

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CHAMPS

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keeping the Pirates' 3-1 advantage the same.

In the bottom of the fifth, Macon Winslow got his second hit of the day as he launched a one-hopper off the left-center field fence for a one-out double.

With runners on the corners, Meads, once again, had a one-run single to build the Pirates' lead to 4-1.

"(Meads) showed the toughness of a champion," Roberson said. "That's the guy I want with me if I'm going to war. That's the guy. He was willing to do whatever it took: come pitch, go play left (field), give me an at-bat. Whatever it was, 'Coach, I'm ready. I'm going to bring you home.' Hats off to that kid today for his mental toughness."

"There's no better feeling in the world than that adrenaline rush you get in games like this," Meads added lat-

er. "There's nothing like it in this world I can ever compare the feeling of going up there and successfully getting a hit to get a run to help your team out."

Jackson Russell added a one-run single immediately after and an error on an attempted double play of Eli Gregory forced in another run to make it 6-1 Perquimans after five.

Maddux Thach came in to pitch the top of the sixth. After a walk and a couple of errors loaded the bases for the Ironmen, Roberson brought Thach's older brother Tanner, then playing first base, back in to pitch.

Tanner Thach's first pitch resulted in a Huss one-out single. A ground-out to second in the next at-bat made the score 6-3, but Thach got out of the jam after that.

With three outs to go for a second straight championship, Thach got the next two outs relatively quickly

but an infield single and walk used up his legal pitch count. So back to the mound came Meads.

Meads threw 14 pitches in Game 2 earlier in the day and made 70 in his 4.1-inning Game 3 start. He struck out six, allowed five hits and even caught a line drive to the mound that was highlight-reel worthy.

A couple of pitches into Meads' second Game 3 appearance, a Tobias Miller fly ball to center field was caught by Jackson Russell, allowing Meads to finish what he started, and the championship celebration began.

It was the exact kind of response to the Game 2 loss that Roberson was looking for from his players.

"I just told them, 'Hey look, man, we've been together this long, just leave it on the field, go back to having fun. Just be loose and play your game, play for each other, be there for each other, love each oth-

er," Roberson said, "and they did that."

"They played for each other, what a team win. Everybody contributed. Just an amazing, amazing experience," he said.

It was a fitting way for the nine seniors who started playing together well before high school to go out.

Ty Nixon, Jackson Russell, Eli Gregory, Colby Brown, Jakob Meads, Mason Byrum, Jett Winslow, Trent Byrum and Tanner Thach finished their high school careers helping lead the program to back-to-back championships.

They did one better than the 1964 Perquimans Pirates who also reached the final round for a second year in a row, but couldn't complete a repeat of their 1963 championship.

That team featured the late Jim "Catfish" Hunter, the great uncle of Roberson, and Wayne Winslow, Jett Winslow's grandfather.

"It feels great to do what

he did and even more and set school history for sure,"

Jett Winslow, one of the 2022 team's most vocal leaders, said.

Winslow, Meads and Thach all mentioned after the game how the same group of guys have played baseball with each other ever since they were much younger.

It's an end of an era and even more so for some as Meads noted he's done with baseball after Saturday's championship celebration.

(Perquimans baseball's) meant everything to me since I was 8 or 9 years old," Meads said. "We were grown up in Pirate baseball. It means a lot and I was raised basically off of it. It's something I'll always have inside of me."

For someone like Thach, his baseball career seems far from over. He's set to play for UNC-Wilmington next spring, and even the

Edenton Steamers this summer.

An illustrious high school baseball career saw the lefty dominate on the mound time after time this season. He also belted 12 home runs at the plate.

Thach is not only a back-to-back champion; he's also a back-to-back state championship most valuable player thanks in large part to his one-hitter complete game in Game 1 Friday night.

Asked about the accomplishment, Thach said he cared far more about the team's historic achievement than the individual accolade.

"It feels so awesome," Thach said. "Dream come true. I've been playing with these guys my whole life. Not every high school senior gets to go out with tears of joy, so that's what we were looking for and we got it."

BUDGET

Continued from A1

If the budget proposal by interim Town Manager Janice Cole is approved, the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay \$95 more in property taxes but pay about \$120 less for electricity.

"For a resident whose home is worth the median property value for the Town of Hertford, which is \$132,400, the rise in their annual property tax payment will be offset by their monthly savings in their electric bill," Cole said.

told town councilors in the budget message attached to the recommended budget. "It will have a costlier impact on those whose homes are of higher value and energy efficient, but this is an equitable solution."

The recommended budget would increase the property tax rate from 55.5 cents per \$100 of valuation to 65 cents. Electric rates, meanwhile, would fall from 12.17 cents per kilowatt

hour to 11.17 cents per kWh.

"That will then put Hertford's electric rate more in line with what is charged in Elizabeth City and Edenton and less than what is charged by Albemarle Electric," Cole's budget message states.

The budget message notes that those who live in public housing or rent their homes and use the average amount of electricity, which is 1,000 kWh a month, will save about 10 percent or roughly \$120 a year on their electric bill.

A public hearing on Hertford's recommended budget for 2022-23 will be held Wednesday at 6 p.m. Under state law, town council must adopt a balanced budget by June 30.

Cole's proposed budget doesn't recommend increasing water or sewer rates. However, rate increases adopted last year but never implemented would go into effect July 1 under the plan.

Cole's budget message explains that the water and sewer rate hikes were not

implemented this fiscal year because of a computer software limitation.

