

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

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**PAGE A2**  
ARHS director  
Betts to retire, take  
Suffolk job



**PAGE B2**  
Parks and  
Rec announces  
baseball, soft-  
ball champs



**PAGE B3**  
Ghillie suits  
are Ukrainians'  
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## Board honors outgoing members, bus drivers, athletes

Spaugh, Peeler, Hedgepeth,  
Butt among honorees

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

The Perquimans County Board of Education began its final meeting of the school year last week by recognizing bus drivers, student athletes and two outgoing board members.

Superintendent Tanya Turner made the presentations at an awards ceremony at the Perquimans High School gym Thursday, June 30.

Outgoing members of the

Board of Education Amy Spaugh and Matt Peeler were recognized for their service and dedication to the school district. Neither sought re-election in the May school board election.

First elected in 2008, Spaugh served three four-year terms on the board. Beside serving as a past chair and vice chair of the board, Spaugh also served as the board's representative on the Perquimans County Schools Foundation board.

Elected in 2018, Peeler served one four-year term on the board. In 2020, Peeler was selected to represent District I on the North Car-

olina School Boards Association's Legislative Committee.

In presenting the awards, Turner congratulated both Spaugh and Peeler for their service.

"Mrs. Spaugh and Mr. Peeler, thank you for your dedication to Perquimans County Schools," she said. "You have faithfully performed your duties as a board member and have represented our board and school system well. We all appreciate your service and commitment to the students and staff of Perquimans County Schools. You have truly made a difference."

The school board also honored Angela Hedgepeth and Janice Butt, two school bus drivers, who, despite staffing shortages amid ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, achieved perfect driving attendance records during the past school year.

"We are so very thankful for both of these drivers," Turner said. "Mrs. Hedgepeth went above and beyond for the (school) transportation department and Hertford Grammar School this year. Not only did she show up and complete her route every day,

See BOARD, A4



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE MADDOX

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner (left) poses with outgoing Board of Education members Matt Peeler (center) and Amy Spaugh, both of whom were presented plaques for their service to the school district during a Board of Education meeting in the Perquimans County High School gym Thursday, June 30.

## Historic lineup



PHOTOS BY DAVID GOUGH/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Fans of the champion Perquimans County High School Pirates baseball team line up to get their baseballs autographed by each player and coach during a celebration of the state title-winning team at Hertford Baptist Church, Thursday, June 30. The Pirates won the 1A NCHSAA state championship series last month with a 2-1 series win over Cherryville High School at Holly Springs' Ting Stadium. The title was the Pirates' second in consecutive seasons.

## Champs sign autographs for fans

Hertford Baptist Church  
hosted event for team June 30

BY DAVID GOUGH  
The Daily Advance

Perquimans County High School baseball fans who turned out for a celebration of this year's state championship Pirates team last week and got to take home a souvenir of the team's historic accomplishment.

Fans lined up, baseball in hand, at the Thursday, June 30 event at Hertford Baptist

Church to get autographs from each member of the Pirates' 1A title-winning team and their coaches.

Afterward, the team and fans watched a slideshow of photos taken of the team's historic season and enjoyed a chicken and barbecue dinner catered by Captain Bob's BBQ & Seafood Catering.

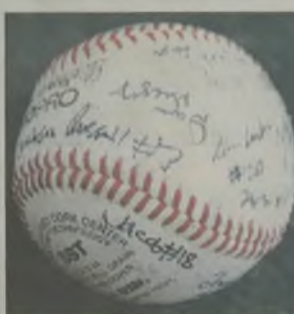
The celebration lasted a little over an hour as a large crowd turned out for the autograph session and dinner. Fans lined up in front of the team and then

passed their baseball from player to player and coach and coach, getting each team member's autograph.

"Oh man, well over a hundred (times)," Perquimans head coach Justin Roberson said. "Was starting to get a little tough there toward the end."

The Pirates won the 1A NCHSAA state championship series last month with a 2-1 series win over Cherryville High School at Holly Springs' Ting Stadium. The

See AUTOGRAPHS, A2



One of many baseballs autographed by each member of Perquimans' state title-winning baseball team is shown Thursday at Hertford Baptist Church.

## Jail to conduct probe in death of Hertford man

Sheriff: Seagle appeared to 'have a seizure' at jail

BY JULIAN EURE  
The Daily Advance

Albemarle District Jail officials are conducting their own internal probe into the circumstances surrounding the death of a jail inmate June 24.

Wayne Jones, the assistant administrator at the jail, confirmed the probe into inmate William Adam Seagle's death on June 28, saying the jail routinely conducts internal investigations following all serious incidents.

The jail's probe of Seagle's death will cooperate with but be independent of the separate investigation being conducted by the Pasquotank Sheriff's Office, Jones said. The jail's probe will focus on whether jail personnel followed proper procedures during the incident.

Pasquotank Sheriff Tom-



SEAGLE

my Wooten had few new details about his department's investigation of Seagle's death, saying only that the inmate

appeared to "have a seizure" before losing consciousness the evening of June 24. The Sheriff's Office said no foul play is suspected in Seagle's death.

Wooten said an autopsy will be performed to determine what caused Seagle's death but cautioned it may take "up to six months" for the results to be released.

Jones had little to add to the press release Wooten's department released on June 27 about the facts of what happened at the jail the night Seagle died.

According to that release, jail officers responded to

See DEATH, A4

## Patrol identifies Hertford motorist killed in wreck

Owens, of Hurdletown Road,  
died in wreck on US 17 June 24

BY JULIAN EURE  
The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — A Perquimans County man was killed in a single-vehicle accident on U.S. Highway 17 just south of Hertford Friday, June 24.

Trooper M. Ruffin of the N.C. Highway Patrol identified the man as Benjamin E. Owens, 79, of the 400 block of Hurdletown Road, Hertford.

According to Ruffin, Owens was driving alone north on U.S. 17 at 10:35 p.m. when his 2020 Chrysler Pacifica minivan drove off the road on the left. Owens' van crossed the median and entered the two lanes of south-

bound U.S. 17, Ruffin said. Owens then overcorrected and the van crossed back into the median where it struck a tree, Ruffin said. The van continued another 40-50 feet before striking a guardrail on the right side of the roadway and coming to a stop.

Owens, who was wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical services personnel, Ruffin said.

Owens' van was traveling about 55 mph, which is the speed limit for that stretch of roadway, Ruffin said.

Northbound traffic on U.S. 17 was diverted around the accident scene in the 900 block of the roadway for nearly four hours, a press release from Perquimans Emergency Services said last week.

## Pirates have loads of family connections

Winslows, Nixons, Thaches  
have ties to past teams

BY DAVID GOUGH  
The Daily Advance

The 2022 version of Perquimans baseball achieved something that even the late Jim "Catfish" Hunter just missed out on in his

playing days at the school. The Pirates won a second straight state title.

The Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher came very close to the feat in his high school career. The Pirates reached the state title game for a second year in a row in 1964, but those Pirates weren't able to win the final game.

Instead, it was Justin Roberson, Hunter's great-nephew, who helped lead the Pirates to that second consecutive title as the team's head coach in 2022.

"Those kids have



DAVID GOUGH/THE DAILY ADVANCE

The Perquimans baseball team celebrates after winning the 2022 1A NCHSAA state championship, Saturday, June 4, at Ting Stadium in Holly Springs.

been taught that story from the time they were little," Roberson said. "This is your opportunity" and even going into this year, "This is

See PIRATES, A4



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