

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021

\$1.00



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Dollar Tree-Family Dollar store to open for business today



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Local NSDAR chapter honors ARHS for work during pandemic



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Perquimans' White wins another cross country race

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PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
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Perquimans opposes possible district shift

Heath: Draft map removes county from 1st House District

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Perquimans officials and county residents are expressing concern about the prospect of Perquimans being removed from the 1st House District when new legislative districts are drawn. County Manager Frank Heath told Perquimans commissioners

Monday night that he had seen a draft redistricting map that removes the county from the 1st House District and moves it into a district with other counties to the south, including Carteret County.

Heath said he advised area legislators that the counties in the northeastern corner of the state have always worked closely together and that Perquimans has no history of working with, for example, Carteret County. Besides Perquimans, the 1st House District currently includes Camden, Chowan, Bertie,

Tyrrell and Washington counties and is represented by state Rep. Eddie Goodwin, R-Chowan.

A number of Perquimans residents presented a similar plea at a public hearing on redistricting that was held in mid-September at the K.E. White Center at Elizabeth City State University. The hearing was one of 13 held across the state to gather public input on how the General Assembly should redraw electoral districts. Lawmakers in North Carolina redraw both legislative and congressional districts

every 10 years to reflect population shifts shown in new Census data.

Asked this week about Heath and Perquimans' residents' concerns, Goodwin said he was unable to comment on current or proposed districts because the General Assembly has been sued in the past over redistricting.

A number of different maps reportedly have been developed at universities and think tanks in the state. One of those maps is apparently what some Perquimans res-

idents have seen and which has sparked the concern.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that House and Senate remapping committee leaders could begin drawing boundaries Wednesday in committee rooms that will be open to the public, with activity and maps drawn by computer streamed online. It'll likely be at least two weeks before plans are debated and voted upon, giving members time to experiment and build consensus with colleagues, The AP reported.

Sarah Smiles



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Sarah Ashlee Jordan, 18, is crowned 2021 Miss Chowan County Regional Fair by Jaden Sawyer, 2019 Miss Chowan County Regional Fair, at the fair on Saturday, Oct. 2. Jordan, a 2021 graduate of Perquimans County High School, is a freshman at Appalachian State University where she's majoring in social work. She hopes to become a clinical social worker after graduation.

Jordan looks forward to helping others

PCHS grad named Miss Chowan Regional Fair

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Sarah Ashlee Jordan is all smiles when she's on stage but she also understands that life can be difficult and even painful.

Because of her compassion for people who are hurting, the 2021 Miss Chowan County Regional Fair is studying social work and plans to work as a clinical

social worker and counselor.

But back to the smile for a moment: During the pageant at the Chowan County Regional Fair Oct. 2, Jordan was beaming throughout the competition, including during the strenuous activity of dancing in the talent portion of the contest.

Jordan, 18, who is the daughter of Wayne and Susan Jordan of Hertford, has been dancing at Edenton Dance Stars since she was 2. Instructor Wanda Rossman choreographed the dance

that she performed in the pageant.

Jordan said Rossman choreographed the dance a couple of years ago so she had to relearn it for the pageant. Rehearsing the dance was something she enjoyed, she said, and performing it on stage was something she liked even more.

Jordan said she first started thinking about competing in the pageant after her sister Samantha Jordan Wagner won it in 2015 and her cousin Courtney Perry won in 2016.

"I decided that it's something that I really wanted to do," she said.

Right now her sights are set on a career as a clinical social worker and counselor. The 2021 graduate of Perquimans County High School is enrolled at Appalachian State University, where she is majoring in social work.

Jordan, who says she's benefited from therapy herself, would like to be able to provide therapy to help

See JORDAN, A3

Judge sentences Jackson to 5 days in jail; he appeals

Hertford councilor found guilty of threatening citizen

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — A district court judge ordered Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson to serve five days in jail after finding him guilty Wednesday of threatening a local citizen at a town council meeting this summer.

But Jackson won't be serving the sentence anytime soon. According to Perquimans County court officials, the councilman appealed District Court Judge Amber Davis' ruling.

Davis found Jackson guilty of threatening Patrick Morrissey during the July 6 town council meeting. Davis sentenced Jackson to serve 120 days in jail, but suspended the sentence and ordered the councilman to serve 12 months of supervised probation instead.

Davis did sentence Jackson to an active jail term of five days and ordered him



JACKSON

to pay \$75, plus the costs of court, and to have no direct or indirect contact with Morrissey.

Court officials said Jackson was placed under \$5,000 unsecured bond after he filed notice of his appeal.

Jackson declined to comment on Davis' ruling when reached Wednesday.

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 has said he stood up as Morrissey approached the council dais because he

See JACKSON, A3

County hopes to meet with Union monument owners

Heath, Nelson, Leigh to also meet on signage proposal

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County officials hope to meet soon with the owners of the Colored Union Soldiers monument to discuss its possible relocation to the county courthouse property.

Trying to get the monument moved from King Street to the courthouse is one of two recommendations a study group recently made. The group was tasked by county commissioners with coming up with recommendations about what the county should do about the Confederate monument on the courthouse green.

Some citizens have complained about the Confederate monument, saying it should be removed because it's a remnant of white supremacy and was erected at



PHOTO COURTESY AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE OF NORTHEAST NC

Perquimans County officials hope to set up a meeting with the owners of the Colored Union Soldiers monument on King Street to discuss moving it to the Perquimans County Courthouse green.

a time when Black citizens in Hertford were denied both civil and political rights. County Manager Frank

See MONUMENT, A3

Layden looking to boost visitation

Marketing specialist took over as county tourism director Sept. 1

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Stacey Layden is fascinated with the history of Perquimans County and is ready to spark a similar fascination for people near and far.

Layden took over as the new director of tourism for the Perquimans County Tourism Development Authority Sept. 1. The tourism director position had been vacant about a year since the departure of Sharon Smith.

Layden brings a background in marketing to her new role as tourism director. She worked previously as a marketing and events specialist with the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and also helped local businesses market their goods and services as a freelance marketing consultant.

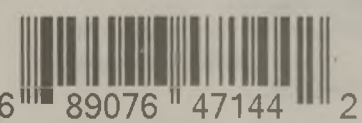
Layden, who grew up in Greenville and lived for several years in Wilmington, graduated from East Carolina University in 2007 with a degree in business



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Stacey Layden, the new director of the Perquimans County Tourism Development Authority, stands next to the Perquimans River on Wednesday, Oct. 6. Layden, who lives in Belvidere, began her new job on Sept. 1.

See LAYDEN, A3



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