

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022

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PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
544 S CHURCH ST  
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



**PAGE A2**  
Ferebee Road Fire only 24% contained as of Monday



**PAGE A3**  
Godly fathers need relationship with heavenly father



**PAGE B3**  
Thach named 1A Player of Year in NC; four Pirates make all-state team

## HONORABLE VISIT



PHOTO COURTESY PENNY BYRD

Lyn Winslow (left) explains the brick construction of the Newbold-White House to N.C. Chief Justice Paul Newby during Newby's visit to Perquimans County, Thursday, June 23.

## Chief justice tours Newbold-White House

Newby also visited Perquimans County Courthouse June 23

From staff reports

The chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court continued his tour of the state's 100 county court-

houses last week by visiting the Perquimans County Courthouse in Hertford.

But prior to going, Chief Justice Paul Newby and his wife also made a visit to the Newbold-White House, the state's oldest brick residence.

According to Penny

Byrd, publicity chair for the Perquimans County Restoration Association, the nonprofit that oversees the Newbold-White House, Newby was greeted by four members of the PCRA Board of Directors.

Lynwood Winslow, a member of the PCRA, led

Newby on a tour of the house and its grounds. That was followed by a brief visit to the replica of the periauger boat on the grounds and the 1820s Newby Cottage, which is also on the property.

See **NEWBY**, A4

## Gregory Truck Bodies has new owner

Gregorys sell 133-year-old company to Ungerecht

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

WOODVILLE — Johnie Gregory Truck Bodies, a 133-year-old Woodville institution, has a new owner.

Ashley Gregory, the fifth generation of his family to own and operate the business, recently oversaw its sale to Derek Ungerecht.

"It's time. My grandfather, Johnie Gregory, had a plan and wanted to see the sale go through," Ashley Gregory said. Johnie Gregory passed away in March at age 87.

While the clapboard barn where James Gregory founded his business and built his first plow in 1889 is now a framed picture on the office wall, the spirit, work ethic and

high standards of a successful 133-year-old family business still echo over the machines bending, brushing and polishing steel for a future 20-foot dump truck.

"My grandfather worked here from the time he was 16 and worked here all his life", Ashley Gregory said. "He wanted to work until he was 70. He stopped getting paid when he was 65 but still came in every day and worked with the rest of us."

Johnie Gregory passed that work ethic on to his children and grandchildren.

"My dad and his brothers worked here everyday, all their lives, and I had a pair of work clothes in the back from the time I was dropped off the bus in kindergarten," Ashley Gregory said. "My grandfather taught us what he knew."

See **OWNER**, A4



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Ashley Gregory, (right) the fifth generation owner-operator of Johnie Gregory Truck Bodies, hands the keys to the business over to new owner, Derek Ungerecht, June 17. The Gregory family recently sold the 133-year-old company to Ungerecht — a sale blessed by Gregory's grandfather prior to his death in March at age 87.

## Advocates call for official to target town blight

Cole: Plan in works to add enforcement officer

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

When Tim Brinn talks about solving the problem of dilapidated and abandoned homes that checkerboard entire blocks of Hertford, he's pretty direct.

"Without a compliance officer, nothing is going to be accomplished," the Hertford resident says.

Brinn has advocated for the town of Hertford hiring a code compliance officer for some time. He believes Hertford needs the position to enforce town codes, particularly on property owners who don't seem interested in fixing up their buildings.

"It's pretty bad when there are about 30 vacant lots, some with city services and infrastructure, and we can't get anyone to build on them," he said.

Brinn is optimistic, though, that things might be changing.

"We're about to flip the switch on code enforcement, I hope," he said.

According to interim

Town Manager Janice McKenzie Cole, a plan for Hertford to add a compliance officer is in the works.

Cole said the town also intends to take other steps

to address the problem of dilapidated and abandoned properties that has plagued Hertford for years.



COLE

"Some of the abandoned houses are owned by numerous family members that no longer live in town and they just do not want the homes," she said. "We are taking steps to locate these people in an attempt to solve the problems."

Frank Jalkic, an advocate for building preservation who has remodeled several older structures, says the town has been talking about solving the dilapidated buildings problem for some time. He, too, believes it won't be solved until active steps are taken.

"The town is not going to grow or move forward until

See **OFFICER**, A4

## Council raises town cemetery plot price to \$750

Town: No July 4 fireworks, Indian Summer fest returning

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford is raising the price of a cemetery plot for town residents to \$750.

Hertford Town Council approved the increase at its work session Monday night.

Town officials also announced Monday that there will not be any Fourth of July fireworks in town or Independence Day celebration in Hertford this year.

Interim Town Manager Janice Cole said the town's

previous fireworks displays were funded by private individuals.

Council's decision to increase the price of cemetery plots also does away with the town's previous three-tier pricing. Under that system, town residents were charged \$560 for a cemetery plot, people who lived in Perquimans County but outside the town limits paid \$890 for a plot, and people who lived outside the county were charged \$1,225 for one.

Cole told the council that people living out of town had been getting around the

See **PRICE**, A4

## School board winners to be sworn-in

White, Corprew, Leary to take oath at July 7 meeting

From staff reports

Newly elected members of the Perquimans County Board of Education will take their oath of office next week.

Incumbent member Anne White, the school

board's chairwoman, was re-elected to the school board on May 10. First-time candidates Kristy Corprew and Matt Leary were both elected to the board's two other open seats.

Corprew and Leary will replace Matt Peeler and Amy Spaugh, who did not seek reelection.

White said the oath of office is usually administered to Perquimans school board



WINSLOW



CORPREW



WHITE

the Perquimans County Schools office. The training sessions will follow, and will include presentations by representatives of the N.C. School Boards Association, according

to White. Topics will be announced later but will include responsibilities of a school board member.

White, Corprew and Leary garnered the most votes May 10 in a field that also included Gracie Felton, Brenda Hudleston and Dave Silva.

members at the board's regular July meeting. But this year the board is holding an orientation and training session for board members on Thursday, July 7.

The oath of office will be administered to board members at 8 a.m. in the board meeting room at

## Fatal wreck probed

Single-vehicle wreck reported on Highway US 17 Friday night

From staff reports

The N.C. Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal accident on U.S. Highway 17 in Perquimans County Friday night.

According to a Perquimans Emergency Services press release, the county's 911 center was notified of a single-vehicle accident in the northbound lane of U.S. Highway 17 at 10:23 p.m. Friday.

When first responders arrived in the 900 block of U.S. 17, they found a lone

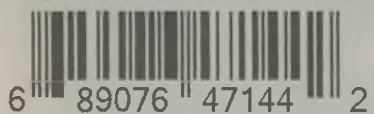
occupant in the vehicle who had died, the release states.

The release did not identify the driver.

Northbound traffic on U.S. 17 was diverted around the accident scene for nearly four hours, the release states.

Agencies responding to the incident included the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office, Hertford Fire Department, Perquimans County Emergency Medical Services, and the NC Highway Patrol.

Details about the accident were not immediately available from the N.C. Highway Patrol on Monday.



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Vol. 87, No. 26  
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