

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

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Beauchamp among new vendors at Spring Garden Show



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Byrum, Modlin among PCHS' scholarship winners



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Perquimans, NHS end competitive match with scoreless tie

School hopefuls weigh in on improving academics

From staff reports

Six candidates are seeking three open seats on the Perquimans Board of Education in the May 17 primary election.

The Perquimans Weekly is asking candidates Kristy Corprew, Matt Winslow, Dave Silva, Brenda Huddleston, Anne White and Gracie Felton a series of questions in the run-up to the start of early voting on April 28. All but Felton responded to this week's question.

TPW: In all school districts the COVID-19 pandemic has been disruptive in various ways. The



CORPREW FELTON HUDDLESTON SILVA WHITE WINSLOW

worst of the pandemic appears to be over. As things return to normal, how can the schools promote academic achievement and do everything possible to overcome any losses that occurred over the past two years?

Corprew: "Schools are

still doing what schools have always done — educating students. While the methods and strategies change to meet the needs of students, the teaching and learning remains the same. Academic achievement is still the top priority of the teachers and staff at each school.

"The teachers and staff of Perquimans County Schools meet students where they are and use benchmark and state testing data to further 'grow' their students. In addition, teachers build relationships with them and are able identify losses more quickly and foster growth

in areas that testing cannot measure.

"Teachers never stopped educating and advocating for their students, in spite of the pandemic. We just adjusted the way in which we went about it."

Winslow: "The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the way our kids received instruction over nearly a 2-year period where the instruction occurred remotely followed by a mix of remote and face-to-face. Speaking as a father with two boys in our school system, I can say that their ability to learn and comprehend during remote instruction was no comparison to what they receive face-to-

face.

"Going back to in-person instruction also eliminated isolation at home. The ability for our kids to socially interact with their peers and to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities is critical to their emotional well-being and self-confidence.

"The school board's first priority is always the educational welfare of the students in this school system. I believe academic achievement is best promoted through in-person instruction and the success of our students academically and

See **SCHOOL**, A6

Designing Woman

Carpenter designed hats, then solar home

Carpenter, who turns 101 May 1, also now comhole champ

BY JOHN FOLEY
Correspondent

Hertford resident Cecille Carpenter turns 101 on Sunday, May 1. And while that may seem like a great milestone to many, it's just one of many in the life of this true Renaissance woman.

The centenarian recently shared some stories from her life after a 90-minute workout at the Perquimans County Senior Center, which she attends three days a week.

Born in Williamstown, Vermont, Carpenter hails from a large family and attended a one-room school house as a child.

"You didn't learn very much because books were scarce back then. You learned from each other. Compared to today, it was a big zero," says Carpenter, whose mother taught her to sew and knit mittens before she was old enough to attend school.

Those lessons would come in handy later in life and prove to be an important thread to shaping her



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Hertford resident Cecille Carpenter, shown here recently at the Perquimans County Senior Center, turns 101 on Sunday, May 1. While that may seem like a great milestone to many, it's just one of many in the life of this true Renaissance woman.

career.

At 17, Carpenter moved to New York where she was hired by a White Plains milliner who realized her talents for designing and selling hats.

"I changed the hat styles to fit the face, or suggested a different style. Sales went up and the owner said I

had a knack for hats," she recalls.

Carpenter credits her mother's seamstress ability and talent for designing outfits for her success in her first job.

"I used to watch my mother take my father's old clothes and make them into other things for the kids to

wear. I learned a lot," she said.

After a one-year stint at Little Millinery, the store that launched her career, the owner suggested Carpenter apply for the advertised hat trimmer position at Saks Fifth Avenue,

See **CARPENTER**, A2

Drill highlighted cohesion, need for radio upgrades

Report on Feb. exercise: 'Communication difficult'

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

A follow-up report on February's active shooter drill at the Perquimans County Courthouse noted good cooperation among agencies but also a need for radio communication upgrades.

The review noted problems exist with electronic communications — espe-

cially in some older buildings.

"Communication was difficult and at points was nonexistent," the report states.

Perquimans County Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon said county officials are discussing the need to move fire departments and emergency medical services to the VIPER radio system that is used by law enforcement agencies.

See **DRILL**, A6

Candidates forum, meet-greet May 3

From staff reports

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County Farm Bureau will host a public meet-and-greet and forum next month for candidates seeking county and state office in the May 17 primary.

The Tuesday, May 3 event at Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church at 402 Bagley Swamp Road, Hertford, will begin with the meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m., followed by the forum at 7 p.m.

Invited are candidates for state Senate, state House, Superior Court judge, district attorney, Perquimans

County Board of Commissioners, Perquimans County Board of Education, Perquimans sheriff and Perquimans clerk of court.

Early voting for the election gets underway at the Perquimans Board of Elections Office at 601 South Edenton Road St., Hertford, on Thursday, April 28.

For more information about the meet-and-greet and forum, contact Edward Winslow at 252-331-3673 or by email at ed.winslow@hotmail.com, or Brooke Winslow at 252-426-5636 or by email at brooke.winslow@ncfbssc.com.

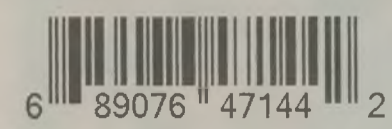
Pasquotank Plank house showcases 18th century workmanship

Construction more like cabinet making than house building

BY PENNY BYRD
AND LYN WINSLOW

Special to The Perquimans Weekly

Editor's note: The following is the first of a four-part series on the history of the Pasquotank Plank House, its travels and final



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return to Perquimans County.

If you lived in this area in the early 1700s it was a hard life. You had to grow your own crops, kill animals for meat, haul water in a bucket, make your own bricks and build your own house.

On the plus side, it was private and quiet and the quality of the workmanship in the building of your house would've been described as "exhibiting a highly developed level of log craftsmanship, with full dovetail cornering reinforced by an interior vertical corner locking post to which each plank is pegged."

This abbreviated description is taken from the book, "The Historic Architecture of Perquimans

County, North Carolina," but it actually refers to the Pasquotank Log House, which is also called a plank house.

The house was originally constructed in Pasquotank County in the early 1700s; the exact date is unknown because records have been lost due to a fire at the first courthouse.

It stood on land near the present-day Northeastern High School. Sometime before the school was constructed in the 1970s, the house was moved across U.S. Highway 17 to a location just south of the current BP gas station on the left as you enter Elizabeth City.

The house belonged to Guy

See **HOUSE**, A6



IMAGE COURTESY PENNY BYRD

This scanned photo from the book, "The Historic Architecture of Perquimans County, North Carolina," shows the Pasquotank Plank House, originally constructed in Pasquotank County in the early 1700s and moved to Perquimans in the 1970s.