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 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
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 HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



**Business**  
 owner shares  
 recipe for cold-  
 fried frites, B5

Reminder: Next week's edition will come out on Thursday, April 2.

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

\$1.00

## Mayor Brown: 'We Are In This Battle'

Nearly 600 meals served

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Some good news to brighten the day...

Saturday afternoon by First Baptist Church on King Street, Hertford Town Council was providing lunches prepared by McDonalds and Captain Bob's to ensure not only that people had a hot meal, but to support our local businesses.

Helping one another out – that's what Hertford and Perquimans County are all

about because these are the kinds of stories people want to read; that folks are working together to provide a ray of hope in these trying times.

"The Coronavirus is affecting us all in one way or another," Mayor Earnell Brown said. "It is giving us time to be alert, safe, reflect, be kind to ourselves and others. It is bringing the township together, causing us to break down barriers with acts of kindness and open communications. Grateful we have no infected citizens in Hertford, the Town Council wants to pro-

actively reach out and let our citizens know that we care about their continued well-being. We are actively identifying ways to help our neighbors and loved ones."

Check out the video posted to the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page – that's Mayor Brown handing out meals. Later, that's Councilman Frank Norman helping to direct meal flow. Working together, these dedicated public servants delivered 395 meals and 200 Happy Meals in 48 minutes.

"The meals distribution

See **BATTLE**, A3



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown and Councilman Jerry Mirmiltsch gave out hot meals on Saturday by First Baptist Church. More than 600 meals prepared by Captain Bob's and McDonalds were served by Hertford Town Council among other dedicated public servants.

## PQ County Declares State of Emergency

BY STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County and Town leaders have declared a state of emergency.

Friday, the Perquimans County Control Group met to determine the best way for our county to proceed for the protection of our residents. At the recommendation of Battle Betts, Director of Albemarle Regional Health Services, county and town leaders have declared a State of Emergency for Perquimans County, the Town of Hertford and the Town of Winfall.

Below is a list of services/events that have been impacted:

- Regional Library closed through March 29
- Senior Center closed through March 31

1. Meal on Wheels delivery will continue throughout the county.

2. Congregate Meals are available for curbside pick-up at the Senior Center.

• Recreation Center activities are postponed through March 31

• Perquimans County Judicial System — Please contact the Clerk of Court's Office at 252-404-5000 to verify if your date has been postponed. Their office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5p.m.

• Extension Office has cancelled programs through March 31

• County/ Town offices are requesting that business be conducted electronically or by phone when possible.

• Schools closed per Governor's Executive Order until March 30

1. Electronic and Paper Learning Packets are being prepared for students.

• Electronic is available on the school website.  
 • Paper packets can be picked up at your child's school on Wednesdays.

• If there is no transportation available, please contact your child's school for further information.

2. Meal Program for children under 18.

• Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School are a pick up site for breakfast

from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

See **EMERGENCY**, A2

## PERQUIMANS SCHOOLS PERFORM MIRACLE



PHOTOS BY TANYA TURNER

Hallmark should make a movie about a school system coming together during a stressful time to help prepare meals to feed hungry students from Belvidere to Bethel. (L-r/front row) Tammy Nixon, Paulesia Keyes, Dena Clifton. Back row: Ronda Forbes, Tina Bundy, Jamie West, and Kim Cullipher.

## Unsung Heroes Serve Hundreds of Meals Each Day

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Miracles and the Gospel story of the fishes and loaves come to mind when considering the Perquimans Schools' triumph of feeding children throughout the county.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper announced Monday afternoon that all public schools in the state will remain closed until May 15. Cooper ordered the state's schools to close for two weeks beginning March 16 but extended that order during a press conference in Raleigh on Monday.

"This is what we need to do to help slow the spread of this virus, but I am committed to ensuring our students get the best education they can this year," Cooper said. "We arrived at May 15 by looking at the CDC and

public health guidance, but as you know this is a rapidly evolving health crisis and if the guidance changes, we will adjust the order."

Statewide, all 115 public school districts – many working with community partners such as food banks and faith-based entities – have approved plans to serve meals to children in North Carolina. As of March 22, more than 1,165 schools had already served 1.2 million meals and 6,500 snacks.

When the school systems were closed as a precaution to prevent the spread of Covid-19, local school administrators scrambled to find a way to feed hundreds of students from Belvidere to Bethel. Many children are at risk for being hungry without a cafeteria to provide breakfast and lunch in this

See **MEALS**, A3



Sweet little Keonni Hunter has a book, a hot meal and smile on her face.

## ROUND-UP

### Sermons, Banks & Taxes

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

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

First, since our high school sports coverage is going to be ... harder ... in the days ahead, we thought we'd try something new on B1 – see the front page of the second section of the Perquimans Weekly.

Since we are enduring tough times, folks' thoughts turn to God for answers, so I sought out pastors for their wisdom and guidance.

Also, because many of our readers, who attend church on Sunday, but do not use Facebook or social media, they are unlikely to see the streamed worship services that have become more common in recent weeks.

And quite honestly, Facebook's algorithm, which decides what posts are spread near and far, is not necessarily the best means of spreading God's message or helping businesses advertise, but that's a discussion for another day.

So that folks can embrace the Word, we've asked for Sunday sermons to be printed in the newspaper – as best as we can with the space we have available.

If your pastor and congregation want your

See **LAYTON**, A2

## Governor Cooper: School Closed Until May 15

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Back in the day when Heavy Metal singer Alice Cooper sang "School's Out" it was a reason to celebrate.

When Governor Roy Cooper, no relation we hope, announced Monday that school doors will be closed to students until May 15, the mood was less than celebratory in Perquimans County.

"I would say school closures are definitely devastating to most students," said Celia Manning, a student at Perquimans Middle School. "It's sad that we are missing formal and possibly 8th-grade

graduation. It's also hard on students who play sports and participate in other after school activities. Plus, our spring musical was cancelled and we were really looking forward to performing. Of course, not being able to see friends face-to-face is hard as well. While we can video chat and text each other, it's boring not seeing friends in person."

Superintendent Tanya Turner said based on the governor's plans last week to close the schools, she is not surprised that the date was extended past the two-week window of March 30. She said Perquimans schools

are prepared for the days and weeks to come.

"I am optimistic in the Perquimans County Schools staff and their commitment to our students and community," she said. "I believe that they will do everything in their power to continue teaching and learning to the best of their abilities. This is a huge shift in our current vision of education and there will be an adjustment period for teachers, students, and families. However, I am confident that we can overcome the challenge and work together to make the best out of this situation."

Turner said unless the gov-

ernor's orders dictate otherwise, the school system will continue to feed its students.

"This is an essential service to our community and rewarding to our staff," she said. "Our school nutrition and transportation departments have been superheroes in this effort. I am thankful that we are able to provide this service."

Teaching classes can be a challenge on any given day, but imagine teaching music – band – via video conference; now that's something. Still, Pirates' top notch Band Director Evan Copeland is up to the task.

"Teaching band virtually

is definitely a challenge, but I have one main goal," he said. "I want them to play everyday. I have assignments I have sent home, but with the extension announced, I will be sending home some fun music for the kids to work on in addition with that 1 goal. Play everyday. Music is a honed skill that is only refined through practice and performance. Unfortunately the performance aspect is not a possibility for the time being. For any of my kids reading the paper, go practice!"

As to planning for milestones like prom and gradua-

See **CLOSED**, A3

