

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY

\$1.00

Council talks policy, addresses concerns

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Hertford Town Council tackled many issues Monday that ranged from the travel policy to Riverbash, along with rules and procedures governing meetings.

At the outset of a meeting that lasted more than 3 hours and 20 minutes, Mayor Earnell Brown presented each council member with a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, a guide for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group. Books were donated by a citizen familiar with council's proceedings.

Brown then gave Jackson a sympathy card expressing condolences arising from matters in his life; losing

three members of his family recently.

Due to the extreme length of the meeting, particularly as it relates to a tight Tuesday morning press deadline, a follow-up story including other meeting items will appear in the next edition of the Perquimans Weekly.

Minutes

Meeting began with Councilman Frank Norman saying that it would be a dereliction of duty for council to approve the minutes for meetings dating back to August.

"We can not approve these minutes and do it justice," he said.

Brown said after receiving the minutes Monday, she read the documents.

"I'm in agreement. I've

read them line by line, made notes and have comments," she said. "I don't know if anyone else read the minutes, but I think we should read them before we approve them, especially if it is a group of minutes."

Brown said she has questions with regard to minutes pertaining to council's closed session meetings.

Council approved a motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges and seconded by Norman to table the minutes until February's work session.

Brown asked that moving forward, minutes be made available to councilors 24-48 hours in advance of council meetings.

Norman suggested minutes be made available

3-working days in advance.

Jackson noted how Monday's agenda and minutes were made available less than four hours before the meeting started, so he too would like more time study the materials before the meetings start.

Norman circled back to discussion of the minutes - saying that because there is sometimes two and three weeks between council meetings, minutes from the last meeting could be made more readily available in a timely manner, three days before the next meeting.

Brown said after reviewing regulations regarding the creation of the minutes, the meeting's decisions and

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Perquimans NAACP celebrates MLK Jr. Day

Perquimans County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, Jan. 20 at Porters Chapel AME Zion Church.

Jubilee starts at 7 a.m. with an MLK Breakfast at Captain Bob's - invitation only for breakfast.

Later at 10 a.m., the motorcade will line up at Perquimans County High School and travel to the church.

Perquimans County Commissioner and the church's pastor/presiding elder Fondella Leigh will be the guest speaker.



Broadband access essential to growth

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Aaron Saunders recently spoke to the Perquimans County Commission about the importance of expanding broadband coverage throughout the county.

"Over the years, we have seen the rural areas of our county, and many others in the region, overlooked by television, cellular and fixed internet providers," said Saunders, a key organizer of a group seeking to promote broadband access. "Unless you live on Highway 17, on the way to or from school, or in a highly concentrated center of population, we have had to learn to live with the balance of living where we love to live knowing we don't have the same amenities as others in more populated areas."

Saunders shared a statistic about how 35 percent of the county's students don't have adequate access to broadband connections. He said limited access to the internet affects everyone by hindering economic growth and property values.

"Residential property values are being suppressed by either people being unable to sell their properties or refusing to relocate to this county due to inadequate coverage to many areas of the county that by any other definition would be considered 'prime real estate,'" he said. "Industrially, companies choose to overlook us due to the same type of concerns because if we can't support at least a somewhat technically connected workforce, many of these companies choose to locate elsewhere. And of course, if you don't have the industrial and residential base, the commercial sector suffers growth stagnation as well."

Saunders said in December, more than 100 people attended a meeting with local internet providers to air concerns and listen to solutions. From that meeting, Connect Perquimans Initiative was created to improve broadband access countywide.

Saunders asked the county commission for its support so as to take advantage

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Working closely with law enforcement agents and others involved in the 2009 search for a missing college student, Karen Throckmorton of Hertford discovered that she wanted to learn more about training human remains detection dogs. (From left to right): Carol Gilbert with Moki, Dr. Dan Harrington, Gil Harrington, Karen Throckmorton with Savanna.

'Working partner of the best kind'

Local woman trains 'cadaver' dogs

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Everyone has a story to tell, that's what makes Perquimans County so interesting.

Karen Throckmorton is not just an accomplished and well-traveled nurse, she trains specialized dogs that have a keen sense of smell.

Utilized by law enforcement agents from across the country, hu-



With more than 220 million scent receptors in a dog's nose, they can identify scents that are so dilute that even the most sensitive tools can't detect these smells. Like super heroes, these powerful crime fighting agents have keen eyesight and ears able to pick up sounds from a greater distance than humans.

Promising Pirate serves as governor's page

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Perquimans High School senior Alli Copeland said she learned a lot about state government when serving as a Governor's Page.

"It was an awesome experience. I learned so much about the different branches of government, especially the executive branch. I also learned about different things going on in the state of North Carolina and the impact of volunteering," said Cope-

land, who served Governor Roy Cooper's office in November. "I served as a page the week before Thanksgiving, so the highlight of our time was visiting the Governor's mansion and attending Governor Cooper's second annual Turkey Pardoning."

Copeland said while she was there, she visited the Department of Agriculture, the General Assembly, Supreme Court, the Department of Environmental Quality, and several other departments.

Page program is geared

to educate and promote volunteerism. As a collaborative service project, pages made blankets for a program called SAFEchild NC.

Copeland said pages were given time to research service projects to bring back to their communities. Her service project will be working with the volunteer coordinator from Sentara Albemarle Medical Center so as to create a junior volunteer drive.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pirates' senior Alli Copeland said she learned a lot about state government when serving as Governor's page in Roy Cooper's office.

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Riverbash planned for April

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Mark your calendars to attend Riverbash in April.

Monday, Hertford Town Council authorized the use of town property by the Perquimans Tourism Development Authority for the festival that runs between April 24 and April 26. Events will mostly take place in the Hertford Town Dock/Marina/Lawn area.

"This will be the 3rd year for Riverbash - a community festival focused on Perquimans County's river heritage and culture," said Sharon Smith, county's tourism development director. "The idea to showcase Perquimans County in the best way possible and invite visitors to see what the county has to offer. We want this to be a fun thing and the premier event in the county."

Below is a preliminary listing of events planned for Riverbash:

Friday April 24

■ Bear Swamp Beech Spring Ruritans Fish Fry 3-6 pm municipal parking lot

■ Methodist Women Bake Sale 3-6 p.m. municipal parking lot

Saturday April 25

■ Paddle the Perquimans Kayak tour of Front Street area 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

■ Live music 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. town dock stage

■ Kids activities on the marina lawn 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Water taxi free rides in Hertford Bay 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Food trucks/beer garden 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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