

GRADS

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money to provide a scholarship in Byrum's name to a future PCHS grad in perpetuity through the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

For his part, Robertson is going on to N.C. State University. The same is true with this year's Salutatorian, Brooke Suermann.

She talked about when they were Kindergarten children being asked what they want to be.

"Some of you may have wanted to be astronauts, or presidents, or princesses. I remember wanting to be a teacher when I was younger. But no matter what your answer to that question is today, I want you to know that it's possible. Even those child-



LOPER



DERR



SPAUGH

hood dreams are possible: the astronauts, the presidents — those can still happen. You can make that happen. The whole princess thing may be a little iffy though.

She urged her classmates not to worry about what others might say, but instead reach for their dreams.

"Sometimes it happens that we feel that we aren't smart enough or from an affluent enough family or town to reach our dreams. I'm here to tell you that it's not

true. If you remain dedicated, and ambitious, and confident, you can reach your dreams. Don't let anyone stand in your way" Suermann said.

"I want you to know as you leave this place that you can do absolutely anything that you set your mind to. Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'

Before the ceremony, other graduates talked about their high school experience and their future.

Katherine Spaug is headed to Southern Wesleyan University in South Carolina. She plans to study business administration with a concentration in accounting.

"I will remember the friends that I have made in PQ the most," she said.

Byren Derr is heading even further south. He plans to attend Conrad Academy in Florida. He will be playing basketball there.

"I will remember the fun times of school at PCHS and laughing with my friends," he said.

Rustie Loper, this year's senior class president, said the four years passed so quickly. In addition to her high school work, she carried a full-time load as a college student at College of The Albemarle.

"A lot has changed," Loper said. "I have watched everyone in my class grow in some form or fashion. Each year I learned something new, not just in classes but from everyone around me. Everyone says I matured quickly. This happened because I learned it's better to grow up and face the world rather than to push it off and be blindsided by reality. Learning to manage time was not an easy task, as I learned from being a full time college student in the COA Culinary Arts Program and a high school student at the same time."

TAX

Continued from 1

county taxes while the owner of the same house next door in Pasquotank would pay \$1,155.

Based on last year's rates, Perquimans was 19 percent lower than Pasquotank, 11 cents lower than Gates, 17 cents lower than Chowan, 11 cents lower than Camden.

The gap widened because Pasquotank, Camden and Gates all increased their tax rates for next year. Pasquotank raised theirs by a penny, Camden by three cents and Gates by eight cents. Both Pasquotank and Camden officials said they were doing it to give more money to the local schools.

The Gates rate increase was in response to a revaluation of property tax values. When property values decrease, counties and municipalities have to increase the tax rate to generate the same amount of money. That's what Perquimans had to do last year when it raised the rate from 44 cents to 57 cents.

Bill Jennings, the county's tax administrator, said a "typical" home in Perquimans County runs between \$159,000 and \$164,000. He based that on two actual examples of two homes. Each are about 10 years old, and each have three bedrooms, two baths with a finished room over the garage.

At least one county commissioner, Joseph Hoffer, said he would call for more spending when the board meets Monday.

"I just think the schools need more money," Hoffer said.

Perquimans County Commission Chairman Kyle Jones said comparing tax rates between counties doesn't give an accurate picture.

"I think comparing county budgets and tax rates is like comparing the household budgets of different families," Jones said. "Each family's situation is unique to them, with its own needs and challenges. What Camden or Pasquotank's board does isn't reflective of the needs of Perquimans any more than one family's spending habits and earnings are reflective of mine or yours."

"I am proud that we tax our citizens less than the surrounding counties do. Our tax rate didn't get this way overnight," Jones said. "Since before I came on, and I mean 20 years plus, the Board has made a point of being restrained when it comes to new spending, which is reflected in the low tax rate, and I think we continue with that mindset today. At our final budget meeting, our entire board was content with the budget and tax rate as presented, and I think you'll see us maintain our tax rate through this budget cycle. I think we continue to be the most attractive county to live in around here, and our low tax rate is a big reason why."

