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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019

\$1.00

Jury finds Jackson not guilty of perjury

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 AND REGGIE PONDER
 Adams Publishing Group



JACKSON

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson was found not guilty of perjury by a 12-member Superior Court jury last week.

The jury spent just under an hour Tuesday to reach the unanimous verdict on the second day of a two-day trial in Hertford.

Superior Court Judge Wayland Sermons and defense attorney Michael

Sanders both told the jury that there were five things the state had to prove in order to find Jackson guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. One was that the false statement was material to the original trial and the other was that Jackson had to have lied

willfully. Jackson was seated at the defense table and when verdict was read, he dropped his head down into his arms and stayed that way for about a minute. Jackson quickly left the courthouse. Contacted after leaving court, Jackson would not comment.

Jackson took the stand in his own defense Tuesday morning and testified that he believed the statement to be true when he told a district court judge in Feb-

ruary of last year that he was no longer on probation.

He is charged with perjury in connection with a statement to District Court Judge Edgar Barnes on Feb. 14, 2018, that he was no longer on probation. In that trial Jackson was charged with fictitious tags and resisting an officer.

Jackson said he had hired local attorney Johnnie Finch

See JACKSON, A2

Hertford Mayor Reid withdraws from race

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford Mayor Horace Reid filed for re-election last week then had second thoughts and withdrew his application on Monday for fear he would get in a

physical altercation with some council members.

"I was thinking if I turn around and hit someone I have to go to jail," Reid said Monday.

Reid has been involved

See REID, A2

Seminar planned on voter ID law

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Board of Elections will hold an educational seminar about voter photo identification requirements at 2 p.m and 6 p.m on July 25 at the Perquimans County Board of Elections

The seminar is free and open to the public.

Beginning in 2020, voters will be required to provide photo identification before they vote. This includes both in-person and by-mail voting, with some exceptions. In November 2018, North Carolina voters

See VOTING, A2

Jackson ticketed in town Tahoe

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson was charged with speeding early Sunday morning while driving the town's 2019 Chevy Tahoe in Tyrrell County.

Jackson was cited by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper M.A. Myers for going 76 mph in a 55 mph zone on U.S. 64 at 12:49 a.m. His court date is Sept. 18.

Jackson said he was returning after attending a function, but would not say where the meeting was or what it involved. He said he would be leaving this week

See TICKET, A2



PETER WILLIAMS/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A crane prepares to drive a piling at the future site of the new Hertford S-Bridge.

Bridge work starts and stops

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The project to build a replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge hit a snag Monday when the crane that was driving a piling had a hydraulic leak that spilled into the river. A boom was placed around the liquid to try and contain it.

The initial plan is to drive five pilings and test them.

In most respects, the \$57 million replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge will look and operate the same

as the old version, Department of Transportation spokesman said last week.

One thing that will change will be the causeway. It has been settling for decades because of the poor soils under it. It will be replaced with a low bridge that will parallel the path of the old causeway. The old asphalt and any man-made things under the old causeway will be removed, said Tim Hass, a DOT spokesman for Division 1.

"The biggest difference

See BRIDGE, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A boom is extended out to contain a spill of what appears to be hydraulic fluid from a barge working on the new bridge.

Football field's funding falls short

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

(First of two parts)

The Perquimans County Schools has found itself \$146,000 in the hole because of an accounting error that arose from the construction of a new football field.

Superintendent Tanya Turner and some school staff made their case Monday night to the Perquimans County Commission. Turner asked the board to OK releasing the \$146,000 from the school system's lottery account to make up the difference.

Turner was only took over as superintendent on May 1. The history of the athletic complex project dates back almost 10 years.

"This project has been through four superintendents and three finance officers," said Assistant Superintendent James Bunch. "I know I've seen more than five plans that were drawn up."

The football field has been built without the use of tax dollars. The 32-acre parcel was donated by Dr. William Nixon, a Perquimans native. The late Charles Ward, left \$600,000 in his will to the Perquimans County Commission for use on either a football field, or a new library. Since the commission had already financed the construction on the new library, they earmarked it for the schools for a football field on the

See FIELD, A2



PETER WILLIAMS/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Sid Eley speaks at his retirement party last week at Louise's Event Center.

Party held for retiring director Eley

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Sid Eley likes to tell stories, and there were plenty of them told Wednesday at his retirement party.

Eley, 72, has stepped down after serving 19 years as executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce. About 50 people attended the event at

Louise's Event Center.

Susan Cox, a former president of the chamber and classmate of his, spoke about her friend. She's a year older than Eley and was asked to do the honors for Wednesday's ceremony when she was at a meeting at the chamber.

"My only qualifications were I was the oldest person in the room at the time."

She attended the old Hertford Grammar School with Eley when it caught fire.

"I don't remember the details, but Sid does," Cox said. "Sid is a great storyteller. It's like he has a Rolodex in his head."

He's also an ambassador for he town. Cox said when a new boat ties up at the Hertford Town Docks, Eley

makes a point to greet them and give them a tiny toy turtle as a gift.

"Some people call him 'Mr. Eley' from his days as a teacher. Even today former students call him that. Some people call him 'Firefighter Eley' or 'Chief Eley' or 'Councilman Eley' or 'Mayor Eley' or 'Director

See ELEY, A2

Hertford is on the list for ferry trial, but Elizabeth City is not

BY JON HAWLEY
 Staff Writer

A trial run of an Inner Banks ferry service is mov-

ing forward, with stops planned in four towns — but not, apparently, in Elizabeth City.

That's according to a recent email update from UNC-Chapel Hill business professor Nick Didow, who's leading the effort to start a Harbor Town proj-

ect aimed at boosting tourism and economic activity in Edenton, Hertford, and other small towns along the Albemarle Sound.

To help drive the project forward, state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, is also pushing for a trial run of a ferry boat or boats this

fall, despite reservations from Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County officials.

Now it appears uncertain that Elizabeth City will be one of the stops in the ferry's trial run. That's based on an email last week from Didow to Harbor Town Ad-

visory Board members and others.

"As of today, participation in the trials has been requested by the towns of Plymouth, Columbia, Hertford and Edenton," Didow said in the email, while indicating the trial run is still aimed for September and

October. He also asks participating communities to provide lists of events and attractions they have going on, so as to help with marketing and planning the ferries' times and routes.

He also notes he and his

See FERRY, A2



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