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This week in NC history, B3

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

\$1.00

**NEWS**  
 Confederate statues fall — A2

**NEWS**  
 Sixth dies in Ahoskie facility — A3

**SPORTS**  
 Steamers open 2020 season — B1

**SCHOOLS**  
 School honors longtime teacher — B1

## Council Discusses Park and Grants

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Hertford Town Council's Monday meeting nearly got pushed forward to another date before the fireworks began regarding King Street Park and developing the waterfront.

Councilmen Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman noted the irregularities with regard to proper notice as it relates to providing the Zoom phone number, so they sug-

gested rescheduling the meeting to later in the week.

Not everyone, including the Perquimans Weekly, had access to Monday's call-in information, so unless the public was cued into immediate access by contacting X, Y or Z — the usual suspects who watch council meetings as if they are must see episodes of "Game of Thrones" — then it would've been difficult or impossible to connect

See **COUNCIL**, A2

## Budget Seeks Tax, Utility Rate Hikes

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Hertford Town Council is poised to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2020/21 that calls for a 18 percent property tax hike and a 36 percent water/sewer rate

increase.

Public hearing for the proposed budget was held Monday with council meeting Tuesday after press time to discuss and potentially adopt the budget that must be approved by June 30. Budget offers a conservative

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

Property tax rate will change from \$0.47 to \$0.555 of value per \$100 per value — 18

See **BUDGET**, A3

## County Adopts Budget

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Perquimans County Commission adopted the budget fiscal year 2020/21 that has 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.

During the June 15 meeting, commissioners approved a General Fund budget of \$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% — 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 \$78,425,085, or five percent of the County's total tax value.

County Manager Frank Heath estimated an additional \$462,708 in revenue for FY 20-21 as a result. However, the negative effect of the COVID-19 epidemic cannot be overstated in relation to this year's proposed revenue calculations.

While Heath's financial forecast indicates some revenue growth, these positive projections are tempered by the economic effects of the COVID-19.

Ad valorem tax revenue will be static despite a healthy increase in total taxable value, namely because the collection percentage is expected to decline due to the unsteady economy. Sales tax related revenues are expected to decrease significantly. Inspections, Recreation and Register of 2 Deeds fees are also expected to be down.

Sales tax revenues are the second largest source of the county's general fund revenues. Based on expected declines due to the poor economic conditions, Heath said, sales tax revenues are projected to decrease by a total of \$209,369 compared to last year's budgeted amount, for a total of \$1,525,000.

Also, forecast calls for \$350,000 to be added to Perquimans' sales tax allocation to reflect the additional services taxed by the General Assembly in 2016.

See **COUNTY**, A3

## PEACEFUL PROTEST SEEKS CHANGE



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

When marching through Hertford, Tony Riddick led protesters in chants of "Black Lives Matter."

## Hertford Denounces Racism

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Nearly a hundred people attended the Protest and Historical March Saturday through downtown Hertford.

Speeches were made by Mayor Earnell Brown, Councilmen Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson, along with local businessman Tony Riddick, who led the march that passed places of historical importance to the Black community.

Brown wore a black T-shirt that said in white letters, "I am my ancestors' wildest dreams" as she held up a bullhorn to speak at the Perquimans County Courthouse about honoring Juneteenth while "paving a way toward a future of unity, kindness and respect for each other."

The large crowd included Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges, Jerry Mimitsch and members of the community from all sides of town.

See **HERTFORD**, A6



Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown offered a positive message of unity while advocating for change at Saturday's peaceful protest that paid tribute to Juneteenth. "Everyone working together in a successful unified way to create intelligent change that includes everybody and to be sensitive to everybody's needs, their fears and desires. Please stay encouraged."

## Councilman Jackson Challenges Status Quo

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A powerful advocate for the Black community, Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson offered his remarks at the end of the Protest and Historical March on Saturday at King Street Park.

"Reflecting on Juneteenth, Jackson spoke about what's going on in Hertford and across the nation. "We see Rayshard Brooks, we see George Floyd —

See **JACKSON**, A6



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson asked the crowd gathered to get active in the community, seek change to build a better Hertford.



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Hertford Town Councilman Frank Norman kneels during a 8:46 minute moment of silence to reflect and remember the tragic killing of George Floyd.

## Councilman Norman: 'Silence Is Compliance'

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A key organizer of Saturday's march, Hertford Town Councilman Frank Norman led the group gathered at King Street Park in an 8:46 minute moment of silence in memory of George Floyd.

The minutes became heavier as time and tragedy marched on.

Norman, an avid swimmer, particularly in high school, said he was trained to hold

See **NORMAN**, A3

## ROUND-UP Of Lunch Counters & Tarheels

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

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

Pirates' alumnus Colton Meads was recently elected as vice president of the state's Future Farmers of America. He's the first since 1954 to earn this from Perquimans County. It's a big deal for the Pirates' FFA Chapter that puts Perquimans on the map.

If our readers remember, Meads, who is now a freshman at NCSU, was awarded champion senior showman as well as champion senior showman for the Carolina Swine Showmanship Circuit during the 152nd NC State Fair in October.

In other news, Wallace Nelson celebrated another go around the sun on June 20 — he's chairman of the Perquimans County Commission.

Speaking of county commissioner, get a scoop or two of ice cream at Charles Woodard's Pharmacy on North Church Street. During a recent outing with my youngest son Joseph, we stopped for a couple cones of the good stuff as a reward after acquiring some necessary public records from the county's Clerk of Courts office where my boy learned about all sorts of important papers that are filed there.

Joseph had a butternut cone and I had a lemon cone.

There is a tribute wall to UNC Chapel Hill that has a saying that Joseph read aloud which may resonate with fans, "God must be a Tar Heel because he made the sky Carolina Blue." United Methodist pastors

See **LAYTON**, A3



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Public records requests and ice cream go hand-in-hand for this little boy spending quality time with the editor and enjoying a cone of butternut at Woodard's Pharmacy.