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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2018

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DA dismisses assault charges against Eley

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Assault charges filed against Hertford Town Councilman Sid Eley were dropped by the District Attorney's office Monday, according to Quentin Jackson who made the claim.

District Attorney Andrew Womble could not be immediately reached for comment.

"I still have no comment (on the original charge against Jackson) but the charges (against me) have been dropped," Eley said Monday night. "Andy (Womble) said they should have never been filed in the first place."



ELEY

Jackson has been charged with assault on a government official for hitting Eley in the head with a closed fist after a meeting earlier this month.

Jackson said he tried to get charges filed against Eley for assault in Perquimans County, but said Perquimans magistrates would not hear the case.

Chief District Court Judge Edgar Barnes

See ELEY, 2

Judge amends restraining order

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Councilman Quentin Jackson will be able to attend Hertford Town Council meetings, but District Court Judge Chris Bean let stand an order that Jackson can't harass or threaten Councilman Sid Eley.



JACKSON

Wednesday on the charge of assaulting a government official for punching Eley in the head after a town council meeting. He was originally charged with simple assault, but the District Attorney's office dropped that and charged Jackson instead with assault on a government official. The second offense carries a more serious punishment.

The DA's office also said as a condition of his pre-trial release Jackson could

See JACKSON, 2

Davison to work for utility

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Cathy Davison, the outgoing executive director of the Albemarle Commission, will be joining the Bertie-based Roanoke Electric Cooperative as vice president of corporate services.



DAVISON

Davison announced early this month she would be stepping down from the 10-county regional government organization based in Hertford. Some board members were critical of her decision to give a contract to a company that was owned by her husband. She had been with the commission since September 2014.

Her last day with the commission was Friday and her first day with Roanoke is Monday.

"I don't let the grass grow under my feet," Davison

See DAVISON, 2

BELVIDERE DAY



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, volunteers on golf carts give people a free ride at Belvidere Day Saturday. Right, a child enjoys a cookie Saturday during a trip to Belvidere Day. Below, Helen Hunter (left) rides in the Belvidere Day parade Saturday. She was the Grand Marshal for the event. See more photos on page 9



Early voting remains strong

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County voters are coming out in large numbers for early voting.

As of the end of the day Monday, 1,988 people had voted. Voters still have through Saturday to cast an early ballot.

In 2016 Presidential race, 4,046 people cast an early ballot in Perquimans.

"It's been really busy and we still have the rest of the week," said Holly Hunter, the county's elections director.

Hunter started working in the elections office in August 2016 and was named director in February when Sydni Banks left to take a similar position in Currituck County.

On the very first day, 271 Perquimans voters went to the polls. On Monday, the number was 216.

Voters can go to the elections office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and cast a ballot through Friday. On Saturday, they can vote between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. There is no Sunday voting in Perqui-

See VOTING, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Master Gardener Betty Onufrak (left) and Master Gardener intern Veronica Martin-Dowdy give out information and plants to food pantry families at the Chowan Food Pantry last spring.

Extension program wins state award

By PAT WINTER

The Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Master Gardeners' "Grow To Eat" collaboration with local food pantries was awarded first place in a statewide Master Gardener Search for Excellence recognition program.

"Grow To Eat" is run by volunteer master gardeners under the direction of Chowan Extension Agent Katy Shook.

The "Grow To Eat" effort took first place in the community service category, earning the Extension program \$200 which will be used for its support. This award was presented by the North Carolina Extension Master Gardener Volunteers Endowment Committee to recognize outstanding Extension Master Gardener volunteer groups that complete projects in their communities that result in

significant learning, finding solutions to local gardening problems, and sharing research-based gardening information in their communities.

The "Grow To Eat" program was the idea of Master Gardner Betty Onufrak who also volunteers her time at a local food pantry. There Onufrak became aware of how many food pantry clients were living both without adequate nutrition and

without the knowledge or resources needed to grow food for themselves. The project's goal was to find a way to provide food pantry clientele with easy, safe and productive methods of growing produce at home with the hope of improving their nutrition.

In the first year of the project's implementation, Onufrak wrote to seed com-

See AWARD, 2

Elizabeth City rejects request for police help

BY JON HAWLEY
 The Daily Advance

Elizabeth City officials have denied the town of Hertford's request to send city police officers to help with routine patrols, citing their own lack of officers as well as legal concerns.

The matter came up during meeting of the Elizabeth City City Council this month,

when Councilor Darius Horton said someone asked him about Hertford's request last week at a restaurant, adding that he had also heard Hertford Mayor Horace Reid had sent a letter to the city requesting a "mutual aid agreement."

Horton said the issue had not gone before City Council and he asked City Manager Rich Olson to explain.

Olson told the council that Reid had approached Elizabeth City Police Chief Eddie Buffalo Jr. about providing patrol officers to help patrol Hertford. Olson

said the city has, and will honor, its mutual aid agreement with Hertford. However, he said mutual aid refers to providing emergency or non-recurring aid, such as that provided following a natural disaster.

To offer Hertford routine policing would require an "inter-local agreement," Olson said.

Olson and Buffalo declined Hertford's request for two reasons, he explained.

"The city of Elizabeth City is now 11 officers short; we do not have the staffing to provide that type of service

to the city of Hertford or anyone else at this particular time," Olson said.

Elizabeth City has 64 officer positions, Olson also noted, and is looking at ways to better attract new officers.

Secondly, Olson said that providing, and charging for, routine patrols outside its jurisdiction would weaken the city's "sovereign immunity" in any legal cases against the officers. If someone sued an Elizabeth City officer over something they

See POLICE, 2

HALLOWEEN



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Ms. Betty Moneybags greets customers outside Hertford Savings Bank on Church Street. A number of the scarecrows have sprouted up in downtown as part of an effort by Historic Hertford Inc. and for Halloween they will be all assembled on the courthouse lawn. Trick or Treating downtown is from 3-5 p.m. today.



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