He said that will be a long-term project for the town, but one he wants to

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A fire gutted a commercial building on Edenton Road Street on Sunday.

## Building fire investigated

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The State Bureau of Investigation has been called in to help determine the cause of a fire in an unoccupied building Sunday evening on Edenton Road Street.

The Hertford Volunteer Fire Department responded to the call about 6:30 p.m. At that point, the fire had already burned through the roof of the structure at 103 S. Edenton Road Street, said Fire Chief Drew Woodard.

Police Chief Dennis Brown was called in and Brown in turn called the SBI for assistance.

The 1,584 square foot front part of the building was made of brick. Most recently it had been used for

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hertford fireworkers work to contain a blaze Sunday in a building on Edenton Road Street and Market Street.

## SBI looked into guns

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

An SBI investigation into the fate of weapons missing from the Hertford Police Department or improperly sold, focused on just three weapons, not the 18 to 25 alleged by Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson.

Both District Attorney Andrew Womble and a spokesman for the State Bureau of Investigation said the SBI probe was able to find two of the firearms and they have been returned to the police department. One gun has not been located.

In a press conference March 22, Jackson said 18 to 25 weapons were stolen, missing or improperly sold.

Last week, Jackson stood by his comments. At the March 22 press conference, Jackson said he was speaking on behalf of the Hertford Town Board when he asked the Attorney General's office to investigate the situation. He also called on Womble to come and speak with the town board about the SBI investigation and why nothing has come of it and expressed his personal feeling that he has no trust in Womble.

Womble responded to questions by The Perquimans Weekly and said, "I was apprised of the request by Chief (Dennis) Brown of the Hertford PD for SBI assistance into the improper surplusing of three duty weapons belonging to the

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## Donation boosts scholarship fundraising effort

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A fundraising effort to honor the legacy of the late Kim Hunter Daugherty is half way to the point of having enough to create a perpetual source of money to help local teachers or students.

Daugherty collapsed at Hertford Grammar School in December and later died. The daughter of the late Major League baseball great Jim "Catfish" Hunter and mother Helen, had spent almost all of her 20-plus years as a teacher in Perquimans County.

The fundraising effort is be-

ing coordinated by the Perquimans County Schools Foundation. If \$10,000 can be raised, it can endow fund that would produce \$500 a year in earnings without touching the principal amount.

A recent donation of \$2,050 from the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter of Ducks Unlimited,

pushed the fund over the \$5,000 mark, said Brenda Lassiter, the executive director of the Foundation.

The DU Chapter designated three items to auction off with the single purpose of donating the money to the Daugherty

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DAUGHERTY

## School board member, coach, ejected

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A Perquimans County school board member who volunteers as an assistant coach for his son's middle school baseball got a one game suspension after be-

ing ejected from a game last month.

The situation got to the point that the door handle on umpire Matt Leicester's truck got pulled off.

Both Leicester and Leary Winslow said the situation got out of control and they both regret the incident happened. Both went to school together and both said they consider each other friends.

"Honestly I want to have the whole thing go away," Leicester said recently. "I

am not interested in making Leary out to being a horrible person, because I don't think he is."

"It should have never happened," Winslow said. "I am sorry. I wish I could have handled it differently, but I didn't."

Leicester was umpiring in a game on March 13 between Perquimans County Middle School and Elizabeth City Middle School. It was only his third game officiating either a middle school or

high school game.

The issue started when an ECMS batter was at the plate. The chalk lines that mark the batter's box were gone, and Winslow complained that the Elizabeth City player was standing outside of the box. The rules say if a batter is outside the box and hits the ball they are automatically called out.

The rules say generally only head coaches should

See EJECTED, 2

## WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION



PHOTO BY PAULA FITZPATRICK

Guests attend a wine and cheese reception to mark the opening of the Olde Albemarle exhibit at the visitor's center at the Newbold-White House.



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