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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

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Felton named to Hertford town board

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

After two votes that were deadlocked, Hertford officials agreed Monday night to appoint Gracie Felton to be the newest member of the town board.

She replaces Councilman Archie Aples who resigned in December. His departure left the board with Mayor Horace Reid and three councilmen, Sid Eley, Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman.

Aples also was the Mayor Pro

Tem and acted in Reid's place when he wasn't available.

The board interviewed four candidates in a special meeting Friday. But for two tries, when it came down to voting a replacement Monday, nobody could get a 3-to-1 majority vote.

Norman got the process started by making a motion to appoint Felton. She's a cosmetologist with a shop on Church Street. The Dobbs Street resident has a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in healthcare administration.

Jackson seconded the motion, but when it came to a vote only he and Norman voted yes, and Eley and Mayor Reid voted no.

So Jackson tried his hand at doing the same thing. He nominated Felton and Norman seconded it, but the vote was still 2-2 with Reid and Eley voting in the negative.

So Norman tried to at least get a Mayor Pro Tem named. He nominated Jackson who seconded the nomination but even that vote was again 2-2.

Then Eley had a go at it and

nominated Robert "Ashley" Hodges for the vacant council seat. The Front Street resident is a software product manager and business developer. He didn't get a second on his motion.

If the board couldn't come up with a replacement, the vacancy would remain until after the November election. That is when Aples' term would have expired. Mayor Reid and Eley also have terms that end in December.

On the third try, Jackson made another motion to appoint Felton,

Norman provided the second and the vote passed 4-0.

The other people who applied for the vacancy were Martha Borders, a Carolina Avenue resident, Edgar Salvo, a West Market Street resident, and Hodges.

Monday's meeting drew a capacity crowd at Town Hall. In addition to seating in the main room, some residents had to sit in the hall. The capacity was to a point that a police officer was stationed at the door to tell people they couldn't come in unless somebody else left.

FIELDS NAMED REGION PRINCIPAL OF YEAR



Students celebrate at school assembly

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

For the second time in three years, Perquimans County can claim they have the Region 1 principal of the year.

Melissa Fields, the principal at Perquimans Central, learned Friday that she is this year's regional winner. There were 14 school districts that submitted a nomination for the Region 1 award.

At a school assembly Friday, Fields told Perquimans Central students that they were the reason she and the school had been honored with the recognition.

"You're the reason for what we do. This award is about you," she said.

Referring to the school's mascot, she said, "I love my little turtles."

Central serves students in grades pre-K through second grade.

Fields has worked for the Perquimans schools for the past 26 years. She started at Central working as a fourth-grade teacher in 1993, a post she held until 1997.

Fields became the school's media coordinator from 1997-2009, and then went to Perquimans County Middle School, where she served as assistant principal from 2009 to 2011.

She returned to Central as principal in 2011, where she stayed until 2015 when she was tapped to take over as principal at Perquimans County High School. While she was there, the high school earned its first "B" grade on state accountability testing.

Fields returned as principal at Central in 2017.

There are eight regional principals of the year. Last year's Region 1 winner was Edenton's D.F. Walker Principal Michelle White. White started her career working under Fields in Perquimans. She was on

See FIELDS, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Left, Perquimans Central School Principal Melissa Fields gets a hug from this year's NC Principal of the Year, Tabari Wallace last week. Top, Hertford Grammar School students applaud the announcement that Principal Melissa Fields was named the Region 1 Principal Of The Year. Middle, Perquimans Central Principal Melissa Fields (left) talks with Michelle White Friday at Central. Fields was named 2019 Region 1 Principal of the Year. White won the Region 1 title in 2018 at D.F. Walker in Chowan County.

Jackson, mother arrested

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson and his mother were both arrested Monday afternoon and charged with obstruction of justice by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office.

Marion Leary was released on \$500 secured bond. Jackson was released on a \$1,000 secured bond.



JACKSON

A probation officer, sheriff's deputy and a State Bureau of Investigation agent searched Jackson's room in Leary's house in the 310 block of South Church Street, the sheriff's office confirmed.

The Perquimans Sheriff's office referred all questions to the SBI.

SBI officials in Greenville could not be reached for comment and did not immediately return phone calls.

See JACKSON, 2

DOT moves up Harvey Point repaving

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The timeframe to improve Harvey Point Road has been moved up, but it still will be years before the motorists see the work.

The N.C. Department of Transportation had the work scheduled in 2023. It's now been moved ahead to 2020.

Brooks Braswell, a DOT engineer, said that means the contract may be awarded

See REPAVING, 2

Rotary to offer tax help

From Staff Reports

The Hertford Rotary Club will once again be sponsoring a volunteer tax help program as a part of the IRS nationwide program providing vital tax preparation services for low to moderate-income and elderly taxpayers.

Hertford Rotary Club, the first Rotary club in North Carolina to participate in the VITA program, conducts the program as a service project

See ROTARY, 2

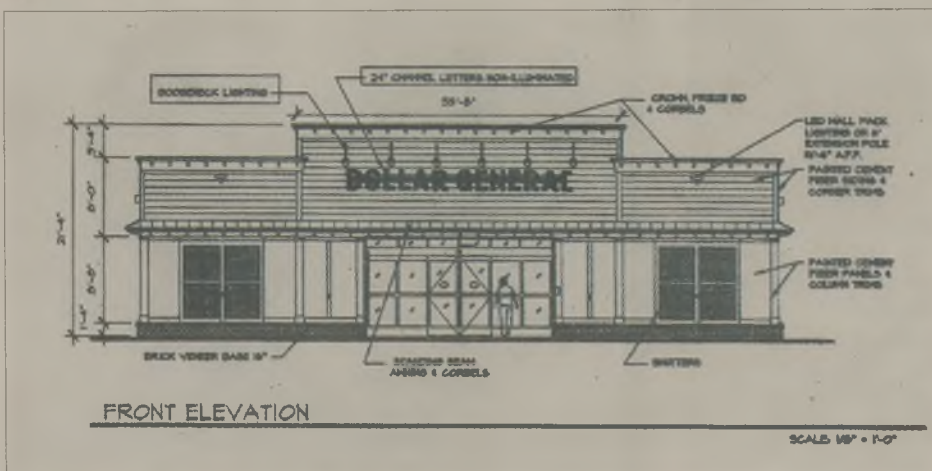
Rezoning to allow Dollar General store

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission approved a rezoning last week that paves the way for the construction of a Dollar General store next to Albemarle Plantation.

The board voted 6-0 to rezone 2.53 acres of a 21.7-acre plot from Rural Agriculture (RA) to Rural Commercial. The lot is on Holiday Island

zoning last week that paves the way for the construction of a Dollar General store next to Albemarle Plantation.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A drawing shows what the front of the new Dollar General store will look like.



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