

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

\$1.00



**PAGE A2**  
Several injured in wrecks



**PAGE A3**  
Tri-County Animal Shelter Pets of the Week



**PAGE B4**  
This week in NC history

425 29 9 ##  
\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*R 008  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
514 S CHURCH ST  
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225

## Town Council OKs Plans to Disband HPD

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Hertford Town Council voted 3-2 to approve a law enforcement services contract negotiated by Town and County officials that leads to dissolving the town's police department.

The basic terms were discussed in the Tuesday meeting (June 1) and no changes were made to the contract during the Thursday

meeting.

Consolidation will officially take place July 1 when Town Hall disbands the police department. Town Hall will pay the county \$350,000 to provide public safety for Hertford's 2,100 citizens.

Monday, Perquimans County Commission signed off on the contract with the town.

The sheriff's office proposed budget includes two new deputies for county service, and with

the consolidation of the Hertford Police Department, includes four deputy positions, an investigator and an administrative assistant.

Mayor Earnell Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Hodges and Councilman Jerry Mimplitsch voted in favor of consolidating the police department while councilmen Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson opposed the measure.

As HPD's sole remaining law enforcement officer, council ap-

pointed Officer Dean Polumbo as interim police chief. Perquimans deputies patrol the town when needed under the auspices of a long-existing mutual aid agreement between the town and county.

Council recently released a study suggesting the cost of contracting law enforcement services through the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office could save the Town hundreds of thousands of

dollars per year versus continuing to operate a separate police department.

Mayor Brown said it was a difficult decision to dissolve HPD, but consolidation would provide equal or better law enforcement service.

Hodges said he has the utmost respect for law enforcement, but the town is unable to afford the

See **DISBAND, A2**

## County Budget Seeks Property Tax Increase

Water Rates, Solid Waste Fees Poised to Increase

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Perquimans County Commission's proposed budget for 2021-22 seeks to increase property tax and water rates as well as solid waste fees for fiscal year 2021-22.

A public hearing for comment and to consider adoption of the budget has been scheduled for Monday, June 21, at 7 p.m. in the Perquimans County Library.

Budget proposes a 2-cent increase in property tax rates from 59 cents to 61 cents per \$100 dollars of value – the lowest tax rate in the region.

Water rates will increase from \$15 to \$17.50 (minimum bill) and from \$7 to \$9 per thousand after the first thousand gallons.

The proposed solid waste fee for FY 21-22 is \$150, a \$10 increase from last fiscal year.

The proposed FY 2021-22 budget contains a 4% adjustment to the salary schedule based on information from the salary study performed by the Management and Personnel Services (MAPS) group last year.

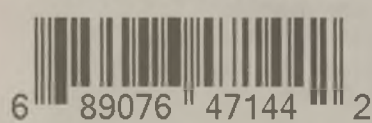
The sheriff's office budget includes two new deputies for County service, and with the anticipated consolidation of the Hertford Police Department, includes four deputy positions, an investigator and an administrative assistant.

### Proposed Tax Rate

County department heads and other agencies submitted around \$22.8 million budget requests to County Manager Frank Heath. That's over \$6 million dollars more than anticipated revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, Heath wrote in his budget that was presented Monday to the county commission. The tax rate would have to be 45 cents higher to fully fund all requests of Perquimans County for the next year, he said.

In FY 2021, Perquimans County implemented austerity measures that ensured the fiscal health of the County due to COVID-19. These measures included a freeze on all major capital purchases (capped at \$10,000 total per department), no initial salary adjustments

See **BUDGET, A2**



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PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

Greyson Pierce (left), valedictorian, leads the Perquimans High School Class of 2021 to their seats during commencement Saturday, June 5, 2021.

## 'Don't lose that spark'

88 Pirates Earn Diplomas

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

All hail the Perquimans High School Class of 2021!

Eighty-eight seniors were awarded their diplomas during Perquimans High School's 96th commencement ceremony on Saturday at the athletic field.

Valedictorian is Greyson Pierce and the salutatorian is Maci Denison.

