

# Firefighters Battle Blaze

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Area firefighters battled a blaze that consumed a garage Sunday evening in Holiday Island.

Perquimans 911 Center received multiple calls around 6 p.m. for a garage fire located on Sunset Circle in the Holiday Island subdivision.

Upon arrival at the scene, the structure was fully involved so firefighters were unable to salvage the detached garage.

Bethel and Hertford fire department worked to extinguish the fire and ensure that the homes near the fire

were protected.

No one was hurt. The Perquimans County Fire Marshal will be investigating the incident.

The fire departments were also assisted by the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Perquimans County Emergency Medical Services, Albemarle Electric, and Winfall Fire Department, who was canceled en route to the scene.

Chief Darren Saunders with Bethel Fire Department provided Incident Command per established National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines.

# TURNER

Continued from A1

do," Turner said. "I appreciate the community reaching out to the school system and saying hey, we want to provide you resources to help your kids during this very difficult time."

And then there was commencement for Pirates' Class of 2020 - seniors that had their classes change and sports seasons canceled. Recognizing the hurdles these students overcame, Turner said, "I am extremely proud of the Class of 2020. This group of students overcame a challenge that no other senior class has had to face in history with courage, strength, grace, and positivity. These students did not get to finish their spring sports season, enjoy their prom, perform their spring play, enjoy award ceremonies, perform their senior walk, and have a traditional graduation ceremony at the scheduled time. Though these memories were lost, the resilience of the Class of 2020 allowed them to make new memories and the most out of a situation that was out of their control."

In July, Perquimans Board of Education voted to adopt Plan B which includes a combination of in-person learning and remote learning. Parents also had an option to choose an all remote learning instructional experience.

The plan followed the NC Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for reopening schools. The decision was in response to the July 14 announcement by Governor Roy Cooper that schools needed to choose a reopening plan for students to return to school on Aug. 17.

During a tough year, the school district has done its best to provide families an opportunity to do what is right for their students and their households.

"We know that no plan is perfect, but our goal is always to provide our students the best possible instructional experience in person and in remote learning settings," Turner said when announcing the plan. "We are working hard to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible under the NCDHHS guidelines. We are looking forward to the return of our teachers, staff and students."

In October, the Board of Education approved plans to move K-5 to Plan A with the option for families to continue remote learning under Plan C beginning the

week of October 19th which marked the beginning of the second nine week grading period.

Plan A followed the same health and safety procedures as Plan B with social distancing recommended but not required in classrooms and on buses.

"Every attempt will continue to be made to social distance students as much as possible while requiring health screenings, masks, and disinfection procedures," Turner said when Plan A was approved. "The move to Plan A will enable our school system to make several modifications to better serve our children."

And then there's things that Turner does to trumpet the success of student athletes. Long after the school day ends, Turner attends most games and takes photographs of most every sport. An early riser, Turner attends Rotary Club of Hertford meetings held at the crack of dawn on Tuesdays, particularly when Pirates' seniors are named Student of the Month.

In Turner's spare time, she is a long distance runner who is anxiously awaiting the days when we can all run 5K races again. A faithful Christian, Turner posts inspiring Bible inspired messages to her social media account.

So taken as a whole - pandemic planning, personal growth and an inspiration to others - Turner has transformed the school system into the envy of the region.

Honorable mention for Perquimans Weekly's Person of the Year included Mayor Earnell Brown and Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges.

Brown's leadership of council deserves a gold star, particularly when considering what a turbulent year it has been when serving on council. Moreover, Brown has been there time and again when dealing with major crises including a natural gas line bursting and shootings that led to a temporary lockdown. And don't forget Town Hall's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Also, Brown distributed meals to assist others enduring pandemic.

Thus, Brown has served as a beacon of hope and change for many people who call Hertford home.

Hodges has put in long hours building budgets and perfecting policy - moves that have transformed council. He too deserves a strong vote of confidence in his leadership, particularly when enduring multi-hour council meetings that last long into the night.

