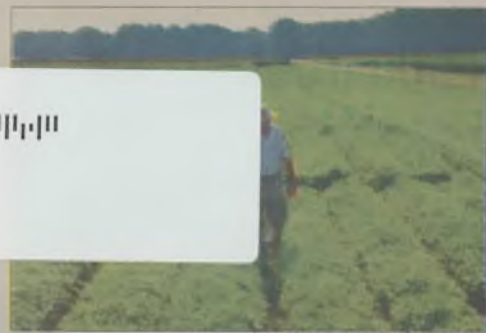


THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY

P9/C9*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008 A0005

PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
514 S CHURCH ST
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



What if farmers took 45 days off? A6

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

\$1.00

NEWS

Habitat's ReStore gets facelift — A5

FARMING

Cotton planting conditions could be better — A6

CHURCH

State senators question church meeting regulations — B1

KID'S CORNER

Agency: Don't touch wild animals — B2

Council OKs Plan Tackling Vacant Properties

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Monday's marathon Hertford Town Council meeting addressed many issues ranging from blight to budget woes.

Main takeaway — council approved hiring Zachaeus Legal Services to go after eight vacant properties that are owned by out-of-towners or by corporations. The initiative is part of council's plan to reduce blight.

Also Councilman Quentin Jackson addressed concerns his appointment to the ABC Board at the tail end of the meeting near

midnight. More on that in a future story.

Pending space demands and access to technology, matters from this multi-hour meeting will appear in two editions, today's two stories and another poised for the next edition.

Long evening started off with Councilman Frank Norman sparring with Mayor Earnell Brown about where and/or how Monday's meeting would take place because of restrictions for public meetings that remain in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Norman was concerned about providing proper public notice for

where the meeting and inquired whether Monday's meeting should move forward.

Brown asserted that there was a plan in place to hold the meeting — the details to be determined by Governor Roy Cooper's Phase 1 Executive Order. She explained in detail how plans for the meeting evolved — plans that relied on guidance for Jackson.

"Bottom line — this is how we got to where we are," she said.

Norman asked the Town Clerk Shoniqua Powell to read the minutes from last Thursday's meeting.

After Powell read the minutes confirming what Brown said,

Norman apologized and meeting inched forward. This would not be the last exchange between Brown and Norman during the tense evening.

Next, council approved plans to shut a portion of Dobbs Street between Hyde Park and Edenton streets between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. July 25 for a family gathering. Pending guidance from the state, folks attending this annual function will be required to practice social distancing and wear masks.

By a 4-1 vote, council approved Historic Hertford Incorporated's request to host the fourth annual Toast the Perquimans on town

property — marina and marina parking lot — on Sept. 19.

"We were very pleased that the Town Council approved the use of the marina area for Toast the Perquimans," said Lynne Raymond of HHI after the council meeting.

Fundraiser provides money to purchase planters, banners, assist with building facades and support Grand Illumination.

As the sole dissenting vote, Jackson noted "past grievances" between Town Hall and HHI.

Next up, Perquimans County Tourism Development Authority's

See COUNCIL, A3

Graduation Ceremony to be on July 31

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Commencement exercises for Perquimans and John A. Holmes high schools will move forward, but in slightly different directions so as maintain precautions to protect everyone during the COVID-19 pandemic while preserving the essence of what it means to turn the tassel on graduation day.

Perquimans Superintendent Tanya Turner said Pirates' commencement will be rescheduled from June to July 31. She said high school staff called seniors and their families and asked them if they wanted to keep the original date in June or move the date to July 31 with the hope of less restrictions and a more traditional ceremony. The seniors' families chose July 31.

"We will most likely have formulated a plan a, b, and maybe c for this date," Turner said. "One plan would be a traditional ceremony and other plans would be revised based on restrictions."

Pirates may also be doing an "early graduation" of a smaller magnitude for military students

See GRADUATION, A2

Memorial Day Observance is Cancelled

BY STAFF REPORTS

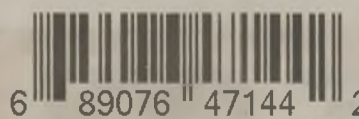
American Legion Post 126 Post Commander Rick Caporale has announced that this year's annual Perquimans County Memorial Day Observance, Monday, May 25, has been cancelled.

He further stated, "first-ever cancellation was made based on the current Federal and State mandates established for gatherings and the safety of both participants and attendees. The observance is usually presented by Post 126 with the assistance of Hertford American Legion Post 326.

However, he related, "the custom of placing flags at veterans' gravesites in our local cemeteries will be conducted."

The Ladies Auxiliary Unit 126 will also be conducting their annu-

See OBSERVANCE, A3



Vol. 86, No. 20
©2020 Perquimans Weekly
All Rights Reserved



Stacey Pierce (left photo), of Perquimans Central School, and Darius White (right photo with PCMS mascot), of Perquimans County Middle School, are Hertford Rotary Club's Educators of the Year for their respective schools.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rotary Club Honors All-Star Educators

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Last Thursday, leaders of the Hertford Rotary Club and about 10 educators met via Zoom when the HRC presented Educator of the Year award to four outstanding teachers.