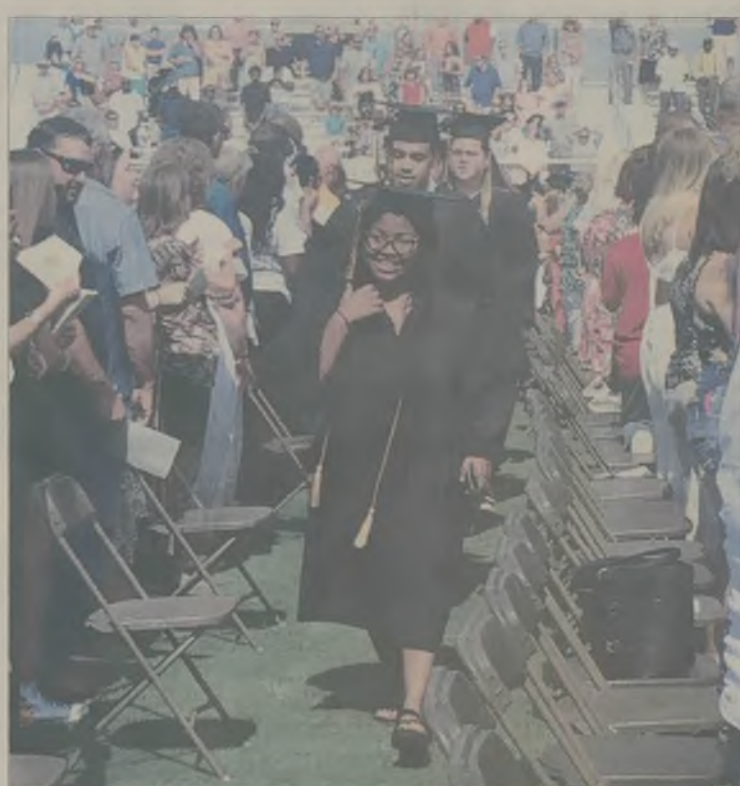
Their speeches are published on page B1 along with many photos from the commencement ceremony.

Selected by the senior class, the

See **DIPLOMAS, A3**

### PAGE B1-2

More graduation coverage can be found inside.



A group of seniors heads to the stage to collect their diplomas.

## ROUND-UP

### Charter School and Turtles

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Charter School Executive Director Don McQueen said pending the approval of building permits for renovations needed to open the **Elaine Riddick Charter School** in a 22,500-square-foot facility at 1054 Harvey Point Road, the school will start classes Aug. 23. He said 150 students have registered to attend the tuition-free K-3 charter school this fall.

Though the charter school has already been approved by the N.C. Board of Education, in August of 2020 the board approved a one-year delay in opening the school. McQueen said because of complications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the school did not meet the metrics it needed to open.

The school will be managed by Torchlight Academy, a Raleigh-based charter school where McQueen works.

McQueen said longtime educator Dr. Derrick Allen will serve as the charter school's principal. When McQueen was asked what had happened to **Mary Felton**, who was principal and chairperson of the school's board of directors during the charter school's early days, he praised her work on behalf of the school. School's website lists as chairperson for

See **ROUND-UP, A3**

## 'Love Letters' to Open at Carolina Theater June 12-13

### FROM STAFF REPORTS

Carolina Moon Theater is pleased to present "Love Letters" by A. R. Gurney as its first play in the new theater.

"Love Letters" is the story of a 50-year correspondence between Melissa Gardner and her childhood friend-love-interest, Andrew Makepeace Ladd III.

Carolina Moon Theater presents "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney at 7 p.m. on June 12 and 4 p.m. June 13.

Tickets can be purchased online at carolinamoontheater.org or at Carolina Trophy at 109 N. Church Street, Hertford Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This play, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, has been performed all over the world. It was first performed in the late '80s. Initially intended to be a book, it was sent to the New Yorker magazine that sent it

right back and said "We don't publish plays."

So Gurney decided to rewrite it as a two-person play with two actors reading letters back and forth to one another. It opened in New Haven's Long Wharf Theatre and then went on to be performed off-Broadway. It ultimately became a hit on Broadway at the Edison Theatre in 1989.

Have ever known someone who touched every part of your life? Have you loved someone across time and circumstance? Share in the story of Melissa and Andy as they progress together through the power of the pen.

Worth noting – theater is celebrating 10 years of entertaining people. Perquimans County's master thespian Dave Goss, who will be performing in the play, praised the theater's longevity and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dave Goss will be performing in "Love Letters" when it opens Saturday and Sunday at Carolina Moon Theater. Tickets can be purchased online at carolinamoontheater.org or at Carolina Trophy at 109 N. Church Street, Hertford Tues-Thurs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See **CAROLINA, A2**