# OBITUARIES

## Affie Spivey

BELVIDERE - Affie Bogue Spivey, 95, of Belvidere, NC, passed away peacefully on December 27, 2020, at her daughter's home in Raleigh, NC, after a year-long convalescence with vascular dementia. She was a treasured wife, mother, sister, neighbor, and friend. Her family and friends are in awe of her ability to persevere despite multiple health challenges.

Born in Woodville, NC, Affie grew up in the Great Depression and lived through World War II. Those experiences gave her a creative frugality, a strong work ethic, and a commitment to community - qualities that earned her and her contemporaries the title of the Greatest Generation.

In her teens, Affie left school and worked in a hosiery mill to help support her family. At age 19, she married Hertford, NC, native Henry Spivey, a young seaman in the U.S. Navy. She moved herself and her family to Germany, Japan, Maine, Colorado, Nebraska, and many other states, until Henry retired from the military in 1965.

Moving back to North Carolina, buying a home, and once again being close to family was a joy for her. She embraced the values of the local Religious Society of Friends meeting, Up River Friends. For many years, she attended there, taught Sunday School, and was active in the Elizabeth White Missionary Circle. The surrounding community of Whiteston was her home, and she rarely missed welcoming a new baby or consoling a family with a visit and a batch of muffins or a home-cooked casserole.

Affie loved to read and instilled that love in her children, reading to them before they could talk. She volunteered in her children's classrooms, and one of her proudest achievements was earning her general equivalency diploma in midlife and working as a substitute teacher in Perquimans County Schools. Later in life, she worked as a meter reader for the Town of Hertford.

She supported her children in the goals they pursued, even if they weren't what she would have chosen. She welcomed them, their children, and their pets home anytime. The loss of her unconditional love, her voice and laughter, and her ability to bring the extended family together leaves a void to be filled.

After the death of her husband in 2000, Affie lived in her home independently for 20 years. She loved relaxing in her cozy house, treasuring simple joys like a cup of tea with honey and a pair of fresh pajamas.

Affie is preceded in death by her parents, John P. Bogue and Narcissus S. Bogue; her husband, Henry T. Spivey; her sister, Mary B. Perry; and two brothers, Oscar H. Bogue and John P. Bogue Jr.; as well as brother-in-law Curtis E. Perry; sister-in-law Bessie Bogue; sister-in-law Vivian S. Winslow and brother-in-law Winfred S. "Wink" Winslow; and daughter-in-law Lois Spivey.

She is survived by five children: Henry Clay Spivey of Port Townsend, WA; Barbara S. Scott of Raleigh, NC; Janet F. Spivey and her husband, Sam J. Isehower of Marshall, NC; Andrea G. Spivey and her partner, Chris L. Slater of Richmond, VA; and Angela K. Spivey and her husband, Jock Brocki of Chapel Hill, NC; as well as six grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and a multitude of cherished nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held when it is safe to gather after the COVID-19 pandemic. The family asks that instead of flowers, donations be made in honor of Affie to the Up River Friends Meeting (upriverfriends.org/giving).

## Preston Godfrey, Sr.

HERTFORD - On Sunday, December 27, 2020 as the sun rose, David Preston "Papa" Godfrey, Sr., 82, of Hertford, went to join Jesus his Savior and the love of his life, his wife of 64 years, Katherine Ownley "Maw" Godfrey.



Mr. Godfrey was born in Perquimans County on May 28, 1938, and was the son of the late Linwood C. and Edna Russell Godfrey. A retired salesman, he was a member of Berea Church of Christ. Known for his ability to talk while he worked, he could be seen day and night up and down the isles at many of the local grocery stores. A kind hearted man, he always put the needs of others before his own.

In addition to his parents and wife, Katherine, the love of his life for 64 years, he was preceded in death by his son, David "Pep" Godfrey; a sister, Gladys Gray; brothers, Linwood Jr. and Billy Godfrey; and by his daughter-in-law, Sharon Godfrey.

