

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

\$1.50



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Museum exhibit to spotlight Indigenous North Carolinians



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Hunter, Byrum, Votava awarded top scholarships



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Thach strikes out 18, Pirates shut out Rosewood 7-0

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## Town eyes abandoning wastewater spray field



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

This site along Center Hill Road in Hertford is the spray field for the town of Hertford's wastewater treatment plant. Town Council voted last week to explore rescinding the town's state permit for the spray field.

Site hasn't been used in 3 years, could be sold and developed

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford has begun the process of abandoning its spray field next to the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Hertford Town Council voted unanimously May 9 to direct interim Town Manager Janice Cole to explore rescinding the state permit for the spray field.

Cole told councilors that the spray field has not been used in

about three years.

The spray field has not actually been part of the town's wastewater treatment process but rather served as a backup to increase the capacity at the treatment plant if necessary.

Recent wastewater volumes indicate the plant is operating at about 60 percent of its capacity.

Town officials noted that as pipes are repaired or replaced to eliminate infiltration and inflow into the sewage collection system, even more capacity should be freed up.

Cole said a great deal of work would need to be done at the

spray field in order for the town to continue using it.

Before moving ahead with spending any money on the spray field to bring it back up to standards, town staff wanted to determine if council wished to keep the field operational.

Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges noted that another budget consideration was that ongoing maintenance of the field would require an additional employee.

Hodges also pointed out that the town does not receive any tax revenue from the property as long

See **SPRAYFIELD, A3**

## Change agents

### Students' bracelets help save sea turtles

Central's sales raise \$1,100 for turtle hospital

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

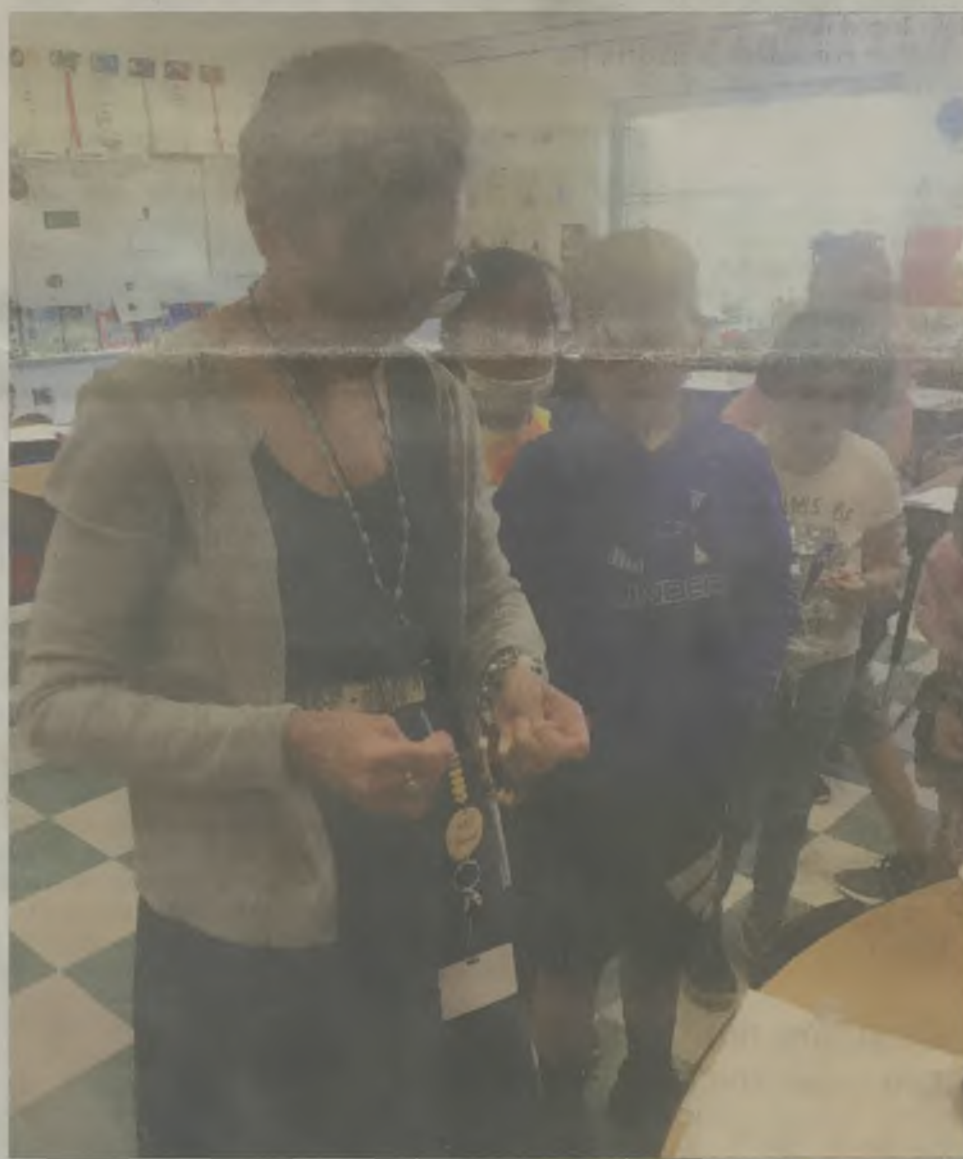
Perquimans Central School second-grade teacher Laura Duncan wears her passion for the environment — and especially for endangered sea turtles — on her sleeve.

