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Former Pirate gives back, B1

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

\$1.00

CHURCH

Messages for troubled times — B2

COMMUNITY

Dockworker shares love of sound — B1

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

NASCAR held its first race in 1949 — B3

PETS OF THE WEEK

Tri-County shelter open by appointment only — B5

Zoning Board OKs Permit for Charter School

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A proposed charter school moved closer to opening in the fall when the Hertford Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments approved a Conditional Use Permit for the Harvey Road facility.

During Monday's 2-hour zoning board meeting, school leaders stressed the need to provide a choice and a better education for students living in Perquimans County. Supporters of the

school's plans said the facility meets all the required zoning requirements.

Opponents of the zoning permit questioned whether the school will be ready in time for students said the facility, a warehouse at 1054 Harvey Point Road, should be used instead to attract jobs from industrial development. Located on five acres of land, the 22,500-square-foot facility will need upgrades associated with education needs, and a certificate of occupancy so as to

accommodate a school.

Board approved the matter 4-1 Monday with Kisha Darden, Gracie Felton, Marvin Sutton and Martina McClenney voting in favor of the CUP, while Skip Matthews voted against the measure that paves the way for a new school.

"I am not against charter schools if they offer students a better education," said Matthews, zoning board chairman. "I voted against this charter school at this time because they are not ready.

They do not have adequate facilities, faculty and support staff in place to start school in two months, and they are addressing grade levels that are currently being very well served by our public schools."

Hertford Town Council and the State Board of Education Charter School Advisory Committee still must sign off on plans to open the Elaine Riddick Charter School.

June 8, the advisory committee told school administrators to return in July to provide an update

on progress as to meeting enrollment goals, hiring a teaching staff and completing other tasks related to the facility's needs that demand attention before any school bells can ring in the fall.

School needs to meet at least 75 percent - 90 students - toward its enrollment goal of 120 students for grades K-3 at the new school tentatively located at 1054 Harvey Point Road, pending state's final blessing and a certifi-

See **SCHOOL**, A2

Questions Remain on Grant Funding

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

An emergency meeting planned for Hertford Town Council last Friday was cancelled - no quorum.

Called by Councilman Quentin Jackson, the emergency meeting was scheduled to discuss revisions to a Waterfront grant.

Informed council viewers knew in advance that Councilman Jerry Mimlitch was not going to be able to attend the Friday's meeting. Mayor Earnell Brown nor Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges attended the meeting. Also, the Town Clerk Shoniqua Powell had a previously scheduled engagement.

"An emergency meeting called over a grant application submitted months ago and accompanied by no read-ahead materials or explanation is dubious at best," Hodges wrote in an email to council on Friday morning. "It's also hard to believe a meeting scheduled at the last second during two members' work day (not to mention that of the general public) has a legitimate purpose. I will not be attending the meeting because it doesn't meet the requirements of the open meetings law and I would encourage others to do the same."

The \$50,000 USDA grant is the foundation for the current waterfront development and community concept plans.

See **FUNDING**, A2

SEEKING CHANGE



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Before Saturday's protest through Hertford, people seeking change bent down on their knees to pray and pay tribute to God.

'Movement Starts With a Spark'

Nation Founded on Rebellion

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

People gathered Saturday to march through downtown Hertford for a peaceful protest aimed at changing race relations in this corner of the world in the wake of George Floyd's death, killed by a Minneapolis police officer.

Protests from Elizabeth City to Seattle have been taking place not only to protest one policeman's brutal tactics, but to spur change to a society that many organizers say embraces systemic racism.

Marchers for Saturday's protest carried signs that said "I can't breathe" as they shouted in uni-

See **SPARK**, A6



Hertford Police Chief Dennis Brown (left), Connie and Frank Jaklic (center) and Tony Riddick, who spoke at the event, wait for the march to begin that calls for systematic change in the wake of George Floyd's death. More than 20 people attended Saturday's peaceful protest through downtown Hertford.

ROUND-UP

Prayers Answered

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

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

There's an amazing garden in front of a home on Market Street behind the old library/basketball court. When I first saw the garden, I thought that would be a good feature - photo of the week as to who has a great garden.

Because I got caught up with coverage of Saturday's peaceful rally/protest, I forgot to go back to the house and find out who planted the garden.

God must have been listening to my inner monologue about the garden during His coffee break, so He took it upon Himself to set the wheels in motion to get me the answers I needed about the garden. All of a sudden, **John Johnson** messaged me and said the garden belongs to **Thomas Linder** - always available via Facebook.

Praise be to God. Much thanks John and nice garden Thomas.

If you have a good looking garden - I call them victory gardens these days - send the photos to mlayton@ncweeklies.com

Sunday is **Father's Day**, so tell dad how much you love him.

In other news, **Mayor Earnell Brown** received a piece of artwork wrapped only with a note that said "Mayor" on Sunday - anonymous artist. Mayor posted that, "you can tell a lot of care and thought were sewn into this 24"x 27" fabric art wall hanging. The lion represents courage, is strong and powerful. The gentle butterfly represents endurance, change, hope, and new life. There are three embroidered butterflies. Whoever you are, I say THANK YOU and I hope you will allow me to express my gratitude in person. I will hang it in the Mayor's office

See **LAYTON**, A3

Police Chiefs Visit with Floyd Family

HPD Chief Brown says family showed forgiveness

BY CHRIS DAY AND MILES LAYTON
 Adams Publishing Group

Hertford's police chief said if he lost a loved one to violence he's not sure he could be as understanding as George Floyd's family.

"I don't know if I could have been as forgiving as they were," Dennis Brown says.

Brown was among three area police chiefs who met several members of the Floyd family during a visit to Fayetteville, Friday, June 5. The other two chiefs were Elizabeth City's Eddie Bufaloe and Edenton Police Chief Henry King. The three discussed their interaction with the family on Thursday.

The Floyd family arrived at the Fayetteville Regional Airport last Friday. They were traveling from Minneapolis, Minnesota, on their way to the town of Raeford, where a memorial for Floyd was held Saturday, June 6. Raeford is Floyd's birth place and is located just west of Fayetteville.

Floyd, 46, died May 25 while in the custody of Minneapolis

See **CHIEFS**, A3



PHOTO COURTESY EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law enforcement leaders, including Hertford Police Chief Dennis Brown (left), assist with handling George Floyd's remains, which were delivered to family at Fayetteville Regional Airport.

PQ Woman Warns Chowan Board Not to Tilt at Big Wind

Badawi Laments Life near Amazon Wind Facility

BY NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON
 For the Perquimans Weekly

EDENTON — A Perquimans County woman advised commissioners to be wise with their plans to update the county's wind energy facility zoning ordinance at Monday's Chowan County Commission meeting.

Commissioners spent several hours hashing out the details of a draft ordinance amendment on wind energy facilities.

Before the board debated



BADAWI

the regulations, several members of the public spoke about the facilities including Gigi Badawi, a Perquimans County resident, who

lives near the western side of the Amazon Wind Facility.

Before Badawi spoke, Commissioner Don Faircloth attempted to have her talk stricken from the agenda. He noted that only one side of the wind energy facility de-

See **WIND**, A3