Surviving are his children, Mickey Godfrey, Kathy Fairfax (husband Doug), Angie Dawson (husband Randy), and Chris Godfrey; his sister, Alma Jane Lewis; his brother, Larry Godfrey; his five grandsons, Everett Meads (wife Cassie), Eric and Corey Midgett, Perry Dawson (wife Christin), and Christopher "Cain" Godfrey. Preston also leaves six beautiful great-grandchildren.

A graveside memorial service was held Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. at Berea Church of Christ Cemetery, and was conducted by his grandson, the Rev. Perry Dawson.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in his memory be directed to one's local food bank.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting [www.millerfhc.com](http://www.millerfhc.com).

## S. Ann Benton

HERTFORD - Sallie Ann Benton, 77, of 1171 New Hope Road, passed away Friday, December 25, 2020 in Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation.



Miss Benton was born in Perquimans County on June 2, 1943, and was the daughter of the late John Marvin Benton, Sr. and Essie Barclift Benton Turner and step-father, Robert W. Turner. A graduate of East Carolina University with a Masters in Education, she was a retired elementary teacher having taught 1st grade for over 30 years at Central Elementary School in Elizabeth City. Following her retirement from teaching, she volunteered for many years with Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools.

An active member of Woodland United Methodist Church, she served as its Music Director and played piano for 65 years having started playing at 12 years of age. Other memberships enjoyed included the Alpha Delta Kappa Teachers Sorority, Forestburg Ruritan Club, and formerly with the Red Hat Society.

In addition to her parents and step-father, she was preceded in death by her brother, John Marvin Benton, Jr.

Surviving are her sister-in-law, Cynthia R. Benton; a niece, Pamela Benton Brown (Scott); two nephews, John Linwood Benton (Rebecca) and Karl Wayne Benton (April), all of Hertford; two great-nieces, Katlyn Benton and Jewel Benton; and two great-nephews, LTJG J.L. Benton, Jr. and Jeremiah Brown.

Graveside services were held Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in Cedarwood Cemetery and were conducted by her pastors, the Revs. Toni Wood and Renee Edwards.

Memorial contributions may be made either to Woodland United Methodist Church, 453 Woodland Church Road, or to the Ramp Ministry at Hertford Baptist Church, PO Box 34, both in Hertford, NC 27944.

Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral and Cremation Providers, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, is assisting the family with arrangements, and online condolences may be made by visiting [www.millerfhc.com](http://www.millerfhc.com).

## OBITUARY POLICY


For information on submitting obituaries or death notices Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., call 252-329-9505 or email [obits@apgcnc.com](mailto:obits@apgcnc.com) and specify that you are interested in obituary information for The Perquimans Weekly. On weekends and holidays, email [obits@apgcnc.com](mailto:obits@apgcnc.com). We do not

accept notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition. Death notices are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

Perquimans County Sheriff's Office's arrests between Dec. 12 and Dec. 22:  
 ■ Nahajj Wilson of Tyner was arrested Dec. 18 and charged with failure to appear. Bond was set at \$300/other.  
 ■ Jodie Bridgers of Hog Neck Road, Hertford, was arrested

Dec. 20 and charged with a misdemeanor probation violation. Bond was set at \$60,000 secured.  
 ■ Clayton Rockwell of New Hope Road, Hertford, was arrested Dec. 21 and charged with a violation of a court order. Bond was set at \$1,000 unsecured.



## PUBLIC NOTICE


Except for the Sheriff's Department, Dispatch Office and Emergency Medical Services, all County Offices in the Perquimans County Courthouse, Courthouse Annex, Social Services, Agricultural Extension Service, Perquimans County Library and the Perquimans County Recreation Department will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2021, for New Year's Day. The Water Department will be closed but emergencies may be reported to the Dispatch Office by calling 426-5751.  
 Frank Heath, County Manager

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## Town of Winfall Offices are Closed:

Friday, January 1, 2020

### In case of an Emergency call 426-5751



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