

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Libraries to open slowly, B2

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

\$1.00

**OPINION**

Local officials, residents chime in on current events — A4-6

**EDUCATION**

Perquimans County High School scholarship winners announced— B1

**COMMUNITY**

Count on Me NC offers free training to business owners, employees — B2

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY**

U-Boats and pirates highlight historical events in state — B3

## Proposed Budget Raises Tax, Utility Rates

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Hertford Town Council's proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/21 calls for a 18 percent property tax hike to balance a budget that is smaller than fiscal year 2019/20 fiscal year.

Also, budget proposal calls for a 36 percent water/sewer rate increase.

"This fiscal year budget is the most challenging budget process throughout the nation, particularly for North Carolina's local government," Town Manager Pam Hurdle wrote in the budget proposal released last week. "The uncertainties of the coronavirus, better known as COVID-19, has brought a tremendous hardship to the Town of Hertford. Multiple factors influence the annual bud-

get process including the condition of the national, state and local economies and the needs identified in our community by elected officials, staff, advisory boards and citizens. The proposed budget represents a significant amount of careful consideration and study in order for the town to meet its obligations, fulfill its goals and aim to be fiscally strong."

Budget offers a conservative

approach to spending with most of the line items are drastically lower than last year's budget.

Due to lengthy draw out during Monday's ongoing budget deliberations, the next budget meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday. Budget must be approved by June 30, although council seeks final adoption much sooner.

As a key architect for the proposed budget, Mayor Pro Tem

Ashley Hodges said this lean approach to budget planning is because council is not using \$878,000 in fund balance (effectively Town savings) to balance the budget as was done last year.

Hurdle said in her budget message, "The town's fund balance is much like a savings account, as compared to household budget.

See RATES, A3

## Agency Reports COVID-19 Deaths

BY STAFF REPORTS

Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) has received notification confirming an additional death associated with COVID-19 in a Hertford County resident.

The individual was over the age 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. This death is related to the outbreak at Ahoskie House.

In addition, ARHS was notified of an additional death associated with COVID-19 in a Pasquotank County resident.

The individual was over the age 65 and succumbed to complications from COVID-19. This death is related to the outbreak at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation.

To protect both families privacy, no further information about these patients will be released.

Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) is providing updated data of lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases as of 11 a.m. Tuesday. ARHS cases include:

■ Pasquotank County – 105 lab confirmed cases — 23 active, 70 recovered, and 12 deaths

■ Perquimans County – 24 lab confirmed cases – 6 active, 16 recovered, and 2 deaths

■ Camden County – 3 lab confirmed cases – 1 active and 2 recovered

■ Chowan County – 17 lab confirmed cases — 3 active and 14 recovered

■ Currituck County – 14 lab confirmed cases — 3 active and 11 recovered

■ Bertie County – 122 lab confirmed cases – 11 active, 107 recovered, and 4 deaths

■ Gates County – 23 lab confirmed cases — 10 active, 12 recovered, and 1 death

■ Hertford County – 128 lab confirmed cases — 70 active, 55 recovered, and 3 deaths

## PROTESTS ERUPT ACROSS U.S.



WOODY MARSHALL/NEWS &amp; RECORD VIA AP

Protesters face off with law enforcement in full riot gear at the railroad tracks on South Elm Street after someone started throwing rocks at police cars during the protest in Greensboro, on Saturday, May 30, 2020.

## Curfews Imposed After Protests

BY CHRIS DAY

For the Perquimans Weekly

ELIZABETH CITY — At least 300 residents protesting the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police was a historical moment, said the protest's organizer.

"We made history tonight," said Angela Spain, noting that Monday's protest went down without a fight or violence. "We did something."

In cities across the nation, similar protests — one as close as Greenville — have turned violent, resulting in police using tear gas against protesters and widespread looting and property damage.

Several area law enforcement agencies helped Elizabeth City police monitor the demonstrations.

