

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

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SCAN ME



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Gooden to become Edenton's next town manager



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Hunter, Perquimans cruise past Manteo in season opener



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Navy sailor following in Hertford parents' footsteps

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## Chamber to keep building, county removes Hunter artifacts

Chamber, county unable to agree on purchase price

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce building is no longer for sale.

The Chamber had placed its building on the market and county officials had expressed interest in buying the structure for use as a heritage museum.

But the end result of the negotiations between the Chamber and Perquimans County is that the Chamber has taken the building off the market and the county

has acquired all memorabilia, merchandise and furnishings associated with the Perquimans Visitor Center and Jim "Catfish" Hunter Museum.

The museum and visitor center previously operated alongside the Chamber office in the Chamber building.

County Manager Frank Heath said last week that county officials will discuss what to do with the newly acquired items.

"We will be working on a permanent location for the items in the months to come," Heath said.

Steven Young, the Realtor who handled the marketing of the Chamber Building and

also a member of the Chamber Board of Directors, said in an interview last week that the Chamber had been in negotiations with a number of entities — including Perquimans County — and the upshot was the Chamber decided to remove the property the market. He said county representatives also decided to remove from the building all museum artifacts, visitor center merchandise, and furnishings associated with the museum and visitor center.

Young and Melanie Metzler, who is vice chair of the Chamber board, said the organization is excited to be remaining in its centralized

location. Metzler said it is important for the museum and visitor center to operate as distinct entities from the Chamber.

"We needed to separate that out," she said.

Celebrating the legacy of Catfish Hunter and welcoming visitors to the community are functions too important to be relegated to the limited amount of time that Chamber staff were able to devote to those operations, she said.

Young and Metzler said the Chamber is open to assisting Perquimans County in any way it can during the

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THE DAILY ADVANCE

A large assortment of memorabilia is shown on display at the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Museum in this photo from 2018. Perquimans County has removed the memorabilia from the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce building.

## School bells ring



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Rowyn Lamb, 6, a first-grader at Central Elementary School, is all smiles as she walks toward the entrance of the school Monday for the start of the 2021-22 school year. The Perquimans County Schools is starting the new year with 92 more students than last year, Superintendent Tanya Turner said.

## Perquimans schools off to smooth start

Turner: School district's enrollment largest in 5 years

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner said the first day appeared to go smoothly at all schools in the district.

"I think everything is going well," Turner said Monday morning.

Turner said the district's first-day enrollment was 1,703, an increase from last year of nearly 90 and the highest it's been in five years.

Turner said Perquimans has only one teaching position vacancy right now, which is at Perquimans County High School. She said she's glad teaching positions are filled.

Theanda Sealock has two children at Central Elementary School this year. Jaylin

is a first-grader and Jaycob is a second-grader.

Sealock said she believes the school district did a good job navigating the pandemic last year and will do well again this school year.

"I think that they made the right precautions last year to be able to be a little bit more relaxed this year," Sealock said. "I'm very hopeful that this year will be even better."

The Perquimans County Schools is encouraging

mask-wearing in school facilities but not requiring it. The policy follows the guidance outlined by Gov. Roy Cooper several weeks ago on mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID in schools.

Sealock said the Perquimans schools had good procedures last year regarding quarantines and other COVID-19 protocols.

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## Two dozen plead: Leave Confederate monument as-is

Perquimans board takes no action on recommendations

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans commissioners took no action Monday, Aug. 16, on a study panel's recommendations about the future of the Confederate monument after two dozen residents urged the board to leave the monument as it is.

The two recommendations from the monument "working group" were to add interpretive signage around the monument and approach the private owners of a monument to Union soldiers on King Street about relocating it to the courthouse lawn, where the monument to Confederate soldiers is located.

But the overwhelming majority of those addressing commissioners during a public hearing Aug. 16 favored neither option.

Brenda Huddleston, who said her great-great-grandfather served in the Union Army, told commissioners she had thought "long and hard" about the panel's recommendations.

"I do not wish to discount the feelings of anyone on either side of this debate, but I must strongly disagree with placing signage around the monument," Huddleston said. "I do not want us to disparage its true purpose: a marker for the Confederate

war dead."

John Long also described the monument as a grave marker for soldiers who died in the Civil War — many of whom he claimed didn't want to go to war — and stands as a signifier that the war is over. Long also criticized the proceedings of the working group that county commissioners appointed to make the recommendations.

"The committee was a disaster," Long said. "They did not do a good job."

Rod Bowman said he was speaking in memory of Private Alexander B. Bell, his great-great uncle who served in Company C of the 5th Virginia Regiment. Bell was held as a prisoner of war in Delaware and died of starvation, Bowman said, adding "his remains are buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in Delaware."

"I ask you to leave the monument 'as is' as a memorial for Alex and all the other soldiers who never came home from that war," Bowman said.

Aubrey Onley also said the monument needs to remain at the courthouse because it's important to honor all dead soldiers.

Onley said the monument to Union soldiers on King Street also is impressive and he has enjoyed stopping and admiring it. He said he would like to see something done to

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## Auditor: Report not legal advice

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

A state auditor's finding that Hertford Town Council should have removed Councilman Quentin Jackson from office was based on "auditors' recommendations" and was not a legal recommendation, a spokeswoman for State Auditor Beth Wood said Friday.

The office does not issue legal

recommendations, according to the spokeswoman.

A report released Aug. 17 and based on a special investigation performed by Wood's office states Jackson should have been removed from office after he pleaded guilty to assaulting another council member in December 2019.

The report doesn't refer to Jackson specifically by name; it refers to him throughout only as "the former mayor pro tem," which was his title at the time covered by the report.

Jackson took issue with the report and said he would discuss his objections in greater detail at a

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## ARHS: Third doses for those with weak immunity system

Booster shots for Pfizer, Moderna won't be available until Sept. 20

From staff reports

Albemarle Regional Health Services began accepting appointments this week for persons in the eight-county region with compromised immune systems to receive an additional dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

### INSIDE

More than 70 percent of those who contracted COVID-19 since July 1 are under the age of 50, Page A2

recommended last week that persons who are "moderately to severely immunocompromised" receive a third dose of one of the two vaccines.

The third doses are not booster shots, ARHS cautioned. Although booster doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have been approved by both the Food and

Drug Administration and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, they will not be available until Sept. 20, ARHS said.

Persons who are not immunocompromised won't be in line for a booster dose until eight months after they've received their second dose of vaccine, ARHS said.

The additional doses ARHS is now administering are for persons whose immune systems are weaker, making them "especially vulnerable to (contracting)

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