In his budget message to the county board, County Manager Frank Heath said the schools asked for \$3.2 million in operating funds this year, \$500,000 more than last year. He proposes giving the schools the same as last year.

He does propose giving the schools \$397,500 for capital expenses. That's a 9 percent increase.

EMS

Continued from 1

in January, and the cost of labor for half a year will be about \$125,000.

The cost to continue the effort from year to year will be about \$250,000.

But the need is there, Heath said.

All but four North Carolina counties have upgraded to paramedic status. The last four were Greene, Martin, Hertford and Perquimans, according to Nixon.

Heath points to demographic studies that show the county's population tends to be older and projections are that will only increase in the future.

"We've had good relations with Pasquotank EMS as far as mutual aid is concerned but it was time for us to make that jump," Heath said. "In Perquimans County there

is a need for this."

All EMS agencies in eastern North Carolina have at least two EMS units that are staffed by people with Advanced Life Support credentials, according to Nixon.

Perquimans officials want to have the more staff trained as paramedics. It requires 1,521 hours of training to reach that level.

An Advanced Emergency Medical Technician requires a total of 425 hours of training. There are also levels of training for an Emergency Medical Responder (69 hours) and an Emergency Medical Technician (169 hours).

"We will continue to employ Advanced EMTs and EMTs because every call does not require a paramedic," Nixon said.

Nixon said paramedics can provide care that is on par with that of the emergency room. During a medical emergency

paramedics can provide advanced life support care including: advanced airway management, endotracheal intubation (breathing tube), manual defibrillation, external transcutaneous pacing, EKG monitoring, 12-lead EKG acquisition, IV fluid therapy, intraosseus infusions, hemodynamic monitoring, needle chest decompressions, surgical airways and the administration of an array of critical care medications and mechanical ventilation.

The higher skill levels can demand higher pay. The entry-level salary for a paramedic is \$17.37. The entry-level salary of an Advanced EMT is \$15.91 an hour. The pay rate for an EMT is \$13.94 an hour.

Most of the staff of 55 people at Perquimans EMS are part-time. Only nine are full-time.

Nixon said not everybody

on the EMS roster needs to be a paramedic. The minimum ambulance staffing now requires one Emergency Medical Responder who will drive the ambulance and one EMT for patient care.

"I'm excited about the move and the services we'll be able to offer our citizens and visitors," Nixon said.

Nixon said two on the full-time staff now are paramedics as are 20 of the part-timers. Nixon said his staff has two employees who recently completed certification as a paramedic.

"In the future, as we advance, I believe all future fulltime slots will be for paramedics," Nixon said.

The county staffs two paid EMS crews around the clock. There are also volunteers.

When the EMS started 50 years ago this year, it was staffed totally by volunteers. Today it's more paid staff and fewer volunteers.

SOLAR

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North Carolina Cooperative Extension is offering this meeting as an educational community outreach.

The goal of this session is to offer non-biased research-based information to share the pros and cons of this new technology, according to extension officials.

The speaker will be Tommy Cleveland, a licensed professional engineer (PE) in North Carolina who has taught solar energy courses at NC State. Cleveland is an N.C. State University graduate, with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering.

Cleveland will explain the technology, construction, regulations, and economics of the utility-scale

solar photo-voltaic (PV) systems that are becoming commonplace across North Carolina. In addition to providing an understanding of the development and operation of these solar electricity generating facilities, he will explore what is known about the various impacts of these systems on the community and the environment.

Specifically, Cleveland

will address common questions about PV panel toxicity, EMF/radiation, economic impacts and system decommissioning. Additionally, Cleveland will discuss the characteristics that make a site most suitable for solar and provide an overview of solar land leases.

Individuals interested in attending the meeting asked to register by June 23 by calling 426-5428.

