

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

\$1.00

SCAN ME



PAGE A2
PCRA's Jollification will go on as planned



PAGE A6
Pirates volleyball wins, moves to top of conference standings



PAGE A6
Perquimans soccer picks up pair of victories

412 29 9 ##
*****CAR-RT LOT#8 008
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
514 S CHURCH ST
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225

Council backs Riverfront Community Development Plan

Plan: Expand Missing Mill Park amenities, build amphitheater

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council has officially endorsed a redevelopment plan aimed at promoting a mix of tourism, commerce, recreation and housing in the town's riverfront and downtown areas.

Adoption of the Riverfront Community Development Plan is intended to strengthen the town's chances of success when applying for future development grants.

At a special meeting of the town council Sept. 23, Mayor Pro tem Ash-

ley Hodges' motion to approve a resolution supporting the plan passed with Councilman Quentin Jackson casting the lone dissenting vote.

Hodges, Councilman Jerry Mimitsch and Mayor Earnell Brown all voted for the resolution. Council Frank Norman was absent from the meeting.

Adoption of the plan was originally on the agenda for the council's Sept. 13 regular meeting. When the council did not get to that agenda item it was rescheduled along with several other matters to the Sept. 23 special meeting.

Jackson explained before the vote that he would be voting against the resolution because it would position the town council as supporting the

RCD plan. Jackson said some of the things in the plan are not feasible for the town.

"I know some of you guys are really pushing, pushing this plan, and have been pushing for this waterfront plan," Jackson said. But Jackson said he was concerned the plan could "essentially gentrify the town of Hertford."

Gentrification typically describes the process where the character of a neighborhood changes because of an influx of more affluent residents and businesses. It's usually controversial because it sometimes leads to traditional residents having to leave because they can no longer afford the higher property taxes that come with

See RIVERFRONT, A8



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Town Council has endorsed a redevelopment plan aimed at promoting a mix of tourism, commerce, recreation and housing in the town's riverfront and downtown areas. One of the Riverfront Community Development Plan's proposals expands amenities at Missing Mill Park.

Home, sweet home



PHOTOS COURTESY CHOWAN-PERQUIMANS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Tavia Spence, shown with her kids, Taveyon, 13; Taviyah, 11; and J'Teyah, 8, moved into their new home at 319 Dobbs Street in Hertford in May. The Spences were selected to be Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity's 20th partner family. The entire Spence family had a hand in the remodel of their new home.

Despite COVID, Habitat finishes 3 homes

Pandemic limited number of workers at project sites

From staff reports

Although the past year and a half has been a unique time because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's been business as usual for Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity. Despite the constraints imposed

See HABITAT, A3



Imani Rayner, a nurse at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation, was raising her three daughters in a rental home when she and her family were selected as Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity's 21st partner family for this brand-new home at 300 N. Oakum Street in Edenton. Rayner's home was completed in February, and sold to Rayner and her family in early March.

PAL to mark opening of new space Oct. 9

Arts group to feature works of artist, sculptor Alexis Joyner

From staff reports

After nine months of renovations, the Perquimans Arts League's new space at 133 N. Church Street is ready to open.



JOYNER

Alexis Joyner.

Joyner's work of wooden sculptures and paintings often reflect the relationships between mother and child, or social issues and concerns, PAL said in a press release. Through "visual sermonettes" his work is often an effort to get the public to under-

stand the suffering of Black women. At the same time, Joyner wants to honor them.

Joyner's works have been exhibited extensively and are included in many public and private collections. Among the institutions that include his works are Chattanooga State Technical College, Elizabeth City State University, the Hampton University Museum, the Daura Gallery at Lynchburg College, the Greenville Museum of Art, the Governor's Mansion of North Carolina, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York City Public Library.

A native of Southampton County,

See PAL, A3

Council votes to fire Town Clerk Simpson

Councilors agreed to dismiss Simpson by a 3-2 vote

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Hertford Town Council have decided by a split vote to terminate the employment of the town clerk, according to a member of the council.

According to Councilman Quentin Jackson, the motion to terminate Town Clerk Olga Simpson's employment with the town passed with Mayor Earnell Brown, Mayor Pro tem Ashley Hodges and Councilman Jerry Mimitsch voting in favor, and Jackson and Councilman Frank Norman voting against it.

Jackson said Brown made

the motion.

Brown and Hodges both declined to say anything about the vote last week, referring all questions to Town Manager Pam Hurdle.

Hurdle said she was not authorized to speak on personnel matters and referred all questions to the town council.

The town council went into closed session at the end of its regular meeting Sept. 13.

The online recording of the meeting ended with the vote to go into closed session.

No reason has been cited by any town officials for the action, which is not unusual in personnel matters.

At a meeting a couple of

See CLERK, A3



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Fans of the Perquimans County High School Pirates root on their team in the grandstand at Jim "Catfish" Hunter Field last season. A campaign to raise \$100,000 toward the cost of a new grandstand has raised more than \$30,000 to date.

Grandstand campaign one-third toward goal

Lassiter: Effort has raised \$30K of \$100K needed

From staff reports

Less than a month in, the campaign to raise \$100,000 toward the cost of a new baseball grandstand at Perquimans County High School is nearly a third of the way toward its goal.

Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the Perquimans Schools Foundation, said this week the

campaign has raised more than \$30,000. That includes one "Homerun" donation of \$5,000, 18 donations of \$1,000 at the campaign's Triple level, and other donations for either \$250 or \$500, which are the campaign's Single and Double giving levels, respectively. The schools foundation announced the kickoff of the \$100,000 fundraising campaign earlier this month to build a new 470-seat

See GRANDSTAND, A3

Jollification

HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Saturday, October 2ND 2021

Music by "Uphill"

Tickets: TOUR & DINNER: \$35 per person TOUR ONLY: \$25 per person

CALL 252-426-7567 FOR TICKETS