

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021

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Meet Kilo and Tri-County Animal Shelter's other pets of the week



PAGE B1
Pirates take down First Flight



B4
Church page

Schools will move to Plan A on March 22

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Perquimans County Board of Education held a special meeting on March 15, 2021 and voted to approve students in grades 6-12 to have the option to receive in-person instruction in Plan A effective Monday, March 22.

Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School began operating under Plan A in October. The move to Plan A for grades 6-12 is a result of legislation that was signed on Thursday by Governor



TURNER

nor Cooper, Session Law 2021-4 (SB220). The district will continue with the remote learning schedule on Mondays for K-8 and Fridays for 9-12. Face-to-face instruction will continue to take place on Tuesday through Friday for K-8. Students in grades 9-12 will now attend school for full days, 8 a.m.-

3:05 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Parents will still have the option to choose remote learning for the remainder of the year.

As part of this newly signed legislation, public schools in North Carolina are required to allow ALL children in K-5 to receive face-to-face instruction in Plan A if their parents select that option and further states that districts shall allow ALL students 6th -12th grade to receive in-person instruction in either Plan A or Plan B. Districts are required to imple-

ment their selected plan for face-to-face instruction within twenty-one days of the date the law passed or sooner if the district is prepared to do so.

The approval for Plan A means that the school system will continue to follow all North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Guidelines with the support of Albemarle Regional Health Services.

All students will have the option to return to campuses while following minimal social distanc-

ing guidelines. Minimal social distancing recommends six feet of distance when feasible between individuals.

Face coverings are still required on all school campuses at all times. Sanitizing and hand washing will continue to be extremely important and will be followed.

Key points for families:
• All Perquimans County students will have the option to return for in-person instruction in

See **SCHOOLS**, A3

Study will Explore Disbanding Hertford PD

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

By a split 3-2 vote, Hertford Town Council approved a resolution last week to have the town study consolidating the Hertford Police Department with the Perquimans Sheriff's Office.

Voting for the consolidation study at council's March 9 meeting were Mayor Earnell Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges and Councilor Jerry Mimplitsch. Voting against the study were Councilors Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman.

According to the resolution, the consolidation study is needed because the town is struggling to find enough revenue to pay its expenses. The study is one way to see if the town can reduce its expenses.

Under the resolution, Brown and Hodges are authorized to meet with Perquimans County officials to discuss consolidating law enforcement services. Should any consolidation plan go forward, Hertford officials are hoping it would take effect on July 1.

A group of police officers with the Hertford Police Department attended the March 9 meeting and expressed opposition to the consolidation study.

Both Jackson and Norman were also highly critical of the study. Norman appeared to get so angry with the discussion that he walked away from the council dais and cast his vote against the study from the gallery.

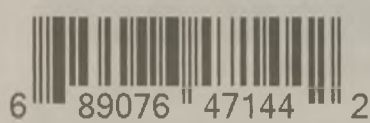
"I'm done conversating — you all ain't worth talking to," Norman said.

Jackson called Hodges a terrorist and a crook "who doesn't give a damn about Hertford." Norman and Jackson also attacked what they claimed was a lack of transparency from council's leadership.

Hodges countered that Hertford is losing money, and needs to do something to reduce expenses. Otherwise, Town Council will be forced to approve a property tax increase.

Both Hodges and Jackson said they would be willing to forego their council salaries to

