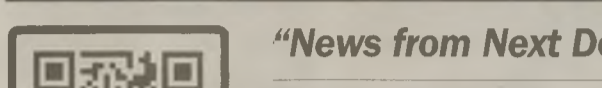


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

\$1.00



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Foundation gives schools \$3,000 for internet hotspots



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ARHS: COVID cases jumped by nearly 200 last week



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Spiritual discipline important for Christians

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## Board: Masks not mandatory in Perquimans classrooms

District voted for optional plan after deadlocking on requiring masks

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer



TURNER

The Perquimans County Board of Education voted 4-2 last week to adopt COVID-19 protocols that recommend masks but do not mandate them except on buses.

Chairwoman Anne White and board members Arlene Yates cast the dissenting votes, preferring a plan that would mandate masks in

school buildings. Voting for the plan that was adopted were board members Russell Lassiter, Amy Spaugh, Leary Winslow and Matt Peeler. Spaugh, who is the board's vice-chairwoman, explained last week that she supports a mask mandate but voted for the school district's plan because it was the only possibility at that time.

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner explained in an interview last week that she presented Gov. Roy Cooper's recommendations to the board at a meeting during the last week of July and the board's vote was split 3-3.

Because the board deadlocked, the default policy was what Cooper recommended, which was a strong recommendation for masks but not a mandate.

Turner said that in the wake of the split vote the school district developed a mitigation plan based on the state's Strong Schools Toolkit. That is the plan that the board voted 4-2

to adopt. Spaugh noted she was among those who voted for a mask mandate at the July meeting. She said her support for mandatory masks is driven by a concern to keep schools open for in-person instruction and not have COVID-19 cases force a move to remote learning.

Turner noted that federal regulations require masking on school buses.

A link to the operating procedures that will be in place when students return Aug. 23 is attached to the school district's website, www.pq-

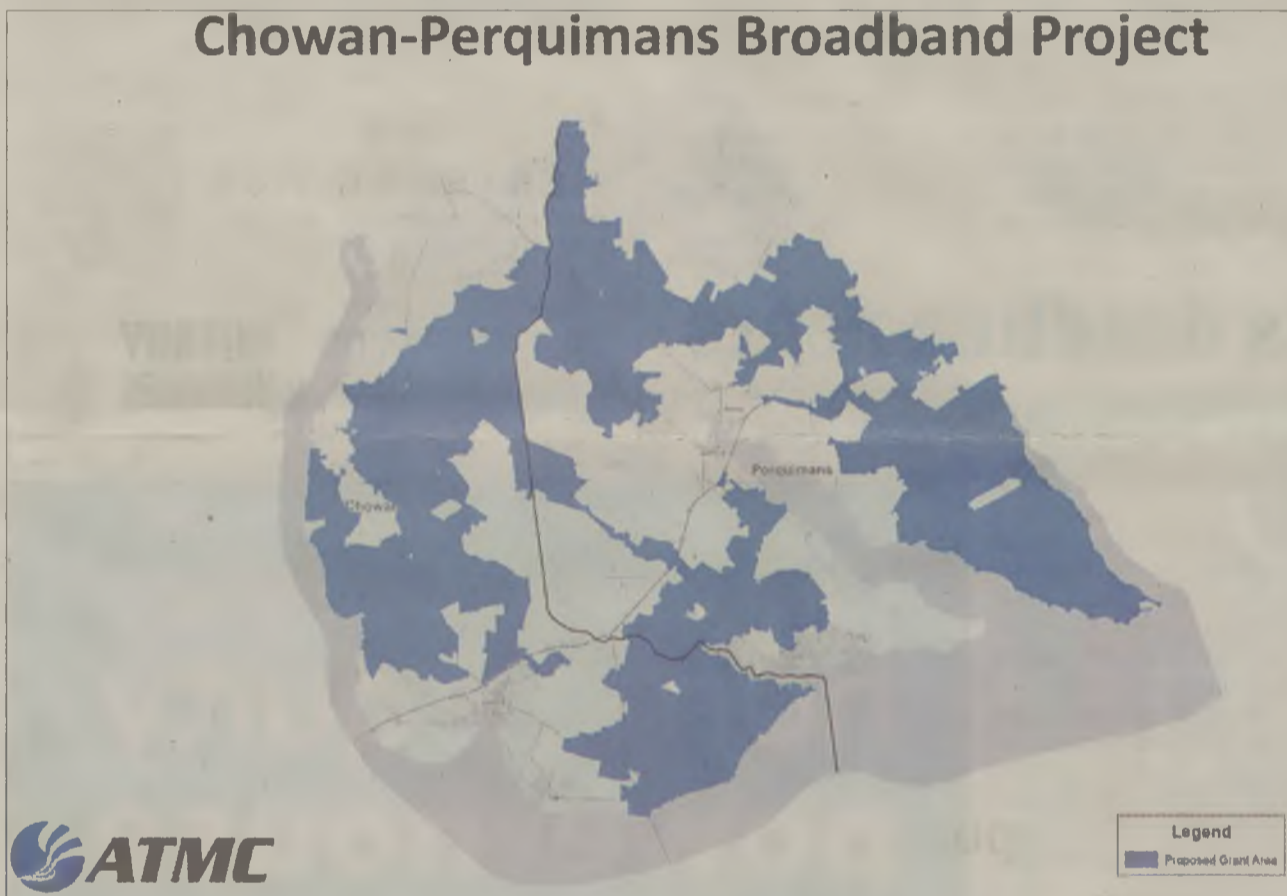
schools.org. Although masks are not required except on school transportation, "they are strongly recommended by health agencies and students and staff are recommended to wear them while indoors at school," Turner said in an email message last week.

