

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021

\$1.00

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Letters to the editor discuss civility and vaccine clinics



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Perquimans boys' soccer team splits games against Holmes, Hertford County



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This week in history includes Cupola House and Babe Ruth

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Resolution Seeks to Eliminate Hertford PD

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A resolution will be introduced during Monday's Hertford Town Council meeting that seeks to potentially eliminate the town's police department, citing the town's financial difficulties.

Resolution appears at the end of this story as well as being posted to the web at perquimansweekly.com

If the resolution is approved, Hertford Town Hall would develop

a transitional plan to have the Perquimans Sheriff's Office provide law enforcement for the town.

Resolution authorizes Mayor Earnell Brown and Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges to meet with Perquimans County elected officials and other personnel to develop a notional transition plan with an effective date of July 1 2021 to be presented to council at a future meeting for consideration.

"The resolution is very thorough and transparent in terms of why

consolidating law enforcement activities is being considered as a wise strategy for the Town of Hertford," Brown said. "The resolution merely seeks Governing Board approval to proceed with discussions with all stakeholders and data gathering, regarding the feasibility and what is required to execute the strategy."

Brown said she wants citizens to know that their level of law enforcement service will not decrease under any proposal.

"My major hopes for with this

strategy is that the level and quality of law enforcement is maintained or exceeded; that our current law officers have continued opportunity for employment; that resulting revenue is applied to the ongoing needs of the community - infrastructure improvement, youth and family social needs, town administration, housing, competitive salaries for our employees; and, that this will inhibit the property taxes and utility rates from increasing," she said.

Resolution directs the Town

Manager, Police Chief, and their designees to provide responses to any data gathering requests made by Brown and Hodges in pursuit of this effort within three business days of a request. Resolution authorizes Brown and Hodges to communicate with the Town Attorney as necessary in furtherance of this effort.

Last year, there were several events including shootings and a gas line rupture that necessitated a law

See RESOLUTION, A3

Newspapers Win Awards

Layton Earns Freedom of Information Award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Perquimans Weekly, the Chowan Herald and the Daily Advance received a combined 17 awards during the 2020 North Carolina Press Association contest, including a special award for exceptional work upholding the public's right to get information from its government.

The awards were announced Friday evening during the N.C. Press Association's annual conference, held virtually this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Perquimans Weekly won three awards in the A division, the Chowan Herald won eight awards, also in the A division, and The Daily Advance won six awards in the contest's D division.

Perquimans Weekly Editor Miles Layton won the Henry Lee Weathers Freedom of Information award in the contest's community division, a special award sponsored by The Associated Press and presented to journalists or newspapers for exceptional work advancing or upholding the cause of freedom of information.

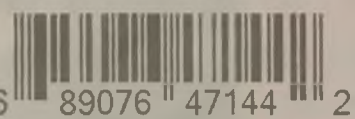
The contest's judges presented Layton the Weathers award for his news coverage and editorials about taxpayer-funded trips by Hertford Town Council members and his calls for reforming the town's travel policy.

The series of stories centered on two Hertford Town Councilors, including one who lost her bid for a new term, trip to attend a National League of Cities Conference in San Antonio in November 2019, incurring thousands of dollars in taxpayer-funded expenses.

In a video, awards emcee Shannon Vickery of PBS NC noted that Layton's "public record requests led to the uncovering of cost associated with travel and led to a halt of any new council travel, as well as a review of the town's finances and a revision of the (town's) travel policy."

Vickery said the contest's judges considered Layton's coverage of town government in Hertford "a great example of using the press to protect readers' and taxpayers' interest and holding public officials' feet to

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County Schools Foundation's Executive Director Brenda Lassiter recently announced a grant from Albemarle Community Trust to fill book bags with food for disadvantaged students, who are being quarantined due to the pandemic.

Foundation Receives Funds for Food for Quarantined Students

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County Schools Foundation's Executive Director Brenda Lassiter recently announced the receipt of a \$3,000 grant from Albemarle Community Trust to fill book bags with food for disadvantaged students, who are being quarantined due to the pandemic.

Breakfast bars, pop tarts, applesauce, puddings, oatmeal,

spaghetti, soups and more were purchased with the grant funds.