NURSING

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Meridian, which was founded in 2010, has since split into two separate entities, Meridian Senior Living and Affinity Living Group. It is unclear which group is seeking the conditional use permit.

The property is located across the street from the

Coastal Carolina Family Practice, the new Perquimans County Library, Albemarle Village, the Albemarle Commission and the Perquimans County Health Department.

Based on the timetable Meridian submitted with its certificate of need application last year, the Hertford facility could be in operation by October 2018.

Meridian already oper-

ates several facilities in the region, including a new 70-bed facility in Gates County, the Currituck House in Moyock and Edenton House in Chowan County.

Last year Chuck White, development manager for Meridian Senior Living, said the Hertford facility would be similar to Tyrrell House, a new 50-bed facility in Columbia. White said the need for a Perquimans

adult care home was cited in an annual state facilities report issued in December 2015.

Last year White said Meridian would need about 17 acres for its Hertford project.

White could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Last year White said the Hertford facility would employ about 50 workers.

NOTICE

The annual budget has been submitted to the Town of Hertford ABC Board and will be available for inspection and a public hearing will take place on June 19, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Town of Hertford ABC Store 803 S. Church St. Hertford, NC 27944

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HHI to 'Toast the Perquimans'

The ticketed event will allow guest's unlimited tastings of a wide variety of craft beers and wines.

From Staff reports

There's a new event in town — "Toast the Perquimans", a craft beer and wine tasting to be held Sept. 23 on the Perquimans River at the Hertford Bay Marina and is being organized by Historic Hertford, Inc.

The ticketed event will allow guest's unlimited tastings of a wide variety of craft beers and wines

while listening to the music of "Kudzu Junction" lead by Perquimans County native, Adam Nixon. "Kudzu Junction" was a hit when they recently performed at Carolina Moon Theater and will again be playing rockabilly and vintage country. Food trucks will provide a selection of food for purchase.

The Toast is a replacement for the long running

"Indian Summer Festival". HHI Chair Lynne Raymond explained, "The Indian Summer Festival just wasn't working any more. It was a lot of work and very few people came, so we decided to try something different."

Since this is an adult focused event, HHI will be looking at a kid centered event soon, and they will still have the car show the weekend after Labor Day, Sept. 9.

For those wanting to sample the beers and

wines, tickets will be \$25 until September 15, and then will rise to \$30. General admission is \$10 for those wishing to just enjoy the music and food trucks. Free water and soda will be provided.

A limited number of tables of 10 will be available for \$300. Attendance will be limited to 400 guests this year.

Tickets will go on sale June 19 at Carolina Trophy in Hertford and a week later at the website Toast-thePerquimans.com.



Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED FY 2017-2018 BUDGET

The proposed FY 2017-2018 Budget for Perquimans County was submitted to the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners on June 5, 2017 and is available for public inspection at the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners' Office in the Courthouse, Hertford, North Carolina and at the Perquimans County Library during regular business hours. A summary of the proposed budget is available on the County's website at www.perquimanscountync.gov. A Public Hearing on the proposed Budget for FY 2017-2018 will be held on June 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room located in the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex.

All citizens attending the hearing shall have the right to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire Budget for FY 2017-2018.

Read more Perquimans news and feature stories online at DailyAdvance.com ... At the home page, mouse over the News link and select Perquimans



The Town of Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing on June 19, 2017, 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Municipal Building located at 114 W. Grubb Street. The following items are on the agenda:

- Consider approval of a Conditional Use Permit to construct a building larger than 6,000 square feet in the 500 block of South Church Street at PIN 7849-84-6938.

Any information regarding this may be obtained from Town Manager Brandon Shoaf, at the Municipal Building, or by calling 426-1969 x. 9. You may also submit comments regarding this by mail no later than 5:00 PM Friday, June 16th.

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080) Vol. 85 No. 24

Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC

Established 1934

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Email: perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com

Subscription Rates

In Daily Advance home delivery area..... \$25.25*
All other continental U.S..... \$31.50*
*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions. Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944