

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

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Council Discusses Fireworks, Town Property



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Tri-County Animal Shelter Pets of the Week



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Pirates defeat foes on softball field

Committee to Study Civil War Monument's Future

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Perquimans County Commission has appointed a committee to study the future of the Civil War soldiers' monument on the courthouse green in Hertford.

County Manager Frank Heath said the monument committee's charge as developed by the county commission in no way advocates for any position regarding the monument.

"The committee was formed to examine the issue of the monument's location and see what various ideas these committee members have about it and form a recommendation that would be presented to the county commission," he said. "The committee has no decision-making power; that lies with the commissioners."

Edenton and Tyrrell County

are also exploring potential plans about the future of their Civil War monuments.

Sponsored by UNC Chapel Hill, Documenting the American South (DocSouth) is a digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture.

Dedicated June 12, 1912, Perquimans County's 109-year-old monument has a low two-tiered granite base with rusticated edges topped by an obelisk resting on a finished granite plinth. In high relief on the plinth's front face is a furling Confederate battle flag and the years 1861 and 1865, according to DocSouth. Below the flag is the words OUR SOLDIERS. Crossed sabers still in their scabbards adorn the monuments back face.

Heath explained that commission received requests from Town

of Hertford, Perquimans' chapter of the NAACP and two county commissioners to remove the monument.

"We got to this point because the Board of Commissioners received letters from the NAACP and the Town of Hertford requesting that the monument be removed," he said. "Also, Commissioners Fondella Leigh and Joseph Hoffer asked that the monument be removed. The Board then decided that a committee should be formed to examine the issue. They wanted to take a measured approach versus immediate action."

Those appointed to the monument study committee are: Robert Jackson, Johnny Caddy, Gwayland McCleney, Tammy Miller-White, Jeff Proctor, Antoine Moore, Debbie Jean Parker and Brenda Lassiter.

Heath said the county commis-

sion asked Perquimans County Commission Chairman Wallace Nelson and Vice Chairwoman Fondella Leigh to suggest names for the committee. They provided names and the Board approved.

Recently, Keith Throckmorton, who was originally appointed to the committee when it was formed in early April, resigned last week. Robert Jackson was appointed Monday to fill that vacant slot.

Submitted to the Perquimans County Commission, Throckmorton's letter of resignation said any plans by the committee to consider moving the Civil War soldier's statue would be in violation of state law. Throckmorton's letter appears at the end of this story.

"If my understanding of the 'law' is correct, the monument



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County Civil War monument

See MONUMENT, A3

Democratic Party Holds County Convention

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans County Democratic Party re-elected officers and conducted business at the party's County Convention April 10 in the Perquimans County Courthouse in the J. Carlton Cole Courtroom.

Following officers were

re-elected:

■ Chair — Tammy Miller-White

■ 2nd Vice Chair — Earnell Brown

■ Secretary — Janice McKenzie Cole

■ Treasurer — Jacqueline Frierson

Newly elected:

■ 3rd Vice Chair — Quantajah Armstrong

For the time being 1st Vice Chair is vacant.

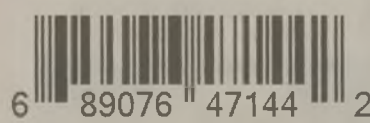
Miller-White and Cole were elected to the State Executive Committee

Nine people were elected as delegates to the annual District Convention on May 22.

At the meeting, party members reviewed the demographics of the turnout for the November (2020) election in our County.

Chairman Miller-White introduced her new initiative Neighbors Meeting Neighbors which will be a series of various community gatherings to bring people together to promote a stronger sense of county/community, and awareness of Perquimans'

See CONVENTION, A3



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60-YEAR CELEBRATION



PHOTO COURTESY CAMP CALE

Camp Cale Director Matt Thomas speaks at a ribbon-cutting event for the camp's new bunkhouses Thursday (April 15) in Hertford. The Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce organized the event.

Camp Cale Unveils New Bunkhouse

BY REGGIE PONDER
For the Perquimans Weekly

Camp Cale hosted Baptist leaders and area business, education and government leaders Thursday morning to celebrate its 60 years of operation as well as the camp's new bunkhouses that feature air conditioning, heat and indoor plumbing.

Camp Cale Director Matt Thomas told the 60 or so people gathered for the event that in the late 1950s the Chowan Baptist Association decided it wanted to have a camping ministry.

The Cale family donated a site and it now has grown to the current 86-acre camp on the Perquimans River.

The new bunkhouses have transformed Camp Cale to be able to do much more, Thomas said.

He noted the older cabins did not have heat, air conditioning, or bathrooms. The new bunkhouses are outfitted with those amenities.

The event, which included a ribbon-cutting and tour of camp facilities, was organized in conjunction with the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce. Officials from the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce also were in attendance, as was Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown.

Mid-Atlantic Christian University President John Maurice, College of The Albemarle President

Jack Bagwell and COA Trustee Marion Harris all attended.

Harvey Roberts, a farmer in the Shawboro community of Currituck County, recalled outside the new bunkhouse that he first came to the site in 1963 when he was 10 years old, and has been coming ever since.

He explained that he worked alongside his father and a group of other men who were clearing trees and doing other work at the camp site.

Roberts also chaired the committee for the camp for a number of years. He said he was excited to see how far the camp has come.

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ROUND-UP

Centenarian and Wynne Fork Bridge

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...
Lessie B. Riddick of Perquimans County turned 100 years old on April 5. As a woman born 100 years ago Lessie has seen the world change in almost unspeakable ways.

Think about that for a moment – 100 years. Means Riddick lived through the 20s, Great Depression, World II, Korean War, Civil Rights, Kennedy assassination, Vietnam War, MLK assassination, 70s malaise, Reagan era, Obama's two terms, so on so forth. And

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LESSIE B. RIDDICK

Perquimans BOE Seeks Budget Increase

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

The Perquimans County Board of Education met Monday in a joint meeting with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners to share the budget request for capital outlay and current expense needs for the 2021-2022 school year.

The local current expense request totals \$3,103,236 – an increase of \$203,236 from the 2020-2021 allocation of



TURNER

\$2,900,000. There was no increase in the request for capital outlay funds which totaled \$475,000.

Superintendent Tanya Turner said the local current expense budget includes funding for additional transportation costs for rerouting school buses due to

the closure of the S-shaped Bridge (\$61,000) and state mandated salary and benefit increases (\$142,236). The Board of Commissioners were also apprised of the possibility of increases in payments to charter schools for student enrollment. Additional local funding (\$200,055) may be needed to lessen the impact of funds reduced from the school system's budget that must be paid to charter schools for enrollment.

Capital Outlay projects proposed for funding for the 2021-2022 school year include paving projects at all four schools; renovating the science lab, replacing exit doors and adding a camera system to Perquimans Middle School; replacing broken kitchen equipment at all four schools; providing a furniture replacement allotment to all four schools; repair and repaint epoxy floor in the

See BOE, A3

Join us for the 13th Annual Week of the Young Child Children's Festival & Safe Kids Day
DRIVE-THRU Event FREE GIVE-AWAYS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
Saturday, April 24, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Perquimans Recreation Center
FREE Admission and Activities for families
For more information, call 252-482-3035
Hosted by Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership & Chowan County Safe Kids