

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023

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Church of the Holy Trinity to celebrate 175 years in May



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Group spreads anti-monument message with billboard



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Pirates snap 10-game losing skid, Lady Pirates win again

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Interim no more: Council names Cole Hertford's manager

Hodges: Move signals town has 'leader for long haul'

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council last week officially removed the "interim" from in front of Town Manager Janice Cole's title. Cole, who has been serv-



COLE

Cole said Wednesday during an interview

ing as the town's interim manager for the past year, did not push for the change. "I was content as interim,"

Cole said Wednesday during an interview following a

community forum at the Hertford Housing Authority.

Cole said she came on in order to help, and didn't realize when she started that it was going to take as much time as it has to get town operations back on a surer footing.

"A year later I'm still here," she said.

Councilor Ashley Hodges, the council's mayor pro

tem, said part of the council's goal in naming Cole permanent manager was to communicate to state officials and officials in other area municipalities that "this is our leader for the long haul."

Even though the board's action Monday implies a new permanence to her role for the town, Cole said Wednesday that she still

thinks of her work in temporary terms.

It's just that temporary is turning out to be longer than Cole, a former U.S. attorney, state district court judge, and Perquimans County commissioner, expected.

Cole said she still feels like she is in the town manager position in order to help the town move to a point where it will be a

smoother transition for someone else to take over.

When she started in January of last year, Cole said, she had town council meetings marked on her calendar through June, which reflected something of the timeframe she had in mind at that point.

Town Council made the

See COLE, A3

Making a better Hertford



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown hosts a "meet and greet" community forum at the Hertford Housing Authority, Wednesday, Jan. 25. The event was designed to elicit ideas from Hertford citizens about the kinds of attractions and services they believe the town needs.

Forum highlights progress, challenges



Hertford resident Keith Rouse shares his ideas for making Hertford a better place during a community forum held Jan. 25 at the Hertford Housing Authority.

AirBnB units being developed on 2nd stories of buildings

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

A community forum held last week at the Hertford Housing Authority focused on improvements to the town but also generated a wish-list of ideas from local residents.

One of the things residents said they would like to see in Hertford is a hotel.

Hertford Councilwoman Sandra Anderson said in response that she thinks there is a "golden opportunity" in Hertford now for someone to build a hotel.

Mayor Earnell Brown, who hosted the Jan. 25 forum, and Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges mentioned that the town does have short-term rental units being developed on the second stories of buildings downtown.

See FORUM, A3

Dinner boat also biz opportunity for area caterers

Harbor Towns Inc. hires Martine to compile caterer list

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The dinner boat that Harbor Towns, Inc. plans to begin operating on area waterways later this spring won't just be an entertainment vessel.

It also will be an economic development tool.

At a community forum hosted by Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown last week,

Town Councilor Ashley Hodges mentioned that Harbor Towns' dinner boat cruises in the area also will be a business opportunity for local caterers.

Brown added that people could also hire local people to provide decorating, entertainment and other services on dinner boat excursions.

Asked Wednesday about the opportunities for caterers, Peter Thomson of Harbor Towns, Inc. said the

See BOAT, A3

DRIVE ON OPENS



JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Drive On Academy President Janice Smith (left) and Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown cut the ribbon at Drive On Academy's new offices at 118 W Market St., Hertford, Tuesday. Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Director Diane Cangemi (not shown) looks on. For story, see A3.

TPW changing to Saturday publication

Prizer: Change to take effect with Feb. 11 edition

The Perquimans Weekly

Starting with next week's printed edition, The Perquimans Weekly will be published on Saturdays instead of Thursdays.

That means instead of receiving the newspaper on

Thursday, Feb. 9, subscribers will receive it on Saturday, Feb. 11, and on Saturdays thereafter. Readers of our print edition will still be getting the latest news, plus they'll also be able to find out about more community news and happenings as they occur.

"We are focused on providing local communities with the freshest and most reliable news and information possible," Publisher David Prizer said. "And our parent company, Adams Publishing Group, continues to grow

See CHANGE, A3

Hinton to oversee PCSF's HELP initiative

Retired educator to help students, families find resources

From staff reports

When Joycelyn Hinton retired in June 2021 after 31 years with the Perquimans and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools, she likely thought her career as an educator had come to an end.

But her retirement plans changed after the Perquimans County Schools Foundation received a \$45,000 grant to create a new position to work closely with students and school officials through the PCSF's new HELP initiative. HELP stands for Helping Everyone Live Productively.



HINTON

programs addressing poverty that also involve homelessness and education.

The majority of the grant will be used employing someone "to assist struggling students and families, helping them to connect with resources existing within the community, neighboring counties and churches," the foundation said in a press release.

As school officials re-

viewed the goals of the new position, foundation officials said one name kept coming up again and again to fill it: Hinton's. The retired educator also impressed the Foundation Board of Directors in her application for the job:

"I am seeking a position that affords me the opportunity to assist with the success of children," she wrote. "My desire is to assist students and parents to help determine their needs, contact employers for possible employment opportunities, connect families with community resource agencies and provide general support to struggling families."

After that, the foundation "knew she was the

person for the challenge," Foundation Executive Director Brenda Lassiter said of Hinton. The board voted unanimously to approve hiring the retired educator at its January meeting.

In her new role with the foundation, Hinton's job title will be homeless liaison and she'll be working closely with school administrators, counselors and social workers "to ensure all children receive necessary resources at home and school to be successful," the foundation said.

Foundation President Carson Stallings said the board was excited that Hinton agreed to accept the position.

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