

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022

\$1.50



SCAN ME



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Bethel Fire District rating upgraded from 9E to 5



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Homecoming in Belvidere: Whiteville Grove to mark 170th anniversary



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Wild, last-minute TD helps Pirates stun Panthers

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## Perquimans facing \$340K expense for housing jail inmate

Jail head negotiating bill with state for inmate's care

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Perquimans County may have to pay \$340,000 for medical care and other expenses related to housing a jail inmate who was incarcerated

for assaulting a Perquimans emergency medical services worker in 2021.

Minutes from the Sept. 19 Perquimans Board of Commissioners meeting indicate the county was billed expenses for the female inmate because she was in the county's custody at Albemarle District Jail. Under current state law, counties are responsible for all ex-

penses for inmates in their custody.

Perquimans, Camden and Pasquotank counties are partners in the jail but pay expenses like medical care individually. If the inmate has to be cared for at another facility, the county with custody responsibility has to pay that expense as well.

"The person was placed in jail and we had to cover

her medical costs of approximately \$200,000," the Perquimans meeting minutes state. "Then, we received a bill from (the N.C.) Department of Public Safety when she was in Raleigh stating we owed \$140,000 in custody costs."

The minutes also noted: "This one case impacted the county budget by 2-3 cents on our tax rate."

Keith Nowell, a candidate for Perquimans commissioner on the Nov. 8 general election ballot, asked commissioners during their Oct. 3 meeting why county taxpayers had to foot the bill for the inmate. He said the county should have insurance to cover unexpected expenses like those connected to the inmate's medical care.

Nowell told commissioners that the cost of inmate medical care is a burden to county taxpayers, who can hardly afford it "in these inflationary times."

County Manager Frank Heath explained last week that even before Nowell raised the issue of insurance coverage, the

See EXPENSE, A3

## Stamping out hunger



PHOTO COURTESY THE OPEN DOOR FOOD PANTRY

The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County will hold its annual Walk for Hunger on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Walkers will leave the Perquimans County Library, head down Church Street to Newby Street. From there, they'll turn on to Front Street and walk back to Market Street. After turning onto Church Street, walkers will end up back at the library.

## Open Door eyes largest Walk for Hunger

Fundraiser for food pantry will be Saturday at 9 a.m.

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

Organizers of Saturday's Perquimans County Walk for Hunger believe the event may be its most successful in the organization's 42-year history.

Sponsored by The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County, the walk begins at 9 a.m. at the Perquimans County Library.

"We are excited that our schools are participating this year," said Walk for Hunger Chairwoman Dina Hurdle. "We have Perquimans County High School varsity and junior varsity football teams participating, along with other school clubs and staff members."

Several county departments and a number of churches also plan to participate. Hurdle is looking for more groups and individuals to pre-register or sign up the day of the walk.

In the past the Walk for

Hunger has focused on Hertford. This year's event is The Open Door Food Pantry's first countywide walk.

"The Albemarle Plantation has held an annual (anti-hunger) walk for over 17 years and they creatively make it a neighborhood challenge," Hurdle said. "Their walk is our largest fundraiser to date."

This year, Albemarle Plantation decided to hold its walk in conjunction with The Open Door Pantry's Walk for Hunger.

"We are so excited about

this being a countywide event this year," Hurdle said.

This year's Walk for Hunger route is estimated to be around 1.5 miles. Walkers will leave the Perquimans County Library, head down Church Street to Newby Street. From there, they'll turn on to Front Street and walk back to Market Street. After turning onto Church Street, walkers will end up back at the library.

Both the Perquimans Sheriff's Office and

See HUNGER, A3

## Candidates weigh in on challenges facing Perquimans

Corprew, Jackson, Leigh, Nowell, Nelson, Ward square off Nov. 8

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Candidates for county commissioner in the Nov. 8 general election have ideas about the challenges facing Perquimans County, and how best to meet those challenges.

Vying for three seats on the Perquimans board are unaffiliated candidate Tim Corprew, Democrats Quentin Jackson, Fondella Leigh and Keith Nowell, and Republicans Wallace Nelson and James Ward.

Leigh and Nelson are incumbent county commissioners.

Perquimans voters can only vote for one candidate, even though there are three open seats. The highest three-vote getters will earn the seats. Early voting begins at the Perquimans Board of Elections office Thursday, Oct. 20.

All candidates but Nowell responded to the newspaper's question about challenges.

**TPW: What do you consider the biggest challenge facing the county? What does the county need to do to address that challenge?**

**Jackson:** "Where is Perquimans County going? How to convert from the 1800s into the new millennium. I think that better partnership with the towns will address some issues. There hasn't been a commissioner that actually lives in either municipality in over 10 years. Growth is very much needed to succeed."

**Nelson:** "I prefer to look at this question focusing on the opportunities available to the county. Whether it be economic development or quality of life, I am excited about what is unfolding for Perquimans County. Economic development

See COUNTY, A6

## Masonic-themed Hertford ghost walk set for Oct. 21-22

Event will feature portrayals of Bonner, McNider, others

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The first-ever "ghost walk" in Hertford will highlight some significant figures from Perquimans County's past, all of whom were Masons.

The ghost walk will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21-22 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each evening. The event will include five locations and highlight the Perquimans County of the early 1900s.

Members of Perquimans Masonic Lodge 106 were discussing new ways to raise money for charitable causes in the community when they realized that a ghost walk would be something that had not been done before in Hertford.

They decided to sponsor one with a twist — all the "ghosts" featured would be Masons.

"It will highlight and spotlight our Masons,"

said John Long, a member of Lodge 106. "They were very active in our lodge and very active in our community, and everybody knew them."

Featured will be:

- Dr. Allen Bonner, a dentist. The actor portraying Bonner will talk about his strong arm, which would either pull your tooth or pull you right out of the chair. He also might mention pulling teeth for fellow hunters while on duck hunting trips in Hyde County.

- James F. McNider, a lawyer. The actor portraying McNider will share stories of crimes and villains in the area. One case of note will be the murder trial of Jim Wilcox for the death of Nell Cropsey. The crime occurred in Elizabeth City

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## White to perform at Hertford Bay Tap House

White's jokes inspired by his experiences, observations

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

Hertford resident Matt White has gone from distracting classmates at Perquimans County High School to performing stand-up comedy on the stage.

Which is quite an accomplishment for someone who wasn't looking to do stand-up.

"Well, I never really wanted to be a standup comedi-

an, I wanted to be a comedic actor," White recalled recently. "I've actively used my sense of humor for a long time. I'm quick-witted and I was a class clown growing up."

White says he was "pretty good" at humor — so good, in fact, he recalls "hardly" ever getting into trouble for his classroom antics.

"I even was able to make a few teachers laugh in the process," he said.

The comedian regularly entertains locals at the Hertford Bay Tap House in Hertford. He's got another show coming up on Saturday, Oct. 22.

White said it helps that most of his friends and family members are also funny.

"I learned a lot of do's and don'ts from



OLIVER RIERA/FOCUS LIGHT CREATIVE

Hertford native Matt White will perform his stand-up comedy at the Hertford Bay Tap House on Saturday, Oct. 22.

watching others. I'm drawn to funny people and they are to me," he said.

White caught the performing bug in the tenth grade. He would have a number of leading roles in school plays by his senior

year. When White graduated from high school he wanted to pursue a comedic acting career. His heroes at the time included comedians

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