Teachers who were recognized were Stacey Pierce, Lisa Sawyer, Darius White and Kim Tyson — see their bios printed below.

Perquimans Schools Director of Career Technical Education Jill Cohen hosted the meeting. Karen Throckmorton, Co-President of HRC congratulated the recipients, and Winfield Boyer, President-Elect read the bios praising each teacher. Distinguished Rotarian Frank Jakdic gave a brief history of HRC supporting educational leaders from the community.

An award document and a gift was presented to each teacher and each were recognized for their outstanding leadership and teaching qualities.



Hertford Rotary Club's Educator of the Year for Perquimans County High School is Kim Tyson.



Hertford Rotary Club's Educator of the Year for Hertford Grammar School is Lisa Sawyer.

"We congratulated our educators for striving to be the best they can be for our youth," Throckmorton said. "Their love of education will empower our children and equip them for the future. It's a gift that can never be taken away. I understand that each teacher has given above and beyond their job descriptions and love what they do. In return the children love their teachers."

Superintendent Tanya Turner congratulated the teachers and gave supportive remarks on their outstanding abilities and qualities as educators.

"I am very proud of all of our Rotary Educators of the Year and feel they each represent our district extremely well," she said.

See EDUCATORS, A2

Citizens Question Hertford's Budget

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Citizens' concerns portion of Hertford Town Council meeting did not disappoint those dedicated viewers who watched Monday's meeting via Zoom.

Martha Borders and Sara Winslow asked tough questions about Town Hall's proposed budget for 2020/21 that sought answers about everything from a hike in travel allowances to departmental wish lists.

Council is working through the draft budget proposal of more than \$9.6 million that increases spending by at least \$2.6 million — if there are no modifications — from last year's budget of around \$7 million.

In order to fund the draft budget at the current level — no modifications — Town Hall would need to

raise the funds necessary to generate \$2.6 million more in revenue, according to the budget proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges has emphasized that as the budget process develops, council will have intelligent conversations over tax and utility rate changes and/or fund balance usages to increase revenue.

Rather than reprocess Borders and Winslow's remarks about the budget, potentially leaving out pertinent details, here are their speeches about what they think needs to be addressed with regard to fiscal planning for 2020/21.

Borders submitted these remarks May 11 to Town Hall:
Thank you for letting me speak



BORDERS



WINSLOW

tonight. First I would like to thank Town Manager Pam Hurdle for the new utility bill. When I first brought up my concerns in February regarding the utility bill, both Pam and Councilman Jerry Mimplitsch listened to my ideas. I like how our base charges are now on the bill and I love how we can see the past years usage of our electric and water. Thank you both.

I fully support Councilman Mimplitsch's idea of using Zachaeus Legal Services to go after delinquent real estate tax payers and foreclosing on properties.

See BUDGET, A3

ROUND-UP

Beauchamp and UFOs

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

First, **Robert Beauchamp Jr.**, a senior attending Virginia Tech, will graduate May 15 with a bachelor of science degree in International Studies/Leadership/Chinese affairs.

Not only that, Beauchamp will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army on Saturday, May 16 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Robert will be the 4th generation to serve in the US Army and is 3rd generation Airborne.

Robert has held many leadership positions and won many honors/scholarships as a cadet. He will be recognized at the National Commissioning Ceremony as an outstanding Cadet Leader on June 15. He will be training in Aviation beginning June 22 at Fort Rucker, AL.

Robert's parents, **Reverend Robert Beauchamp** and mom **Sherry**, must be very proud.

And thank you for these kind words that made my day Mrs. Beauchamp, "I am very impressed with and am enjoying the change in the Perquimans Weekly since you have taken over as editor. Thank you for what you do and are doing for our community."

In other news, congrats to next year's leaders of the **Perquimans High School Marching Band**. Per Band Director Evan Copeland, Marching Pirates leadership team for 2020:

- Drum Major — Rebekah Price
- Homline Captain — Keith Elliott
- Colorguard Captain — Alicen Leary
- Percussion Co-Captains — Noah Stalnaker & Armando Feliciano
- Section leaders — Nicholas Harris, Maura Colson & Reagan Elkins
- Loading Supervisor — Kayden Stalnaker

See LAYTON, A2

Help Rotary's Hungry Heroes

Hertford Rotary Club is sponsoring "Hunger Heroes" program for food donations to the school. HRC has a box for collections at the Hertford Hub, 127 N. Church St., Hertford.

Recently, the group gathered over 40 pounds of food and two generous checks made out to the Perquimans School food drive.

Perquimans Schools Director of Career Technical Education Jill Cohen arranges for the food donations to be picked up each week for distribution.