

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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Albemarle Neighbor: Pippins helps clients 'talk it out' at Homestead Healing



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Hartman: Love is not rude, selfish, or takes pleasure in evil



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Perquimans boys, girls drop conference title games

Perquimans schools switches to optional masking

Turner: New policy follows advice from ARHS, NCDHHS

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Schools switched to a mask optional policy on Monday, becoming the latest area school district to lift its COVID-19 mask mandate for students, staff and visi-



TURNER

district's mask requirements and make mask-wearing optional during a special meet-

tors inside school facilities.

The Perquimans Board of Education voted unanimously last week to end the

ing. Superintendent Tanya Turner told board members that her recommendation to make masks optional — but recommended — was consistent with both new NC Strong Schools Toolkit guidelines issued earlier this month and the advice of officials at Albemarle Regional Health Services.

Turner said ARHS officials advised her that a

masks-optional policy is reasonable given the county's current COVID-19 transmission rate.

Between Jan. 24 and Feb. 11 the school district saw a significant decrease in positive COVID cases among both employees and students.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID data tracker, Perquimans had

35 new COVID cases over a seven-day period that ended Saturday. The county's case rate — cases per 100,000 people — has fallen to 259.97 and its positivity rate — the percentage of COVID tests coming back with a positive result — was 14.04% through Feb. 15.

Turner said she has always based her recommendations on masking policy in collaboration with ARHS

officials.

"Albemarle Regional health is in full support of us moving to optional," Turner said.

All four school principals in the Perquimans district said they prefer an optional mask policy but would support the board's decision either way, Turner said.

When they issued the

See MASKING, A3

Celebrating Perquimans

History museum highlights notables

Hunter, Wolfman Jack, Cale, Fox among natives highlighted

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

What do Religious Society of Friends founder George Fox, Elizabeth City State University founder Hugh Cale, rock and roll DJ Wolfman Jack and Baseball Hall of Famer Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter have in common?

All are part of the history of Perquimans County, and all are featured in the newly opened Perquimans County History Museum.

The museum, located at 104 Dobbs Street in Hertford, held a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday.

LeAnna Lee, executive director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, opened the ceremony by thanking people for coming out to the event.

Hertford Town Councilman Jerry Mimplitsch spoke on behalf of the town.

"This is a great moment for our town," he said.

Mimplitsch said Perquimans Tourism director Stacey Layden, the county staff, the contractor and all the volunteers involved did



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Cutting the ribbon at the new Perquimans County History Museum on Saturday are (l-r) County Commissioner Alan Lennon and Hertford Town Councilman Jerry Mimplitsch. The museum, located at 104 Dobbs Street in Hertford, features memorabilia about the late Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Jim "Catfish" Hunter and exhibits about other famous Perquimans County natives.

a great job getting the new museum ready to open.

"It's great to see the town and the county coming together to do something," Mimplitsch said. "I think we're going to see a lot more of that in the future."

County Commissioner Alan Lennon, who chairs the Perquimans Tourism Development Authority, said in his remarks that a lot of hard work had gone into the project.

"This is just the first

See MUSEUM, A3



Veronica Rountree, whose brother wrote a book about Quaker history in the region, poses for a portrait in the new Perquimans County History Museum, which held its grand opening on Saturday. At left is a display related to Quaker history and at right is a portrait of Elizabeth City State University founder Hugh Cale.

See DENTISTRY, A3

Resident charged with illegal dentistry

White: State dentistry board official raised allegation

BY JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance

A Hertford resident has been arrested on three counts of practicing dentistry without a license.

Kia Patrice Foreman, 43, of the 700 block of Grubb Street, was arrested on the misdemeanor charges Feb. 3, according to Perquimans County arrest reports.

According to arrest warrants, Foreman is charged with three counts of "practicing or attempting to practice dentistry in this state without first having passed the examination and obtained a license from the N.C. Board of Dental Examiners."

Perquimans Sheriff Shelby White said "someone from the state dentistry board" approached his office last month with allegations Foreman was providing dentistry work to customers, specifically fitting them for braces, out of her home.

White said the official from the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners, who he did not name, approached Foreman about her alleged activities and "gave her an opportunity to stop what she was doing." White said his deputies then approached Foreman

PCHS track may be ready by 2023

Board hires CHA to design, oversee track project

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools officials are on pace to have a new track at the high school ready by the 2023 track season.

On a motion by board

member Matt Peeler, the board voted unanimously to secure CHA Consulting to design the new high school track.

The design and construction management firm will develop a project budget and bring it back to the Perquimans Board of Education for its consideration. The firm's fee will be based on the total project budget.

Representatives of CHA told the school board at its regular meeting in January that a track typically takes six to seven

See TRACK, A3

Town to use Harvey Building for offices

Cole asks to use building's space instead of leasing it

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council has approved use of the Robert Harvey building for town office space.

Interim Town Manager Janice Cole told town councilors last week she understands there has been some discussion about leasing part of the building, which is the former town police station behind the current Town Hall.

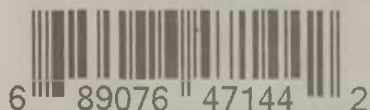
"I am asking that instead you allow us to use it for office space," Cole said.

See HARVEY, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Town Council has agreed to the interim town manager's request to use the Robert Harvey Building, the town's former police station, for additional office space.



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