Well, actually, her wrist. Every year, Duncan uses a learning-based project to teach her second-graders about protecting the environment and helping save sea turtles whose numbers are declining.

"The importance of the sea turtle to all of the ocean ecosystem is enormous," Duncan says. "When we take steps to help and protect the sea turtle, we do so for all ocean life."

Students in her second-grade homeroom are currently producing "Save the Turtle" bracelets. Each morning the students work on creating the bracelets before class starts and sometimes at the end of the day, making sure there is adequate inventory for the following day's sales.

"They are doing all of it. I buy the beads and they use



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Laura Duncan, a second-grade teacher at Perquimans Central School, holds one of the beaded bracelets produced by her students for the class' Sea Turtle Initiative as students (l-r) Drew Roberts, Valeria Mendoza and Remi Riddick look on. Duncan's students create and sell the bracelets as part of a project-based learning initiative to help endangered sea turtles.

their creativity and energy to make bracelets," Duncan said. "We have a normal day of learning around it."

Each bracelet sells for \$5 and to date, Duncan's class

has raised close to \$1,100 it plans to donate to the NC Aquarium Sea Turtle Hospital.

While many businesses are facing labor shortag-

es, that's not a problem for Duncan.

"Four students sit at the table in the lobby each

See **TURTLES, A3**

## Town: Improving Jennies Gut top flooding priority

Town's Resilience Strategy includes 6 other priorities

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Cleaning up and improving the creek known as Jennies Gut is the town of Hertford's top stormwater management priority, a group told town officials last week.

Sarah Winslow of the Hertford Community Action Team told Hertford Town Council that Jennies Gut is a key to flood-related resilience in the town.

Volunteers from HCAT provided extensive help to SWCA Environmental Consultants in the preparation of a report known as Resilience Strategy 2022. The consulting firm held a series of listening sessions with members of the public and prepared the report

under a contract with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

Jennies Gut is a tributary of the Perquimans River that flows east into the river just south of the historic downtown district.

Rhonda Waters, retired director of the Hertford Housing Authority who held that position during Hurricane Isabel, said Jennies Gut was an important factor in the flooding of housing authority apartments during the storm.

Mayor Earnell Brown said the HCAT and SWCA had worked very diligently to identify the priority projects.

Mayor pro tem Ashley Hodges said Jennies Gut has leapt out as a high-priority project that warrants immediate attention.

"It's so obvious that

See **STORMWATER, A3**



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford officials say cleaning up this creek known as Jennies Gut is a high priority for stormwater management in the town.

## Chappell's birdhouses popular with both birds, humans

Retired banker designs birdhouses for specific birds

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

Many Hertford residents know Roy Chappell as the generous guy who regularly passes out Southern Maid donuts in the downtown.

But for years he was vice

president of the Hertford Banking Company, where he was able to build a ton of relationships — both professional and personal — across the community.

These days, the 89-year-old is focused on building of another kind.

The banker-turned-birdhouse artisan has constructed more than 18 birdhouses over the past year and continues to research designs for his one-off creations.

"I find my designs on Pinterest and Instagram," Chappell explained during a recent interview inside his workshop.

"I only use recycled wood. This came from an old house," he said, pointing to a pile of cedar.

Chappell said he designs his birdhouses for specific birds.

"I research the styles and designs and use the plans," he said. "My inventory is low right now. I have been concentrating on wine bottle bird feeders and some other crafts."

The reason for low inventory is Chappell's popularity as a craftsman.

"Roy is just a wonderful person. His birdhouses are an attraction and sell very

See **CHAPPELL, A3**



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

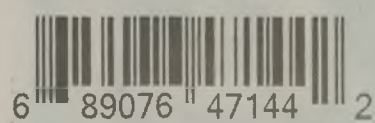
Roy Chappell is shown at work on one of his signature birdhouses in his workshop in Hertford. Chappell, a retired banker, has been honing his woodworking skills for 50 years. His current focus is on building birdhouses.

### A NOTE TO READERS

Because of The Perquimans Weekly's Tuesday afternoon deadline, and the closing of election polls at 7:30 p.m., we obviously were not able to get the results of the primary election or the Perquimans Board of Education election in this week's edition.

See next week's edition for full election coverage.

But in the meantime, you can check out either [www.dailyadvance.com/perquimans/](http://www.dailyadvance.com/perquimans/) or [dailyadvance.com](http://dailyadvance.com) for results of the nonpartisan school board race and other primary races affecting the county on Tuesday's ballot.



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