

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

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Manager: SECU seeing 'constant increase' in fraud attempts



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Seniors Thach, DeWeese, Brown awarded top scholarships



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Ives, Bruins knock off unbeaten Pirates in Easter tourney

## Board of Education candidates address school safety

Voters to fill 3 of school board's 6 seats May 17

From staff reports

With early voting for the May 17 election starting today, Perquimans voters will begin going to the polls to elect three members to the county Board of Education.

The six candidates for those three seats include Barbara Huddleston, Dave Silva, Matt Winslow, Gracie Felton, Kristy Corprew and



CORPREW



FELTON



HUDDLESTON



SILVA



WHITE



WINSLOW

Anne White.

The Perquimans Weekly recently asked all six candidates a series of questions about education and schools. All but Felton re-

sponded. Their answers to this week's question about school safety, edited for space, follow.

TPW: The Perquim-

ans County Schools has taken significant steps, many of them in partnership with a local nonprofit called K.E.Y.S. to improve safety. Is there

anything else you believe needs to be done to im-

prove or enhance school safety?

Huddleston: "School safety is a top priority for Perquimans County

### INSIDE

Congressional District 1 candidate Q&A. Pages A6-7

Schools. I was happy to hear about the new benefit of acquiring cameras for all of our schools. Cameras are an essential security tool for students and faculty. We should also discuss their thoughts on cameras in all classrooms for additional protection with our teachers.

The extra funds provided to our schools through the K.E.Y.S. local nonprofit is a great benefit and resource

See BOARD, A10

## Chamber board majority resigns in Perquimans

Group's accounting, plans for building sale questioned

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

A majority of the directors on the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce board resigned last week after raising questions about the business group's accounting practices and planned sale of its building in downtown Hertford.

Steven Young, who was treasurer of the board and is among those who resigned, reportedly asked questions about the or-

ganization's accounting during the board's April 18 meeting.

But Young and the other board members who wanted answers about what was going on were completely shut down at the meeting, according to their account of the meeting which was shared with The Daily Advance and The Perquimans Weekly on Monday.

The following day, April 19, Young and fellow board members Melanie Metzler, Erin Brabble, Brittany Taylor and Lisa

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## Early voting begins today for election

Voters can cast ballots one-stop through May 14

From staff reports

Perquimans County voters will have roughly two full weeks, including one day of Saturday voting, in which to cast their ballot for the May 17 primary.

Early voting for the primary election begins today at the Perquimans Board of Election office at 601 South Edenton St., Hertford, and will continue weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. through Friday, May 13.

Early voting will also be held on Saturday, May 14,

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Residents who have not yet registered may do so and vote the same day during the 13-day one-stop voting period. They won't have to show a photo ID to register and vote but they will be required to provide proof of residency.

The deadlines to change political parties and register to vote on election day,

See ELECTION, A2

## Getting a Smart Start



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Karelle Harrell pets several kittens at the petting zoo at Saturday's 14th annual Smart Start Children's Festival and Safe Kids Day. Nearly 500 adults and children attended the 4½-hour event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

## 500 attend event for kids, families

Annual event brings together parents, service providers

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

Raising a child may not always be all fun and games but you wouldn't have known that from Saturday's Smart Start Children's Festival and Safe Kids Day.

Nearly 500 adults and children attended the 4½-

hour event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

The Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership has sponsored the event for the past 14 years, bringing families and service providers together to promote a safe and smart start to child rearing. The CPSSP is one of 75 local Smart Start partnerships across North Carolina.

Besides a wealth of

games and fun activities for kids, Saturday's event also featured a wide variety of information about services and programs for both children and families.

Families who lined up in their vehicles in the recreation center parking lot for the petting zoo were treated to swag bags filled with fruit, juices and snacks.

The petting zoo was a popular attraction at the Children's Festival and Safe

Kids Day. Children received instruction on how to approach, pet and handle an animal.

Spencer Stone of Hertford got to play with another popular attraction at Saturday's event: building blocks. A hand and eye coordination task, building blocks are frequently used as educational tools for children. Stone busily built a

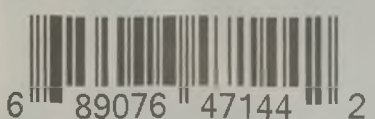
See CHILDREN, A2

## How the Plank House moved to Perquimans and then left

House moved to Bethania after windstorm damaged it

BY PENNY BYRD & BEN HOBBS  
Special to The Perquimans Weekly

Editor's note: This story is the second in a four-part series on the history of the Pasquotank Plank House, its travels and



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Vol. 87, No. 17  
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final return to Perquimans County.

When someone endeavors to tell the story about a house that is close to 300 years old, they have to expect that the information they acquire from various sources will be like putting two different puzzles together and wondering if the pieces will ever congeal.

I recently had the enjoyable privilege of sitting down with Ben Hobbs in his sawdusty workshop along with a student from Roanoke, Virginia, who listened and kibbitzed along with us. I asked Ben how and where he found the plank house and he said that very early houses were easy to spot be-

cause they had much steeper roof-lines. Ben saw the plank house sitting roadside off U.S. Highway 17 North as you enter Elizabeth City.

Back then life was slower and if you saw something of interest you just knocked on the closest door and that person could tell you who owned it. Turns out Guy Wood (one of the house's two co-owners mentioned in part one of this story) lived just about where U.S. 17 forks left and right at the City Grille.

The details of their chat were not shared (or even perhaps remembered—it was that long ago), but Ben then contacted Worth Hare, a housemoving company then on Mexico Road in Edenton

(it's no longer in business) and the house was moved in one piece on a trailer.

Ben had laid out a number of pillars of loose cement block (without mortar) and the house was lowered onto them. As Ben and his wife Jackie did not move back to Perquimans County full-time until 1973, the closest we can get to the date when the house was moved was "in the 70s."

A book about architecture in Perquimans "The Historic Architecture of Perquimans County, North Carolina," was printed in 1982 and Ben still had the house then. At some point after that a strong windstorm came through the area and the house was

knocked off its loose foundation.

By that time, Ben had acquired a number of other old buildings that he saved, restored and converted to lodging he called the Beechtree Inn. He also had a lot of other restoration projects (there are now 17 old structures on Ben's property) and three sons to raise, so when the plank house was damaged by wind he shared the news with his friend, Ned Hipp of Bethania.

Ned was a well-known furniture restorer at Old Salem Village and the MESDA, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, and he, like Ben, also loved old struc-

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