

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JUNE 13, 2012 - JUNE 19, 2012

50 cents



Pirate athletes earn awards for outstanding performance, 9

Hertford budget set to be adopted June 25

No tax or rate hikes included

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

No citizens spoke during a public hearing Monday on the proposed 2012-2013

Hertford budget that does not include any tax or rate increases. One citizen, however, did send a letter asking council to set aside money in the town budget to be used for town development.

Members of Hertford Town Council plan to meet

again June 25 to adopt the proposed \$6.2 million budget which goes into effect July 1.

The proposed figures also includes a three percent increase in pay for town employees and restores full funding for employee healthcare costs. Town

employees have not had a raise in four years, noted Town Manager Brandon Shoaf.

Three public works positions remain frozen in next year's proposed budget, "so that department will struggle to maintain its level of service with re-

duced staff," Shoaf added.

The town's general revenue fund is expected to grow by one percent this fiscal year, thanks to a projected six percent increase in state collected revenues and just over one percent more in property taxes collected.

The police department's budget is expected to increase by nearly two percent since the town has to pick up the costs of a full time position that has been funded through a grant that ends June 30.

See BUDGET, 10

Graduates: Follow your bliss; achieve all you can

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Follow your bliss. That's just a tidbit of second-hand advice offered by Perquimans County High School Valedictorian Sarah Stevenson to her fellow graduating seniors Friday night.

When younger, members of the Class of 2012 once dreamed of becoming princesses, superheroes, NASCAR drivers — even Walmart employees, she said. But, the seniors at PCHS grew up over the past 12 years and now have new aspirations in life.

"We now inspire to become teachers, nurses, pharmacists, military personnel, farmers, police officers, broadcasters, tattoo artists, cosmetologists, sports trainers, and many other careers. Others of us are still undecided and I'm sure that some of us who have already chosen a career path will change our minds many times before we finally settle with a career that we truly enjoy. When we started our senior year, our new English teacher, Mr. Fipps, gave us some advice that I believe will help us when we aren't sure where to go. He told us to 'follow your bliss' which we all now know means to follow what makes you happy and what you enjoy doing. That way you won't have to worry about waking up every day and going to a job you don't like. Instead, you will be doing something you love."

Stevenson asked her fellow classmates to work hard as they pursue their

See GRADUATION, 10



PHOTO COURTESY JON PARKER

With mortarboards flying in the air, seniors at Perquimans County High School celebrate graduation Friday.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A graduate receives her diploma from veteran Perquimans Board of Education member Walter Leigh (right) during Friday night's graduation ceremony.

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

"That's my brother!" shouts an excited family members during the Perquimans County High School graduation ceremony Friday night.

County man charged in '08 Ga. rape

Held on \$1 million bond

From staff reports

A 21-year-old Perquimans County man was arrested Monday morning for felony rape of a juvenile girl that allegedly occurred almost four years ago in Georgia.

According to the fugitive arrest warrant, Banchola Leeshawn Parker, 21, of the 400-block Chapanoke Road in Perquimans County, faces three felony charges in Georgia including rape, aggravated child molestation and cruelty to children. He is currently being held under a \$1 million bond in Albemarle District Jail awaiting extradition back to Georgia, police said. Parker is scheduled for his first court appearance in Perquimans District Court on June 13.

"His mother brought him in to the sheriff's department this morning after she heard we've been looking for him all weekend."

Eric Tilley
Perquimans sheriff

According to Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman, the alleged incident reportedly occurred while both the victim and Parker (both from Hertford) were attending a wedding in Jonesboro, Ga., on August 8, 2008. The victim was age 13 and Parker was 17 at the time.

Freeman said the alleged victim reported the incident to Hertford Police three days later. The girl was referred by Hertford police to a local hospital where an examination occurred. Information and evidence collected was sent to the Clayton

See CHARGED, 2

Town logo good base for branding

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford already has a good start on creating a unique brand for the town and its organizations.

That's according to a South Carolina firm which studied the town and surrounding area for three days last week in an effort to determine what brand will sell Hertford to others and bring more people to

the area.

Ben Muldrow with Arnett Muldrow & Associates said the town's current logo is a pretty solid foundation on which to build or from which to extract portions that can be crafted into new logos or symbols that carry the same theme.

"You have done a good job," Muldrow told area residents during a meeting last Thursday at the Hertford Fire Department. "Your town logo is pretty well implemented for a town your size."

Herecommended muting the colors slightly, changing the pictures above and below the word Hertford for use with other organizations or agencies, and he offered a number of logos,

New tax administrator hired

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County's new tax administrator has 10 years experience as a tax appraiser in a neighboring county.

William F. Jennings, Jr., better known as "Bill" around the courthouse square, began his new duties last month. He grew up in Perquimans County, graduated from Perquimans County High School and the College of the Albemarle.

He comes to Perquimans local government after serving almost 10 years as a tax appraiser for neighboring Pasquotank County. Even though he's appraised and assessed properties and defended appeals, he says he has a lot to learn leading the local tax office.

"I am very glad to be



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

William F. (Bill) Jennings, Jr. is the new tax administrator for Perquimans County.

here," he said. "It will be a challenge. I have a lot to learn, but I have a great staff to learn from."

Tax collections in Per-

quimans are right where they need to be for the size of the county, he said.

"The end of May, tax collections here were just

a tad higher than they were this time last year," he added.

See JENNINGS, 2



See BRANDING, 2