

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Flower power aids food pantries, A2

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

\$1.00

CONTEST

Youth invited to participate in Turkey shoot, photography contest — A5

KIDS' CORNER

Go to the water in this sea-themed puzzle page — A6

CLASS OF 2020

PCHS senior pictures continue — B1

CHURCH

Local pastors weigh in on coronavirus, God's love — B2

School District Seeks Fiscally Conservative Budget

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perquimans Board of Education and the County Commission held a joint budget work session Monday to discuss school expense requests for 2020/21 fiscal year.

This call-in meeting, which was conducted in accordance with social distancing guidelines, sets the stage for future

budget planning.

Superintendent Tanya Turner made the case for a conservative budget that seeks less funding than the 2019/20 budget for a school system with an average daily enrollment of around 1,624 students.

"This a conservative budget that balances the needs of school system with the desire to be efficient, keep costs manageable, particularly as



TURNER

COVID-19 may affect budget planning," she said.

School system's proposed budget for 2020/21 seeks about \$19,097 million which is about \$97,000 less than budget for 2019/20 — \$20,094 million. Funding from

the state is reduced about \$376,000 from about \$13,469 million in 2019/20 to \$13,093 million for 2020/21.

School system seeks an increase of about \$273,737 in local funding up from 2019/20's appropriation of \$2.9 million to the proposed request of more than \$3,173 for 2020/21.

An additional \$594,272 more in expenditures is included within the proposed budget

due to:

■ Shortfall 2019/20 — \$142,400 from the fund balance

■ Loss of wealth funding — \$93,785

■ \$52,000 in textbooks due to no carryover

■ \$90,000 Medicaid/Exceptional Children

■ \$24,136 Loss of Federal Funding carryover

See DISTRICT, A3

Food Lion Offering Special Hours to Seniors

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Food Lion is taking steps to provide a measure of safety in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stores are offering voluntary store shopping hours for senior citizens and those identified as high COVID-19 risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, according to a press release issued by the company.

Stores will dedicate 7-8 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday for customers over the age of 60 and for those folks who are identified as high risk for severe illness by the CDC. These special shopping hours, which are strictly voluntary, started March 30 and will remain in effect until further notice.

"We will continue doing all we can to help prevent the

See FOOD LION, A2

Committee Announces Art Contest Winners

BY STAFF REPORTS

Represented by Tourism Director Sharon Smith, the RIVERBASH Committee recently announced at a special Zoom meeting that three Hertford Grammar School students will be awarded the top prizes in this year's T-Shirt Design Contest.

Taylor Matthews created the first-place design, and Brianna Ross and Layla McCreary teamed up to make the second-place drawing.

This is the first year for the Riverbash Art Contest — 3rd-5th grade students at Hertford Grammar School were invited to submit designs related to this year's theme, "All Hands on Deck".

The winning designs were to be printed on t-shirts that would have been for sale at Riverbash on April 24-26. Unfortunately, Riverbash

See CONTEST, A3



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE CORLEY

Peaceful demonstration took place Tuesday in downtown Raleigh near the General Assembly.

Thousands Travel to Raleigh, Protest Statewide Shut-down Decree

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

RALEIGH — Thousands of people took their message of protest to the streets Tuesday to send a message to Governor Roy Cooper to reopen the state.

A peaceful demonstration organized by the grassroots group ReopenNC, protesters broke into chants of "USA," "Freedom or death," as well as "Vote out Cooper."

"To be crystal clear, this event is not an act of civil disobedience, but rather it is an exercise of our rights as granted by God and protected by the Constitution," said Ashley Smith, a key organizer for ReopenNC, at a press conference in downtown outside the state General Assembly.

Cooper imposed a statewide COVID-19 executive order banning sit-down service at restaurants and private clubs March 17. He extended the order March 27, closing all "non-essential" businesses, ordering residents to stay at home except for "essential" purposes outlined in the order, and barring "mass gatherings" of 10 or more people. Cooper's



Thousands of people attended a rally Tuesday that was organized by ReopenNC, a non-partisan group seeking to end the state's shutdown order that threatens businesses and families from Murphy to Manteo.

order expires April 29. The governor hasn't said if or when he would modify the order.

A non-partisan group with more than 64,000 members, ReopenNC organizers said they plan protests in Raleigh each Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the orders are lifted. This was group's second demonstration within two weeks.

"Governor Cooper, you are not a king and we are not your subjects," Smith said. "You are an elected official granted your power only by the people. We the people of this great state will be heard. Reopen North Carolina."

Cooper and the state's health experts, as well as federal health

See PROTEST, A3



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH PORCHER JONES

Heron is probably thinking when are the humans going to get back to work, reopen the economy.

ROUND-UP

Puzzles & Beaches

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

Robert Emmert of Sunset Circle wrote a kind letter to this country editor. "Keep up the good work. Reporting on the local happenings in Perquimans County is great."

Emmert offered a good suggestion about our crossword puzzle — not putting the answer key so close to the puzzle because sometimes, his eyes tend to wander and peek at the answer key — and he's not the only one.

Robert, it's a technical thing with layout/design as to why the puzzle and the key are side by side. That said, our nation put a man on the moon so surely we can figure out a way to better separate the crossword and the answer key.

In other news, when writing a story about the Easter Bunny, aka Darius White, the newspaper should have attributed the photos that were submitted to noted local photographer Ellen Silva. She's married to Dave Silva, also a top notch photographer. Thanks for the photos.

Hertford Police Department

See LAYTON, A3

Hertford Police Adds Crimefighting K9 Officer

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A superdog has officially joined the Hertford Police Department.

Diesel won't be wearing a cape nor leotards because this German Shepherd's crime fighting superpowers need no introduction. This super dog has a keen sense of smell, so he's trained to detect guns or bombs as well as find people by their odor — bad guys or missing people.

"Diesel is going to be a great add to the town, it will be much harder for criminals to run and hide also he can find firearms in bags and other parcels," said Officer Patrick Castellanos, Hertford Police.

Man's best friend, Diesel and Castellanos, an experienced K9 handler, have been working side by side for a couple of years.

"Him and I have been paired up for little over two years now, we both where security contractors for govt contracts and private firms until we got hired on here," Castellanos said. "My basic handler course took about nine weeks but training never stop every shift we go out and train about an hour a day."

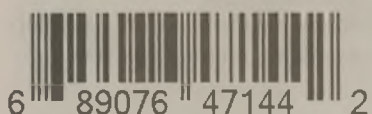
K9 officer Diesel can run too, so no matter how fast any of the crooks reading this story think they can sprint, the dog can run much, much faster. Even

See K9, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hertford Police Department's K9 Officer Diesel makes time to attend a birthday party for this little boy, Domonte Jones, who turned 7-years-old.



Vol. 86, No. 17
©2020 Perquimans Weekly
All Rights Reserved