

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

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HGS students perform Black History Month tribute



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Hartman: Christians need to look for ways to sow seeds of love



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Tobias: Jimmy Carter kind of president our nation needs now

## Durants Neck fire stations nearing completion

New Station 1 about 3 times size of station built in 1980

BY TYLER NEWMAN  
Staff Writer

With each new nail hammered, stud installed, barbecue plate sold and donation from the community, Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department's two new stations inch closer to reality.

Fire Chief Robert Eure recently led a tour of the VFD's soon-to-be main station located at the corner of

New Hope and Cove roads.

Standing at around 9,500 square feet, the new main station is substantially larger than the old station built in 1980. That station is around 3,500 square feet.

Eure said the Durants Neck department realized it needed a new station "about 20 years ago," when the VFD had to special order a fire truck to fit its existing building.

"We only have about a foot to walk around the trucks," Eure said of the current station, located at the intersection of New

Hope and Woodville roads.

After taking the reins as Durants Neck fire chief in 2014, Eure said he started looking into a new station almost immediately.

"We really started pushing about six or seven years ago," he explained "So far, we've raised around \$450,000 from the community" to build it.

While Durants Neck receives building fund donations all of the time, the department also hosts some larger annual events that help drive contributions: a sportsman's raffle, yearly

fund drives and a barbecue pork supper.

"Everything currently standing is paid for," Eure said, pointing throughout the interior of the new station.

While still empty, the future main station is expansive and cavernous. The garage doors have already been installed and studs are up, sectioning off the meeting room and kitchen.

The second floor above the main bay will be storage space, while the lean-to



TYLER NEWMAN/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Construction continues on Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department's new Station 1 at the corner of New Hope and Cove roads.

See DURANTS, A3

## CONFERENCE CHAMPS



PHOTOS BY DAVID GOUGH/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Perquimans' Crishya Sellers (center) makes a shot during the Lady Pirates' 61-38 Four Rivers Conference tournament championship win over Gates, Friday, Feb. 17, at Perquimans County High School.

## Lady Pirates run past Gates for FRC title

PCHS last won conference, tourney titles in same year in '98

BY DAVID GOUGH  
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans girls basketball team achieved something Friday night the program had not done in 25 years.

With a 61-38 win over Gates County in a packed gym at Perquimans County High School, the Lady Pirates won regular-season conference and conference tournament titles in the same year for the first time since 1998.

"The girls deserve it," Perquimans head coach Aaron Burke said. "It's been 25

years since it's been done. I think that's a big step for this program."

Perquimans, 21-2 and unbeaten in the Four Rivers Conference, faced a No. 2 Lady Red Barons (13-11) team that had given them a good game in their first matchup. Perquimans won 39-35 at Gates in January before the Lady Pirates won the second matchup at home, 64-28, 10 days later.

Early on in the FRC championship game, it looked like Friday's game was going to mirror the teams' first matchup more than the second.

Gates scored first — in the middle of six turnovers

See HOOPS, A2



The Perquimans girls basketball team poses after defeating the Gates County High School Lady Red Barons 61-38 in the Four Rivers Conference tournament championship game, Friday, Feb. 17, at Perquimans County High School.

See GOLF, A3

## Hodges critical of HT communication on dinner vessel

Hertford official also questions nonprofit board's makeup

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — A Hertford town official expressed frustration last week that the Harbor Towns Inc. dinner boat cruises won't be able to visit downtown Hertford.

Town Councilman Ashley Hodges also was critical of Harbor Towns Inc., the private nonprofit that is developing fast ferry and dinner boat service in support of economic development efforts in the Albe-



HODGES

marle. Harbor Towns officials have acknowledged that the 140-passenger Eagle 1 dinner boat the nonprofit recently purchased can't dock at the Hertford waterfront. The Eagle 1 has a 6-foot draft, which also happens to be the depth of the Perquimans River at the town's waterfront.

Hertford Town Manager

See HODGES, A3

## Winfall OKs town hall repairs despite Yates' pushback

Town Council approves \$31K contract with Chesson for work

BY TYLER NEWMAN  
Staff Writer

WINFALL — Winfall Town Council has agreed to spend more than \$30,000 to renovate its aging town hall despite pushback from the town's mayor.

The council voted 2-1 Feb. 13 to accept A.R. Chesson's approximately \$31,000 bid to perform restorative work at the



YATES

town's municipal center that includes replacing some rotted wood decking. Councilwoman Carol Cooper told council that A.R. Chesson submitted the lone bid for the work. She said she spoke with five other contractors,

See WINFALL, A3

## Wallace new golf pro at Sound Links at Albemarle Plantation

Wallace hopes to start Operation 36 Academy at Sound Links

BY TYLER NEWMAN  
Staff Writer

Anyone needing golf lessons at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation need look no further

than the course's youthful new addition, PGA Teaching Professional Mary Elizabeth Wallace.

Wallace, a Camden County native, developed a passion for golf when she was around 12 years old. She noted that her father was an avid golfer at the time and she took lessons at The Pines of Elizabeth City under the tutelage of the late Jim Gilbert.

Wallace said she had tried her hand at other sports but nothing else interested her.

"I tried soccer and cheer and dance and other 'female sports,' but nothing really stuck," Wallace said. "So we went out to my grandpa's yard to hit golf balls one day and I hit one the first time. My dad said there was 'something there' and asked if I wanted to wear pink and skirts all the time. I said, 'absolutely.'"

That first swing snowballed into a long-term love for Wallace.

"I loved playing so much, I decided to get my first job at The Pines as a part-time intern helping David Mascitti, PGA (head pro) with

summer camps," Wallace said.

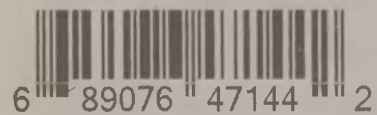
She's now worked in the golf industry for nine years, learning under some of the best junior instructors in the game, including Michelle Holmes, an LPGA teaching professional and top 50 U.S. kids instructor, during high school and PGA tour instructors Butch Liebler and David Orr.

Wallace graduated from Campbell University in December 2020 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and PGA



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PGA Teaching Pro Mary Elizabeth Wallace (left) gives a friend a quick lesson on the driving range at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation.



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