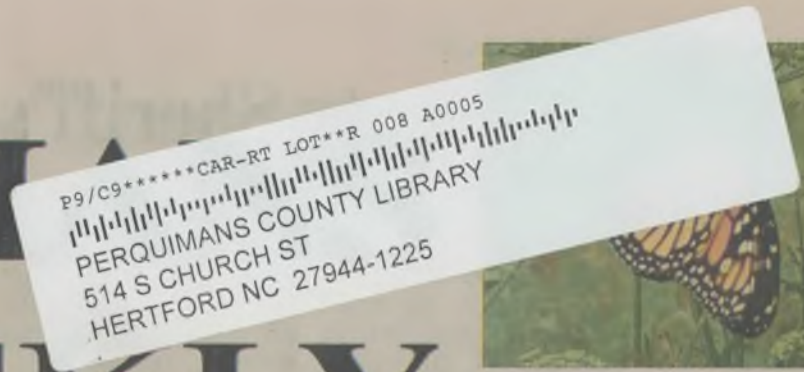


THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY



Resident helps butterflies, B1

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

\$1.00

SPORTS

PCHS softball signs with college — A5

COMMUNITY

Scholarships awarded — B1

HISTORY

'Bull Drham' debuts — B3

REGIONAL

See what pets are at shelter — B4

Hertford Town Council Tackles Budget, Racism

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Hertford Town Council's multi-hour marathon meeting Monday kept viewers entertained as the action and allegations unfolded.

Question arises — where does this country editor begin when writing about this contentious affair that was filled with shouting, allegations of drug use, a KKK image, racism

and a budget proposal for a meeting that started at 5 p.m. and ended more than nine hours later at around 1:40 a.m. Tuesday.

A random sampling of viewers to this meeting included a television news producer, Washington County Commissioner Cole Phelps and a miriade of local folks who support one faction or the other on council.

Town Clerk Shoniqua Powell had to bow out of

the meeting because of a migraine, so maybe after saying a prayer for her health, count her as one of the lucky ones who was able to escape from this tumultuous affair that took many viewers time and time again into the rabbit hole.

Meeting began when Councilman Quentin Jackson initiated a nine minute moment of silence

See **COUNCIL**, A6



SCREENSHOT FROM MEETING

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson spoke frequently of racism and George Floyd during Monday's council meeting. Among the many backgrounds Jackson deployed during the Zoom meeting, there was one that featured a trio of KKK members and another saying "Black Lives Matter."

Proposed Budget Tightens Spending

School Spending Remains Flat

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perquimans County Commission's proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/21 tightens spending and seeks the same property tax rate fiscal as the present fiscal year — the lowest tax rate in the region at .59 cents per \$100 of value.



HEATH

County Manager Frank Heath's recently released financial forecast

indicates some revenue growth, but these positive projections are tempered by the economic effects of the COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the County to enact measures that reflect our decreased projected revenue," Heath wrote in his budget message to the county commission. "If the revenue picture improves or increased federal funding arrives, then we may be able to make adjustments to the budget later in the fiscal year to accomplish some needed projects. The goal, as always, is to keep the state of County financial and administrative affairs sound."

Budget proposal does not provide for county employees nor seek to hire any new full-time positions.

School funding remains flat with the same \$2.9 allocation as last year. The water rates for Perquimans County will remain unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year.

Commissioners will be working with budget so as to have approved by or before June 30.

The General Fund budget is \$16,436,012 for 2020-2021, a decrease of \$61,805 from the current year's amended budget of \$16,497,817.

Total taxable value increased from \$1,329,941,994 to \$1,351,508,515, or 1.6% which Heath's budget message said is the highest percentage growth in ad valorem taxable value in 11 years. An additional \$197,743,755 in value was added due to the Desert Wind project. After fourth year depreciation and the grant agreement with the County, the net gain in value would be

See **BUDGET**, A3



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PHOTOS BY TANYA TURNER

More than a hundred Perquimans High School seniors participated in Friday's ceremony, a precursor to the official July 31 commencement ceremony.

Ceremony Held for Pirates Joining the Military

BY STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans High School Class of 2020 held a baccalaureate service Friday evening at Charles H. Ward Field at the Nixon Athletic Complex.

Pastor Todd Kemp and Bishop Landon Mason offered inspiring remarks to pay tribute to these Pirates. Three of nine students who have enlisted in the military, who will be leaving prior to graduation on July 31, were able to receive their diplomas.

Words printed on the front of this PCHS commencement guide, "For I know I have plans for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Great job PCHS and congratulations PQ Class of 2020!

Pirates' parents and friends wait and watch as the Class of 2020 prepares to take the walk that they'll always remember.



Top photo: (Left to right) Robert Boone III, Robert Deloach and Stefon Reid receive their diplomas during Friday's baccalaureate ceremony. Left: Perquimans High School Principal Wayne Price presents Pirates' basketball star Stefon Reid his diploma.



ORDAZ-RIOS



COPELAND

ROUND-UP

Pirates & Doubloons

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

Perquimans High School's valedictorian is Claribel Ordaz-Rios and the salutatorian is Allison Copeland. More about these proud Pirates will be published as we get closer to commencement exercises scheduled for July 31.

Ordaz-Rios is a top student, president of the school's BETA Club, active in many clubs and very involved in athletics as a varsity soccer player. She will be a first generation college student when she starts classes at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall where she plans to study business administration and perhaps pursue a law degree.

Copeland served as senior class president, Interact Club president, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes student leader, and a varsity volleyball and softball captain. She will be attending NC State University where she plans to study biology.

Elaine Riddick Charter School is still in a holding pattern with school leaders seeking to do what's necessary so that the school can open in August.

School leaders met Monday with the State Board of Education Charter School Advisory Committee to discuss their plans. Committee told school administrators to return in July to provide an update on progress as to meeting enrollment goals, hiring a teaching staff and completing other pressing issues related to the facility's needs that demand attention before any school bells can ring in the fall. School needs to meet at least 75

See **ROUND-UP**, A3

Growlers, Treadmills Needed to Cope with COVID-19's Effects

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Hertford Bay Taphouse and Foundation Fitness held an 80s' Fun Run Friday to benefit these two small businesses that have been deeply affected by the economic shutdown initiated by Raleigh to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Fun Run was great," said Amy Tinsley, owner of Foundation Fitness. "We had a lot of community support come out for the Tap House as well as the gym. The mayor and town manager were very helpful and supportive. Our

thanks goes out to them and the members of the community for the support."

That same day, Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed a bill that would have reopened private bars and clubs, as well as expanded outdoor seating in restaurants and brewpubs.

"We are hanging on over here at the Hertford Bay Taphouse, but I can say for absolute certainty that if the bar was my primary business and I had to support my family off of it we would be out of business," said Stephen Gunther,

See **GROWLERS**, A3



PHOTO BY KATRINA LEARY MANN

During Friday's Fun Run benefit, Hertford Bay Taphouse owner Stephen Gunther pulls the tap to pour a growler of beer — takeout only — to keep his bar in business as Raleigh dithers about when taverns can reopen.