The sheriff's offices in Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Perquimans, and N.C. Highway Patrol, plus police departments in Edenton and Hertford, sent personnel to assist Elizabeth City police. Also lending assistance were N.C. Probation and Parole, the Elizabeth City Fire Department and Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management.

Sgt. Latoya Flanigan of the

See PROTESTS, A2

## A Letter to the Hertford Community

BY POLICE CHIEF DENNIS BROWN

Dear Hertford Community, We are all saddened by the loss of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement officers. The actions displayed on the widely

surfaced video were cowardly, shocking, and difficult to watch. While the terminations were swift, I had hoped for a more responsive arrest.

We in the police depart-

See LETTER, A3



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Not just a top notch law officer, but Hertford Police Captain Gilbert Rodriguez hands out hot meals to folks as part of Town Council and HPD's efforts to help others during the pandemic.

## ROUND-UP

## Zooming into Porn

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

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

Graphic pornography is not something you see during Hertford Town Council meetings, but these are not ordinary times. Is heated rhetoric and racism on display from council members from time to time, yes, but not pornography.

Monday, when a hacker joined the council meeting, this anarchist called everyone "dicks" while he/she blocked the meeting so that everyone watching/participating could see a series of pornographic clips complimented by a hastily created Nazi swastika and badly drawn male genitalia.

And let's just say the porn clips shown were of the variety that no one would want anyone to find in their internet search history.

And that's not even the worst part. During the meeting, a hacker named "Emily" sent a message to 150 chat lines that said "George Floyd deserved it" written many times in sequence and mass printed the "N" word hundreds of times, insanity perhaps inspired by that "All work and no play ..." scene from the movie, "The Shining."

Maybe it was Antifa working in conjunction with the Swamp and/or the Russians, but do NOT blame the tech failure on Councilman Quentin Jackson who hosts/organizes the meetings using Zoom, a common application that is used for meetings as a precaution to prevent the spread of coronavirus — remember that!?

When Zoom was first being used for meetings by governments and to connect students to teachers during the pandemic, tech types voiced concerns that this format could be hacked and privacy compromised. Today's technology makes it easier than ever to spy — entire industries are based on that invasion of privacy.

Governments gather metadata daily on citizens and foreign

See LAYTON, A3

## Longtime barbershop owner hangs up clippers

Byrum retires, sold Shear Pleasure Hairstyling in March

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

EDENTON — Most mornings before the COVID-19 pandemic,

folks in Edenton could be seen getting their hair cut at Shear Pleasure Hairstyling on South Broad Street.

When the popular haircare shop reopened when Gov. Roy Cooper's stay-at-home order was partially lifted for Phase 2, its longtime owner and barber wasn't there.

Mike Byrum, a Hertford resident, has retired.

"To my loyal customers, thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting me all these years," Byrum said recently in a message to customers.

"I hope to bump into you and shake your hand and give you a good hug in the future."

Byrum said he had been pondering retirement since January. He said he finally made the decision after realizing the time was right to proceed to the next chapter of his life.

"My major reasons for my retiring are my wife had a major heart problem in February (during) which I almost lost her, but the good Lord spared her," he said. "I have been serving the public for 48 years and will turn 69 in a few months. I want

to spend more time with my wife, sons, and see more of my grandchildren with baseball and dance recitals to enjoy."

Byrum sold both his business and building to Scott and Dee Spruce in March.

"They are a wonderful couple and good businesspeople," Byrum said. "They have completely remodeled and updated the shop. It looks great and will have an upscale look."

Shear Pleasure Hairstyling's longtime staff — Angie Black, Shelia Parks and Wendy Jordan, who combined have 82 years of

experience cutting hair — will continue to work at the shop.

"They will roll out the red carpet for you and do their best to please you," Byrum said. "To me, they were like the sisters I never had."

Byrum said his long career as one of Edenton's premier barbers started in 1972, when he got a job at 20th Century Barbershop with his brother, Jimmy, and Raymond Mansfield.

After eight good years working there, Byrum said he want-

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