



Volunteer honored, 6

75 cents

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

PCHS graduates honored



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Chief Marshal Samantha Emily Midgett (left) leads Valedictorian Reagan Tylar Workman, Salutatorian McKenzie Faith Twine and honors graduate Megan Diane Trueblood to the stage Friday night.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The full text of the valedictorian and salutatorian speeches appears in this issue. More photographs will be published next week.)

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County High school seniors honored their accomplishments Friday night but they also honored two classmates who died much too soon.

A part of the graduation ceremony paid tribute to Miles Shipman and Mustafa Holley. Both would have been a part of the 2018 graduating class.

Shipman was just 10 and a student at Hertford Grammar School when he died in June 2011.

Holley was a 14-year-old ninth grade student when he died in January 2014 in a moped accident. His mother, Lynette Bond, attended Friday's ceremony and was presented with her son's honorary degree.

Both Shipman and Holley were included in the address Salutatorian McKenzie Twine gave Friday night.

She talked about their freshman year.

"This first year was also the year in which we lost our fellow classmate Mustafa Holley, he was actually preceded in death by Miles Shipman. Both of these classmates should have been sitting here with us today and they are greatly missed."

She congratulated her classmates for their achievements but told them there is so much more.

"Everything that you have done these past four years should fill you with pride as you have now accomplished one of the lengthiest goals

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Graduates march onto the field Friday night for graduation.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Lynette Bond, mother of the late Mustafa Holley, attended Friday's graduation and accepted on an honorary degree on behalf of her son.



of your life, and there is still more to come." She quoted Theodore Roosevelt.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best

knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

Raegan Tylar Workman said as the daughter of a teacher she had a taste for PCHS at a very early age, well before she was a freshman.

"I being a teacher's kid walked these halls since before I knew how to walk so I was already familiar with the whereabouts of classes

and who the teachers were.

"Finally, we made it to senior year. We made it through four years of memories. We made it through both the good times and the bad times. We made it through four years of testing. We made it through the Senioritis. We made it together. We all got here by being our unique selves, but we couldn't

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Budget hearing coming Monday

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County plans to hold the line on property taxes next fiscal year as well as the charges for sanitation services and water sales.

The county has released the budget message and plans a public hearing on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex.

County Manager Frank Heath does the juggling act each year. This year department heads asked for what amounts to \$18.8 million, or \$4 million more than the anticipated revenues. To fund all of it would have required raising the property tax rate from the current 57 cents per \$100 in value to 88 cents. The general fund budget is \$15.6 million.

The county has basically held the effective tax rate the same since 2010. There have been increases but those were during property revaluation years, when the tax rate went up because the property values dropped. The idea was to be "revenue neutral" and generate the same amount of tax revenue as the year before.

While no tax rate hike is being proposed, the fiscal plan requires dipping into the reserve account for \$990,000 to balance the budget.

Heath said he doesn't expect he'll need the full \$990,000. The current budget proposed the need for \$972,103 from the reserve account and Heath estimates he'll just need \$164,584 of that.

"This is due to better than projected revenues and controlling spending vs. budget amounts," Heath said of the 2017-18 figure.

Even if the county did need all of the \$990,000 for next year, it would still leave the fund balance account in the 25 percent range. Heath said that's far more than the 8 percent recommended by the Local Government Commission.

At 57 cents, the Perquimans rate is 15 cents lower than Camden's current rate, 17 cents lower than Chowan, 19 cents lower than Gates and 20 cents lower than Pasquotank.

Camden is proposing raising their rate by three cents next year.

Camden Commission Chairman Clayton Riggs defended the hike as needed. One of the new expenses is for a second School Resource Officer. Camden currently has one that covers five schools. Perquimans currently has three SROs for four schools, but a fourth SRO is in the new budget.

In defending the hike, Riggs told The Daily

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Speaker to talk about restoration

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

A speaker from the N.C. State Historic Preservation Office will be in Hertford today to talk about the tax benefits of restoring older homes.

Reid Thomas will be holding two public meetings in the county commission's meeting room in the courthouse annex. The first will be from 3-5 p.m. A second one starts at 6:30 p.m.

There are both state and federal tax incentives available for preservation. To be eligible for the federal and state credits, buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places are candidates, either individually or as a contributing building in a National Historic District.

Reid said a number of Perquimans County properties can qualify.

Reid said his presentation will include sev-



THOMAS

See SPEAKER, 6

Sheriff poised to get new SRO, narcotics deputy

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The proposed Perquimans County budget includes a fourth School Resource Officer as well as a new position for a narcotics officer.

School officials sought two new SRO positions last

year, but the county commissioners approved just one new position. That means there is a full-time officer dedicated to the high school and the other two positions to cover the three other schools in the district. Sheriff Shelby White said he's excited about having



WHITE

the fourth SRO.

"It's important and in my opinion, it's great," he said last week.

"It's hard to put into words on that one."

At the time White spoke, deputies were planning for a live shooter drill for June 12 at Perquimans County Middle School.

"In the drill, we're actually having a deputy respond as we would have to do right now, from Perquimans Central."

When the department

only had two SRO's one covered the high school and Hertford Grammar School and the other handled the two schools on the other side of the river, Central and the middle school.

Having a dedicated SRO for each school puts Perquimans in a rather unique club. Earlier this month the Outer Banks Voice reported that Dare County was one of only four districts out of 115 in North Carolina with

See SHERIFF, 2

Hertford budget addresses pay raises

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The proposed new budget for the Town of Hertford doesn't require a property tax increase but it will require tapping the reserve fund for \$131,000 to balance it.

The town board will hold a public hearing at town hall Monday at 5:30 p.m. to present the budget.

The budget includes a 5 percent cost of living raise for every town employee and an increase in salaries for those in the police department "mainly to be competitive in wages with other police department of our size and the recruiting process of employing police officers," according to the town's budget mes-

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