

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

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 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 514 S CHURCH ST
 HERTFORD, NC 27944-1225



NEWS
 Tri-County Animal Shelter Pets of the Week — A6



COMMUNITY
 Ministry helps victims of tornado in Bertie — B1



HISTORY
 Loco-Motion debuts — B4

State BOE Delays Charter School Opening

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

The State Board of Education approved on Friday a one-year delay in opening the Elaine Riddick Charter School in Hertford.

The state board said it delayed the school's planned

Aug. 17 opening because the school's building was not ready, enrollment requirements had not been met, and there are unresolved matters regarding insurance.

The board received a letter Friday from the Elaine Riddick Charter School Board of Directors requesting a one-

year delay.

Despite the rain on Saturday, the charter school's principal, Mary Felton, went door-to-door in Hertford, reassuring parents that the board had to request the delay because of complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, the school sent a letter to parents explaining the board ran into delays completing the renovations needed to open the school in a 22,500-square-foot facility at 1054 Harvey Point Road by Monday.

"On behalf of the board and school, we apologize and

sincerely thank you for your support of the school," wrote Tony Riddick, a member of the school's board of directors.

In July, school leaders sought approval from the N.C. Charter Advisory Committee

See **CHARTER**, A2

Election Less Than 3 Months Away

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Perquimans County Board of Elections is in search of poll workers to help operate its three early voting sites and several sites on Election Day, Nov. 3.

As always, early voting was held at the Board of Elections office located at 601 S Edenton Rd St, Hertford, NC 27944.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, early voting will also be held at two locations to allow for safe social-distancing practices that are the Durants Neck Ruritan building located at 2151 New Hope Rd, Hertford and the Bethel Ruritan building located at 392 Snug Harbor Rd, Hertford.

All sites will operate on the same schedule:

- 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, Oct. 15-Oct. 30
- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 17, 24, 31
- 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 18, 25

Also, the Board of Election is seeking a part-time assistant for help in processing registrations, office work.

To become a poll worker or for information on the November election, contact the Board of Elections at (252) 426-5598.

In other election related news, only about 5 percent of North Carolina voters cast absentee ballots in the 2016 presidential election but state election officials expect that number to jump to around 40 percent this November because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patrick Gannon, spokesman for the North Carolina State Board of Elections, said that as of Monday more than 183,000 voters had requested to vote absentee by mail. At the same time in 2016 — 83 days before the election — just over 23,000 voters had requested an absentee ballot.

Local elections officials are seeing a similar uptick.

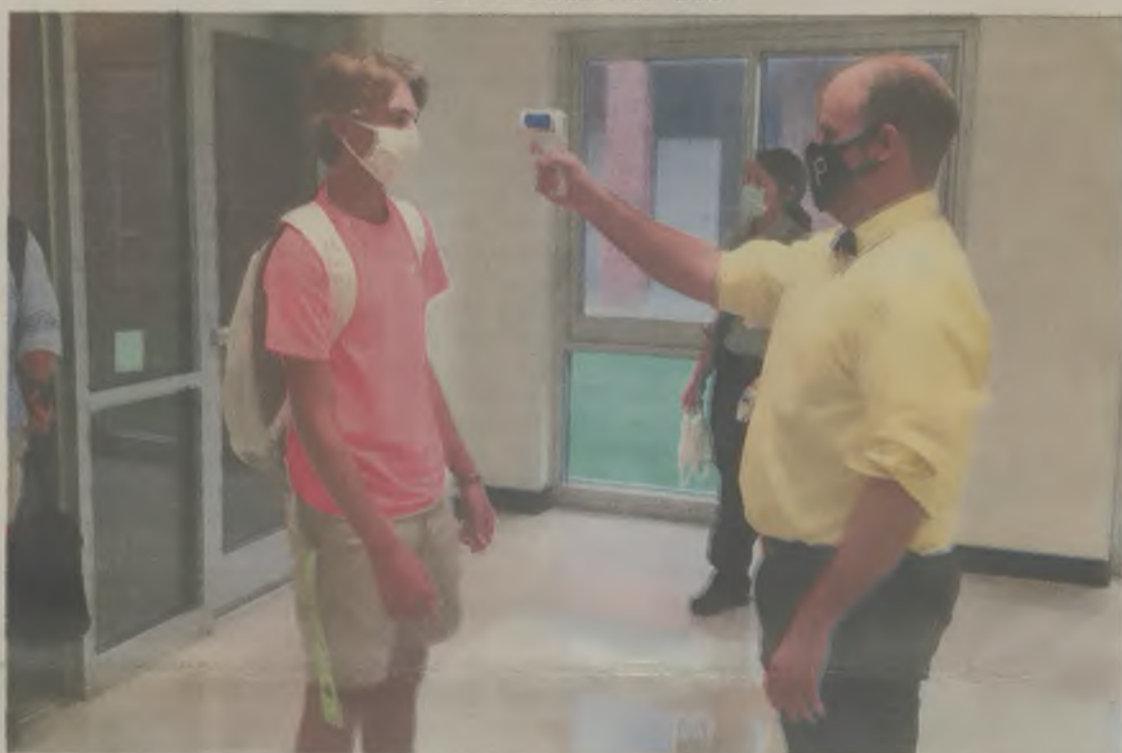
Two counties — Pasquotank and Chowan — have already received more requests for absentee ballots than voters who cast absentee ballots in 2016.

