

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

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**PAGE B1**  
NTSB: Mechanic grounded plane before fatal crash



**PAGE B3**  
Albemarle Neighbor: Beaty's 'Mountain to Sea' ring wins Our State honor



**PAGE B4**  
Tobias: Art, food need to be less abstract, more accessible

## State reduces town's wastewater fine from \$24K to \$1K

Brown: Cole's explanations to state helped reduce fine

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Thanks to explanations the interim town manager provided to the state, the town of Hertford will be fined only \$1,000 for violations at the town's wastewater treatment plant instead of \$25,000.

Town Council expressed appreciation for interim Town Manager Janice Cole's



COLE

facing a \$25,000 fine for several violations at the wastewater plant, Mayor Earnell Brown said.

Only after Cole wrote to officials, providing very extensive explanations for the

violations, did they agree to substantially reduce the fine from \$25,000 to \$1,000, Brown said.

"And as a result of her hard work, we got it down to two violations," Brown said. "So before we even start, I would like to say 'thank you' for that hard work."

The violations were noted in an inspection of the plant on Nov. 16, 2022. State inspectors found that the inflow pump, grit removal system, mechanical bar screens and inside ditch

aerators were all non-operational at the time of the inspection.

Cole told the council that some of the deficiencies can't be remedied right now because the town doesn't have the money to address them.

Cole also explained to state officials that for some of the repairs, wastewater treatment plant staff had ordered the parts but they hadn't come in by the time the inspection was conducted.

"That's why they did not

cite us for those two (violations)," Cole said.

The other two violations were for longstanding problems, she said.

"We thank you for your work, for saving the town \$24,000," Brown told Cole.

Councilor Ashley Hodges, the council's mayor pro tem, said he appreciates the work done by Cole and the staff at the wastewater treatment plant.

"The town has been receiving violations on and off for a while now," said Hodges, who was elected in 2019.

"This is something that has happened every year I think that we have been on council and it had been happening some before that as well."

"We have the system that we need, and the system has not been able to be maintained or is not operational," he continued. "And again, as Manager Cole has said, our guys are out there working really hard to keep this stuff running and to solve problems when things break."

See **HERTFORD, A2**

## Off into the sunset



PHOTOS BY JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

This is the view of the sun setting behind the Bethel Fishing Center in Snug Harbor. The Bethel Fishing Center will be closing Saturday after 30 years. Its owner, Mildred "Millie" Henry, cited inflation and a slowdown in the number of fishermen using the business.

## Bethel Fishing Center to close Saturday

Bands to perform tribute concert to center, owner

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

SNUG HARBOR — For nearly three decades, the Bethel Fishing Center has been a Snug Harbor beacon — a place for anglers to load up on bait and grab a beer before launching.

The bar and grill has also been a place to listen to good music on weekend

nights.

But on Saturday, the Snug Harbor institution will close its doors for a final time.

This isn't a fish story. It's a sad day for those who've called the Bethel Fishing Center a home away from home.

"Millie," as owner Mildred Henry is called, said she's closing the Bethel Fishing Center because of inflation, and a slowdown in the number of fishermen using the

See **FISHING, A3**



The Bethel Fishing Center will close its doors a final time Saturday night. As a tribute to owner Mildred "Millie" Henry and the center, the Dixie Dawgs, Smitty Smith, Tommy Bouch and Lennon Floyd will perform a final show there Saturday starting at 8 p.m.

## Hertford Grammar exceeds NC rate on 3rd grade reading

Currituck, Camden schools, 3 in ECPPS also did better

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Several area elementary schools, including Hertford Grammar, had better passing rates than the state average on Read to Achieve, the North Carolina education initiative that seeks to have all students reading at or above grade level by the end of the third grade.

The statewide Read to

Achieve passing rate for the most recent year was 74.9 percent.

Hertford Grammar School in the Perquimans County Schools was nearly two percent better with a 76.8 percent passing rate.

"We are very pleased with the Read to Achieve results in Perquimans County given the struggles of recovering from an almost three-year pandemic," Superintendent Tanya Turner said.

See **READING, A3**

## Cohen retiring as CTE head Jan. 31

Cohen helped expand workforce, career prep program

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

Jill Cohen, who's overseen expansion of the Career Technical Education program that helps prepare Perquimans High School students for careers and the workforce, has announced her plan to retire from the school district. Her last day with the Perquimans County Schools is Jan. 31.

Cohen, who's leaving education after 44 years, said she's starting a new

### INSIDE

Perquimans one of 4 districts garnering CTE grants. Page A3.

business that will focus on grant writing and consulting.

"Retirement is really only a word to move you from one industry to another," Cohen said. "After 44 years in the educational setting, I am venturing into my next chapter."

Cohen said she and her husband, Larry, plan to

See **COHEN, A3**

## Jackson threatens case continued

Former Hertford councilor appealing judge's verdict

From staff reports

A communicating threats case against former Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson was con-

tinued to March 20 in Monday's session of Perquimans County Superior Court.

The continuance was requested by Jackson's attorney, Jamal Summey.

The case stems from a dispute Jackson had with Perquimans County businessman Patrick Morrissey during a July 6, 2021 meeting of the Hertford Town Council.

The meeting became so disorderly that Mayor Earnell Brown adjourned it

See **JACKSON, A3**

## Area to have clout on lawmaker ag panels

Sanderson, Hanig, Goodwin, Ward get panel assignments

From staff reports

The Albemarle area will have top leadership on agriculture committees in both the state House and Senate, while area lawmakers also will serve on key appropriation panels in both legislative chambers.

Both state Senate President Pro Temp Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, and state House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, recently announced their appointments to Senate and House committees.



GOODWIN



HANIG



SANDERSON



WARD

State Sen. Norm Sanderson, R-Pamlico, was named one of two chairmen of the Senate Agriculture, Energy and Environment Committee by Berger. Sanderson, who represents the 1st Senate District's eight counties — Carteret, Chowan, Dare, Hyde, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Washington — was also

tapped to chair the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources.

Berger also named state Sen. Bobby Hanig, R-Currituck, who represents the newly drawn 3rd Senate District, to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Hanig represents Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Gates,

Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Tyrrell and Warren counties.

State Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, was named a member of the House Agriculture Committee and chair of the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic

See **PANELS, A2**



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