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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019

75 cents

Hertford officials to refuse to pay 911 fee

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford officials are saying they will refuse to pay a county bill for 911 services at least until they understand what the charges are for. By one estimate the annual bill totals \$74,000.

Councilman Quentin Jackson brought the issue up Monday night at a workshop meeting.

In 1993 the county, Hertford and



JACKSON

agreement, the towns agreed to help pay a share of the total cost

Winfall signed an agreement for the operation of a county-wide emergency phone system. Before that time the county didn't have a consolidated dispatch system. In the

of paying for non-medical calls. Jackson said the system is unfair to town residents, because they are county taxpayers too.

"For 26 years you have been getting robbed," Jackson told the audience.

He said for years the town has been just getting a bill without itemized charges and for years, it's just been paying it.

Newly named Police Chief Dennis Brown questioned the bill

when he first saw it. The county handles dispatch duties for Hertford police and fire 24-hours a day, and the utilities department during nights and weekends.

Brown said the dollar figure isn't based on actual calls in town, but on 12 percent of the total cost of 911 expenses after deducting the cost of medical dispatch calls.

Brown said Perquimans County has a great 911 dispatch system, but it's an issue that needs to be

discussed.

Councilman Frank Norman said he was unaware that Jackson was going to bring the issue up, because he was going to bring it up too.

"What I would do is not pay it (the bill)," Norman said.

Town Manager Pamela Hurdle called the 911 fee "a budget nightmare" because officials never re-

See HERTFORD, 2

Cause sought for man's death

From Staff Reports

The State Medical Examiner's office has been called in on the investigation after a body was found the early morning hours of Dec. 30 off West Grubb Street in Hertford.

In a statement released by Hertford Police Chief Dennis Brown, the Hertford Police Department, Perquimans County Sheriff's Office and Perquimans County EMS responded to what he referred to as an "unattended death" behind the 100 block of West Grubb.

As of Monday, the office of the Medical Examiner in Greenville reported no cause of death has been determined. The process could take 180 days.

Perquimans EMS Director Jonathan Nixon said the call came in at 8:23 a.m. Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White confirmed a body was found off West Grubb Street, but referred all other questions to the Hertford Police Department. No other details were immediately available.

Anyone with information should contact Chief Brown at 426-5587.

Schools seek input on search

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The school system has a web survey on-line now to get input on the search for a superintendent.

The address is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/pqsupe2019>.

Perquimans hopes to have a replacement for Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman in place by July 1. Cheeseman's last day on the job was Jan. 1.

The Perquimans County School Board hired The Masonboro Group to coordinate the application and screening process.

The survey has three questions. The first asks if the person is a parent of a

See SEARCH, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett (left) swears in Ed Goodwin as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives last week. Holding the family Bible is Goodwin's wife Lori. The ceremony was held at Camp Cale.

Goodwin sworn in at Cale

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Ed Goodwin was sworn in to a seat in the NC House last Tuesday and vowed to represent the people of northeastern North Carolina to the best of his ability.

Goodwin, (R-District 1) defeated Democratic challenger Ron Wesson in November. The district includes Camden, Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Bertie and Washington counties.

Goodwin said he picked Camp Cale for the ceremony because it is

centrally located to residents of the district. About 125 people showed up for the event.

However Goodwin said Cale is an important place for him personally. The Baptist-owned youth summer camp opened in 1962 Goodwin said he was among the first group of campers.

"In 1962 I came to the woods to learn something about myself, and also to learn something about my relationship with God," Goodwin said. "This is a special place for me."

Goodwin made jokes and

laughed during much of his speech, but other parts were peppered with just how seriously Goodwin plans to take his new job.

When it came to the pledge of allegiance, Goodwin's son Kenji recited the pledge of allegiance and the audience followed along. But Kenji's speech came via videotape. He's a 25-year-old Army first lieutenant based in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

"I hope to live up my expectations for service in office, and I

See GOODWIN, 2

Steinburg hopes to unite region

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 Chowan Herald

EDENTON — State Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, urged residents of northeastern North Carolina to unite to improve the region Friday during a speech shortly after taking the oath of office Friday.

Steinburg was sworn in as the senator for District 1 by the Honorable Justice Paul Newby in front of a standing-room only crowd at the first floor courtroom at the Historic 1767 Chowan County Courthouse. State Senate District 1 includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Hyde, Dare, Washington, Gates and Hertford counties.

The audience patiently waited as Newby, an NC associate Supreme Court justice, arrived a little late to the ceremony.

Steinburg, who told the audience of the delay, noted with a laugh that the last time Newby administered



CHOWAN HERALD PHOTO

Sen. Bob Steinburg was sworn in Friday in Edenton.

the oath of office to him in 2013, Newby also was late then.

Newby administered the oath as Steinburg's wife, Marie, held the Bible.

When Steinburg spoke, he thanked his "angel," Marie, for her support throughout the years. On

Jan. 6, they will mark their 47th wedding anniversary.

"If I have any cockamamie ideas, she's the one who rights our path," he said. "I would not be here today if not for her."

See STEINBURG, 2

Bridge opening delayed again

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Motorists may have to wait yet another month to use a new bridge on Creek Drive in Winfall.

According to Perquimans County Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon, the N.C. Department of Transportation has advised the county the replacement project may not be done until the end of January. That would put the project two months behind schedule.

The e-mail from Nixon said DOT cited weather and material delays faced by contractor, the T.A. Loving Company of Goldsboro.

Weather was the prime reason DOT cited when it announced in November that the \$1.9 million project wouldn't be finished by the end of that month. While Perquimans County wasn't hit hard by the two

See BRIDGE, 2

Scholarship to honor late teacher

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Perquimans Schools Foundation is raising money to create a scholarship fund to honor a Hertford Grammar School teacher who died unexpectedly in December.

As of Monday, more than \$1,100 had been collected.

According to Foundation Executive Director Brenda Lassiter, the money will go towards a special line item to continue Kim Hunter Daugherty's legacy in edu-



DAUGHERTY

See TEACHER, 2

Inter-County donates surplus truck

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A fire engine that had served the Inter-County Fire Department for more than 20 years, found a new home last week.

The department sold the 1995 Freightliner to the Beaver Dam Volunteer Fire Department for the sum of \$1.

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Cartwright said the old Engine No. 71 was retired in January 2017 when a new engine was purchased to take its place. Inter-County put the older truck up for sale, but got little interest.

"When we didn't get any offers, we put it up with a broker and still in all that

time, we only got two inquiries," Cartwright said.

When Inter-County learned of the need at Beaver Dam in Cumberland County, the board of directors agreed to offer sell it for the nominal fee.

"It's a nice back-up engine," Cartwright said. "Technically we're not giving it away. Officially we're selling it for one dollar."

Cartwright gave thanks to B&S Enterprises for

transporting the old truck on a flatbed trailer free of charge.

Roseboro is in Cumberland County and suffered damage as the result of Hurricane Florence.

"Their coverage area is a whole lot more square miles than ours," Cartwright said.

And because some of those homes were beyond the six-mile distance from

See TRUCK, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Inter-County Fire Department recently sold a 1995 fire truck for \$1 to a fire department in Cumberland County that was in need of one.