Pasquotank has received over 500 requests for absentee ballots. That's compared to

See **ELECTION**, A3

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CHECKING IN



PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Students Return to PQ Schools

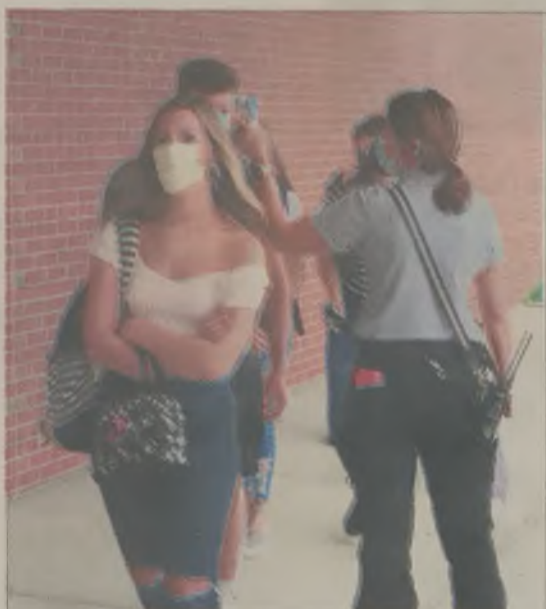
70% Opt for In-Person Learning;
 30% Choose Remote Education

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County school doors opened for the first time since March as students started classes this week for the 2020-21 academic year.

Students entering the

See **STUDENTS**, A3



Hospital Foundation Awards \$105K

BY STAFF REPORTS

Vidant Chowan Hospital presented Community Benefit Grants checks to grantees on Wednesday, August 12th. Twenty-four (24) grant applications submitted by local organizations representing Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington Counties were approved for funding.

The organizations all provide programs and offer services that

See **HOSPITAL**, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chowan Hospital Foundation Executive Director Ginny Waff (left) awards Jonathan Nixon, Perquimans County Emergency Management director, a grant.

ROUND-UP

Schools Open and Murder Hornets

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Perquimans County High School has a new principal, **Mickey Drew**.

Previously, Drew worked as principal at Central Elementary within Elizabeth-City/Pasquotank Public Schools before returning to Pirates' country.

Drew began his career in teaching in 1996 where he spent 18 years teaching all areas of science including AP Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physical Science and Earth Science as well as serving as a coach in Camden County and Martin County.

Drew served two years as assistant principal at Perquimans County High School from 2012-2014 and then moved on to serve as a principal with Elizabeth City-

See **ROUND-UP**, A3

Council Reappoints Hoffler to ABC Board

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

When Hertford Town Council resumed its multi-hour Monday meeting on Tuesday evening (Aug. 11), there was discussion about proposals to initiate planning efforts to develop a Community Plan and a more detailed plan for public improvements on the northern riverfront.

In June, Town of Hertford was awarded a \$145,200 grant from the US Department of Agriculture to formulate a plan to develop the waterfront.

Council approved plans for Town Hall to pursue request for quotations from vendors

See **COUNCIL**, A2