See **DISBAND**, A2



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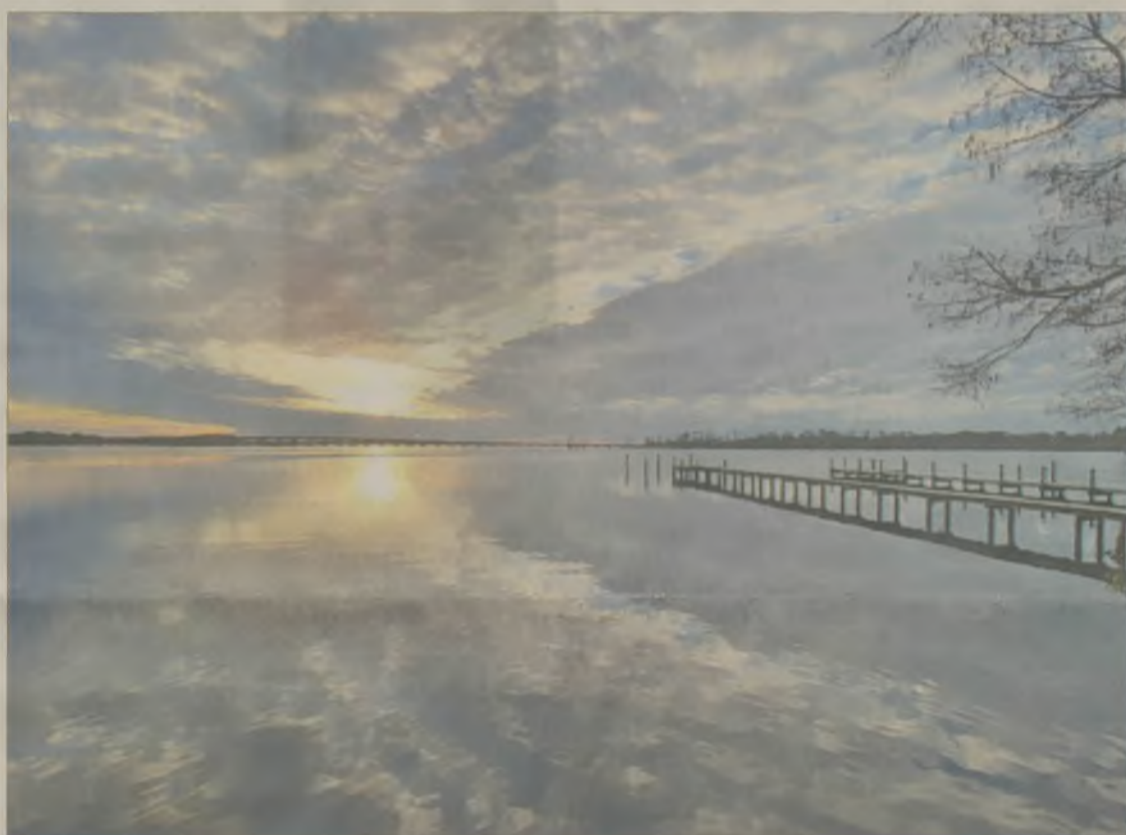


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH PORCHER JONES

Morning view of the Perquimans River should inspire everyone to embrace the day.

First Day of Spring Offers Promising Weather

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Going to be a rainy week ahead, but temperatures are going to be nice in our neck of the woods.

Lovely photo by Elizabeth Porcher Jones shows a sunrise over the Perquimans River. Sunrise is the best time of the day because it promises a fresh start and a new outlook as everyday is a gift from God.

Thursday, temperatures range from the 50s to the mid

70s with a 60 percent chance of rain.

Friday, there is a 90 percent chance of rain with temperatures in the mid 30s to the 50s.

Saturday, the sun comes back out on the first day of spring with temperatures in the mid 30s to the 50s.

Sunday through Tuesday, it'll be sunny, maybe a few clouds, but temperatures start climbing from the 40s into the 60s, so it looks like spring may be here to stay; fingers crossed.

Even in Maine, where temperatures dipped into the 20s this week, Bangor will see some sunshine and moderate temperatures in the 60s ahead.

Maybe not so much for Yakutsk, the largest "cold" city in the world, where temperatures there hover between zero and the low 20s in that part of Siberia. City/province is featured in the Risk board game.

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ROUND-UP

Kitty Hawk and Pirates' Success

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

During Tuesday's Rotary Club of Hertford meeting, Thomas Waller announced plans to open a mercantile shop in town, where White's Dress Shop

was. The store is slated to have old-fashioned candy, New Orleans food and Hertford merchandise. There will also be space for interior design — Waller's forte. Waller said he loves the area; moved from Louisiana to Perquimans County in 2019. The store plans to open in April.

In other news, NC Senator Bob Steinburg called the other day and we got to talking. Did you know that the USS Kitty Hawk super-carrier is slated to be turned into scrap. Yeah. Steinburg said NC Representative Ed Goodwin is doing research about the decommissioned ship that is stationed in the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

Steinburg and Goodwin are interested in somehow saving the aircraft carrier, maybe turning it

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See **ROUND-UP**, A3

Family of 6 Loses Home, Belongings in Fire

Firefighters also respond to fires in barn, road median

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A Snug Harbor family lost their home in a house fire on Wednesday, one of three fires Perquimans County firefighters responded to in just a little over three hours.

One of the other fires damaged a livestock barn in Belvidere while the third was reported in the highway median off U.S. Highway 17 South.

No injuries were reported in any of the fires, although some livestock in the barn fire did suffer some minor burns, Perquimans Emergency Management said in a press release Thursday, March 11.

The house fire was report-

ed in the 100 block of Poplar Street in the Snug Harbor subdivision at 1:51 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, according to the press release.

Perquimans Fire Marshal Barry Overman said Thursday that a family of six lived in the home but only one family member, a teenage son, was home at the time of the fire.

The teen discovered the fire in a back bedroom and called 911 before getting out safely, Overman said.

The first firefighters to arrive encountered heavy smoke and saw flames at the rear of the structure.

Firefighters from the Bethel, Hertford and Winfall fire departments battled the blaze for over an hour while also



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Askew family's home was destroyed by fire on Wednesday in Snug Harbor. A fundraising page is posted by Amber Askew's Facebook page.

See **FIRES**, A3