



Pets of the Week, 5

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019

75 cents

## Jackson demands Eley return money to town

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson called on Councilman Sid Eley on Monday to return money he got from the town as a volunteer firefighter or risk a lawsuit.

That comes a week after Jackson called for Eley to be kicked off the Hertford Fire Department for undermining the council and



ELEY

being unfit. Eley has served on the fire department for 49 years and is 72-years-old. Jackson said town rules say board members cannot take any money from the town outside their town board salary. Firefighters don't get a salary

but they are paid each time they respond to a fire. They also get money for a pension fund.

Jackson said Eley owes \$4,600 he was paid for responding to fires plus \$1,500 that went to his pension account.

If he doesn't pay, Jackson said the town should get an outside attorney to sue Eley in court and demand damages.

It is unclear if the dollar figures Jackson cited were only for Eley's

current term in office. There was a period where Eley, a Mayor for 14 years, did not serve on the town board after he was defeated by current Mayor Horace Reid. Eley's council term expires in December.

At least one other town firefighter has served on both the fire department and the town board, Ed Lane. Lane was defeated in the same election that brought Jackson and Frank Norman into

power. As for kicking Eley off the fire department, Town Attorney John Leidy said the fire department is a separate organization from the town. The town simply provides equipment, like trucks, and pays the firefighters a small amount based on calls plus the pension.

Jackson has pending charges for punching Eley in the head

See JACKSON, 2

## Board delays electric increase

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

The Hertford Town Council voted last week to absorb the cost of a wholesale electric rate increase for a month because they hadn't alerted customers it was coming.

The 1.1 percent increase amounts to \$5,500 a month for the town. For residential customers with a \$500 bill, the increase will amount to an extra \$6.

On March 18, the town council agreed to pass along the cost, but it did not set an effective date for the increase. That's why the issue came up April 8.

When asked what they wanted to do, Councilwoman Gracie Felton said "I say next month."

Councilman Frank Norman said "I say we eat the first month."

Norman did want something in the next town bill to let customers know the town was absorbing the cost of the first month and an increase was coming. In the past, the town has printed flyers that insert in town utility bills on issues like a survey of when the council should meet.

Mayor Pro-Tem Quentin Jackson asked if the message could just be printed on the bill itself, and not be a separate sheet. He was told it could, but it could only be

See ELECTRIC, 2



JoAnne Jones holds one of the dresses in her store Monday. The shop on Church Street survived a fire that gutted the building above it. Below, Tarps cover some of the items inside White's Dress Shoppe.

## Store owner credits miracle

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

An iconic dress store in downtown Hertford survived a fire on April 6 that ruined offices above it and another building beside it.

JoAnne Jones, the owner of White's Dress Shoppe, credited God for providing a "bubble" of protection for the business as well as firefighters and her loyal customers who came to help in any way they could.

Some had feared the clothing might have suffered smoke damage, but Jones said it was spared. The business was back open for business two days later on that Monday.

The fire was detected about 2 a.m. and Jones said

she got the message about 3 a.m.

"That's a call you never want to get."

"Literally community friends and family came and we just had people showing up. I can't say enough about the firemen. They had us unlock the doors, they had broken down one next door, and the young men said 'Miss JoAnne, what do you want to do?' Water was literally running down the walls."

Clothes and cases were moved to the center of the room, away from the walls, and the firemen said they would bring tarps to cover them.

"When they said 'tarps' I

See STORE, 2



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

## Trucker killed in crash

From Staff Reports

A Chowan County truck driver has died from injuries he suffered April 8 after his tractor-trailer collided on U.S. Highway 17 with an SUV whose driver had stopped for a turtle in the roadway.

Arthur Ray Turner, 68, of Mexico Road, Edenton, died at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital on Tuesday, hours after the wreck that happened 1/2 miles north of Edenton, near the Chowan-Perquimans county line, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

Turner was driving an 18-wheeler north on U.S. Highway 17 about 1:28 p.m. when it collided with a 2013 Nissan SUV driven by Patricia Ann Signor, the patrol said. According to the patrol, Signor, 69, of Hertford, had stopped her vehicle to allow a turtle to cross the road. Turner was unable to stop his truck in time and it hit the rear of her SUV, the patrol spokesman said. The area is near a curve where traffic goes from 55 mph to 70 mph.

The SUV came to rest in the median, while the tractor-trailer ran off the road to



TURNER

See TRUCKER, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County native and cancer survivor Preston Felton talks April 8 in Edenton during the Relay for Life of Chowan/Perquimans counties survivor and caregivers dinner.

## Veteran talks about cancer battle

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON  
 The Chowan Herald

A Perquimans County native and Air Force veteran talked about the care he received while battling cancer during a recent event at Leon Nixon's Catering.

Preston Felton, a 34-year cancer survivor, spoke April 8 during the Relay for Life of Chowan/Perquimans Counties Survivor and Caregivers Dinner.

Before his cancer diagnosis, Felton worked out every day and was a martial artist.

"I thought I was super," he said. "Then my wife said, 'Wait. Maybe we need to take these numbers seriously.'"

He said the diagnosis was humbling and a lesson of faith.

"God is a giver," he said. "If we have faith, He has the power."

During his treatments in Greenville, he and his wife, Rosa Felton, stayed at the Hope House, a program of the American Cancer Society. It allows cancer patients and their caregivers to stay in a home-like environment while patients undergo treatment. It is run totally by donations.

The Hope House staff was amazing and so friendly, he said, noting the place was like a home away from home.

"It was more than just a roof over our heads," Felton said. "It's a community that helps patients."

He believes that love, especially the love he received at Hope House, helped in his healing. He recalled one night when a group of people visiting Hope House gathered in a patient's room where a man was playing music.

See VETERAN, 2

## AEMC awarded \$15 million loan for upgrades

From Staff Reports

Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. has been awarded a \$15 million federal loan to build two new substations, including one in Bethel, and make other

equipment improvements across the five counties where it provides electric service.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced its financing upgrades to rural electric systems across 13 states, including to AEMC, the only entity in North Carolina to receive any USDA funding.

"These loans will enhance rural economic development and help improve the

quality of life for people who live and work in rural America," said Joel Baxley, acting assistant to the secretary for rural development.

The USDA also reported the upgrades AEMC will perform will improve service to the electrical co-op's nearly 13,000 residential and industrial customers.

"The \$15 million loan ... will help AEMC fund the next four years of construction to better serve our

membership," AEMC General Manager Gary Ray stated in an email Thursday.

AEMC spokesman Chris Powell specified the loan will be used to construct two new substations, the West Albemarle Substation in Chowan County, and the Bethel Substation on Perquimans County. It will also pay for a 34.5-kilovolt line to connect them, he said.

See LOAN, 2

## EASTER LAMBS



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
 Children from the Hertford Baptist Church pre-school got to pet dyed lambs recently. The animals were raised by Drew and Tammy Byrum.