"Wearing a mask serves as an added layer of protection for students and staff," Turner said in the message. "If at any point the school system meets certain thresholds as recommended by health officials,

See MASKS, A3

## Broadband boost

### Chowan-Perquimans Broadband Project



This map provided by Atlantic Telecommunications Membership Corporation shows in blue the areas of Perquimans and Chowan counties that would gain access to high-speed internet service if ATMC is awarded a federal grant it's seeking.

## Co-op seeks \$26M grant to bring high-speed internet in 2 counties

Rural parts of Perquimans, Chowan would benefit

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

A nonprofit telecommunications cooperative based in Brunswick County is applying for a federal grant to bring high-speed internet to rural sections of Chowan and Perquimans counties.

Representatives from Atlantic Telephone Mem-

bership Corporation made presentations at the Aug. 2 regular meetings of the boards of commissioners in Chowan and Perquimans counties. Both boards approved drafting and sending letters in support of ATMC's grant application.

Jody Huestess, ATMC's vice president for marketing and customer care, explained that if the grant is awarded the nonprofit plans to install 377 miles of fiber-optic cable. The total project



HUESTESS

\$2.9 million if it receives the grant.

The agency making the grants available for rural broadband projects is the

cost is \$28.8 million and the grant application is for 90 percent of that.

Huestess said ATMC would pitch in around

around 5,500 customers in the two counties — roughly

See BROADBAND, A3

## 1.2K sign petition to keep monument on courthouse green

Commissioners to consider monument's future Aug. 16

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Opponents of removing the Confederate monument from the courthouse green in Hertford presented a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to county officials Aug. 2.

Marta Colson quoted the petition's wording during the public comment portion of the Aug. 2 regular meeting of the Perquimans Board of Commissioners.

"The Monument commemorates those who died in the War Between the States, 1861-1865," the petition reads. "Those brothers, sons, fathers, grandfathers, husbands and loved ones who never came back, who were buried in mass graves. (The monument) has honored the dead for well over 100 years without objection from over 150 previous county commissioners. This



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Opponents of removing the Confederate monument from the courthouse green in Hertford presented a petition with more than 1,200 signatures to county officials Aug. 2.

monument serves as a grave marker also symbolizing the war is over."

Colson said that as a child

See MONUMENT, A6

## Brothers' residency complaint dismissed

Board: Brothers can run for Hertford council seat

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans elections officials have dismissed a complaint against a town council candidate that alleged she's not eligible to run because she's not a town resident.

The Perquimans County Board of Elections ruled Thursday that Connie Brothers is a Hertford resident and



BROTHERS

therefore eligible to run in the town's November election.

Brothers' residency had been challenged on July 16 by Councilman Quentin Jackson, one of two council incumbents seeking election in the November

See BROTHERS, A6

## Jackson arrested on citizen's threats complaint

Councilor's request for no contact with Morrissey denied

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

A Hertford town councilor says a



JACKSON

Councilor Quentin Jackson said Friday that Chief District Court Judge Edgar Barnes denied his request for a no-contact order against Patrick Morrissey, calling his request a retaliatory action.

judge has denied his request for a no-contact order against a local businessman who filed a criminal complaint against him following the two men's heated exchange at a town council meeting.

Jackson sought the no-contact order against Morrissey after Morrissey filed a criminal complaint against the councilor charging him with communicating threats. Jackson said he was arrested on Aug. 4 based on Morrissey's complaint.

Morrissey said he received notice that a hearing on Jackson's petition will be held Aug. 25. He said he's working on his response to submit to the court but basically plans to state Jackson's allegations are untrue and the petition should be rejected.

Morrissey took out the criminal complaint against Jackson July 12

in the wake of an incident at the July 6 meeting of the Hertford Town Council. Morrissey approached the council dais during a verbal confrontation with Jackson. Jackson threatened to knock Morrissey out or "put him to sleep," according to Morrissey's complaint.

Jackson, who denies any wrongdoing in the incident, was released on a \$500 unsecured bond following his arrest.

Jackson said he stood up as Morrissey approached the council dais because he anticipated a confrontation with the businessman.

"I can't stand in a corner to let

him get to me," he said.

In seeking the no-contact order against Morrissey, Jackson said Friday that the businessman's complaint against him "was the final straw for me."

Jackson said he would not have sought the no-contact order against Morrissey had Morrissey not pressed the criminal complaint against him.

Jackson said he is now seeking a hearing in District Court on Barnes' ruling. He said the judge made his ruling on the no-contact request ex parte, without any of the parties affected present in court.



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