Since students are unable to eat at school or pick up food being offered to remote learners because they are quarantined by the health department, it is becoming increasingly apparent that some students do not have adequate food.

"School officials' are working collaboratively to ensure disadvantaged students have

access to the book bags during their quarantined period," said Lassiter. "It's a great effort and resource for our students."

Albemarle Community Trust (ACT) funds are generated through the co-op's Operation RoundUp program, which was established in 2002 and allows members to round their power bill up to the nearest dollar, with the difference going to ACT. The Trust is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Defend Monuments

Editor's Note: First of a two-part series, the Col. William F. Martin Camp NC Sons of Confederate Veterans reached out to the Chowan Herald to talk about the Civil War monuments' future in Elizabeth City among other places across the state. We are withholding the names of the top officers from the group who spoke to the newspaper so as to protect their identity. Officers sought to set the record straight by clearing up any misinformation not only about Pasquotank's Confederate monument, but about what group believes and the ideals they share that run counter to what they consider as a misleading portrayal by the mainstream media.

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

ELIZABETH CITY - NC Sons of Confederate Veterans has filed a lawsuit that seeks to determine if relocating Civil War monuments is a violation of state law. Lawsuit's fate affects monuments statewide.

Commander of the Col. William F. Martin Camp NC Sons of Confederate Veterans said memorials like the one in Elizabeth City are

PERQUIMANS MONUMENT

Regarding the Confederate monument by the courthouse, a committee will be formed to study the issue and provide a recommendation of action to the Perquimans County Commission.

a tribute to those who fought and died for the South.

"There are plenty of publications from the day that that memorial was erected," he said. "It clearly explains why it was put there. And there's not a stitch of content that says it had anything to do with white supremacy or intimidation of minorities. That narrative is not to be found anywhere. If you go back to that day in time, the narrative was that these people were still mourning the loss of their fathers and sons."

Commander said the group is not opposed to moving the monument in Elizabeth City, but that the decision to relocate the 110-year-old memorial complies with state law.

"There is a law for North Carolina that says historic objects of remembrance have to go through



SUBMITTED PHOTO

William F. Martin Camp NC Sons of Confederate Veteran's seeks to preserve Civil War monuments such as the one in Elizabeth City. Group has a pending injunction against Pasquotank County based on the lawsuit that the NC Sons of Confederate Veterans has filed.

the North Carolina Historical Commission," he said. "And yes, you can relocate them. You can move them, but there's a certain procedure and it has to go through this. And we're not opposed to relo-

See MONUMENTS, A3

Legacy of MB Taylor Lives on

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Today is MB Taylor Day, March 4. Dr. Minnie Bess Edwards Taylor served over 30 years as a Home Economics Extension agent for Perquimans County; the first African-American to serve in that role.

The March 4 celebration will kick-off at 1 p.m. with 200 hot meals, sponsored by her family, being delivered to senior citizens who are homebound.

Then at 2:30 p.m., there will be a short program and balloons will be released in front of her home on 303 Dobbs Street.

March 4, 1984, then Mayor Bill Cox declared a proclamation in Hertford as the "MB Taylor Day."

Before Taylor passed away in December of 2017, she had a love for the culinary arts and enjoyed preparing meals for the community.

Fast forward to 2021, March 4 will again be celebrated as MB Taylor Day!

"I stand on the shoulders Dr. M B Taylor who was a motivator, a leader, an organizer and an encourager of keeping hope alive," said Connie Brothers, who brought in MB Taylor Day to the present. "She was my

See TAYLOR, A5

ROUND-UP

Birthdays & Introductions

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

Mayor Earnell Brown had a birthday last week. I think she turned 25 years old or so. People held a drive-by birthday party for her Friday at Missing Mill Park. Happy Birthday!

Missy Mimplitsch had a birthday on Monday. Turned 20-something too. Happy Birthday! I remember back in the day when Mimplitsch used to do the Facebook live broadcast to do the multi-hour council meetings. Other people have assisted with that noble endeavor too.

Those broadcasts via social media opened people's eyes as to the circus taking place during contentious council meetings, some that have been accentuated

See ROUND-UP, A5