The recommended budget increases funding for Hertford's Street Department and Planning Department, which Cole noted reflects the town council's strategic goal of pursuing a town appearance that residents can be proud of.

"These increases will allow us to do more to improve our roadways and act on the vacant, abandoned and neglected houses," Cole's message states.

The recommended budget increases funding for capital improvements in wastewater treatment. It also includes a 3% cost-of-living increase for town employees.

The budget message explains that the recommended budget also discontinues the practice of transferring excess revenue from the town's electric fund to the general fund to offset some of the cost of town operations.

"If there is excess money

in this fund that can be transferred out to the General Fund then it means that the electric rate that we are charging our residents is higher than it needs to be to support the Electric Department operations and maintenance," Cole's budget message states. "Now there is nothing illegal about this practice (of transferring electric revenue). The courts have upheld it, but just because it is legal does not mean that it is equitable."

The budget message also cites, in support of the electric rate reduction, a statement in the town's Strategic Plan that "we must always maintain the public trust by speaking truth, being transparent, and listening always."

"We are not speaking truth if we impose a higher than necessary rate on our residents causing them to carry a burden that should be elsewhere," Cole's budget message states.

JUNETEENTH

Continued from A1

A freedom march will take place around 11:20 a.m. beginning at the Colored Union Soldiers Monument at the intersection of King Street and Hyde Park, and ending at Central Park.

Obakunie Akinlana, a storyteller who uses drums, shekeres, and other African musical instruments to present African folktales, also will be featured during the event. The shekere is a West African percussion instrument consisting of a dried gourd with beads or cowries woven into a net covering the gourd.

Akinlana's appearance is being sponsored by the N.C. Association of Black Storytellers Inc. Since 1985, Akinlana has performed as a storytell-

er, lecturer and percussionist throughout the United States and West Africa.

He travels annually to West Africa to learn traditional stories and to observe and perform with African griots and musicians. His programs focus on the arts and folklore of the Yoruba people of southwestern Nigeria, a culture he has studied for more than three decades.

Akinlana performs at festivals, colleges, universities, community centers, libraries, schools, and other events.

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the U.S., commemorating June 19, 1865, the date when enslaved people in Texas finally learned the Confederacy had lost the Civil War. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House two months earlier, ending slavery

across the South and in border states.

Slavery did not end in Texas, however, until U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and publicly announced General Orders No. 3, which state: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

Juneteenth was first celebrated in Texas on June 19, 1866, a year after Granger arrived with the news that both the war and slavery had ended. Its celebration then spread across the country.

The Hertford celebration is being sponsored by the town of Hertford in partnership with the N.C. Arts Council and Perquimans Arts League. The free event will also feature vendors and food trucks.

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Perquimans County Schools Federal Grants Review
EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT OF 2015 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NOTICE

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title III requires that each local education agency submit a Title III application to receive federal funds. The federal funds are used to provide instructional activities and services to help English Language Learners meet high standards. A meeting will be held Thursday, June 16th, 2022 at 4:00pm in person at the Perquimans County Central Office, for the purpose of sharing information with the public concerning the programs and give participants an opportunity to provide input for planning and implementation. In addition, the ESSA Title III application is open to public review and for comments during the week of June 13- June 17, 2022 in the office of Dr. Kanika Griffin, Chief Academic Officer of Student Services at Perquimans County Schools Central Office, which is located at 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Please contact Mrs. Crystal Hall, Administrative Assistant, at 252-426-5741 ext. 234 to schedule an appointment.

Abierto para revisión
TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES EXITAN LA LEY DE 2015 AVISO DE PARTICIPACIÓN PÚBLICA

El Título III de la Ley de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (ESEA) requiere que cada agencia de educación local presente una solicitud de Título III para recibir fondos federales. Los fondos federales se utilizan para proporcionar actividades y servicios educativos para ayudar a los estudiantes del idioma inglés a cumplir con altos estándares. Se llevará a cabo una reunión el miércoles 16 de junio de 2022 a las 4:00 pm con el propósito de compartir información con el público sobre los programas y brindar a los participantes la oportunidad de brindar información para la planificación y la implementación. Además, la solicitud del Título III de la ESSA está abierta a revisión pública y comentarios durante la semana del 13 al 17 de junio de 2022 en la oficina de la Dra. Kanika Griffin, Directora Académica de Servicios Estudiantiles, en la Oficina Central de las Escuelas del Condado de Perquimans, que se encuentra en 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Comuníquese con la Sra. Crystal Hall, Asistente Administrativa, al 252-426-5741 ext 234 para programar una cita.

Title I and Title II Federal Grant Review

Perquimans County Public Schools is in the process of amending Federal grants including Title I and Title II for the 2022-23 school year. The projects describe the special programs that Perquimans County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2022-23 school year. A meeting will be held Wednesday, June 16th, 2022 at 4:00pm in person at the Perquimans County Central Office, for the purpose of sharing information with the public concerning the programs and give participants an opportunity to provide input for planning and implementation. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the project and make comments concerning the implementation of the programs under these Federal Programs. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Title I and Title II plans are open to the public for review and comments during the week of June 13 - June 17, 2022, in the office of Mr. James Bunch, Assistant Superintendent, at Perquimans County Schools Central Office, which is located at 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Please contact Mrs. Shatasha Miller, Youth Development Coordinator, at 252-426-5741 ext. 239 to schedule an appointment.

Revisión de las subvenciones federales del Título I y del Título II

Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Perquimans están en proceso de enmendar las subvenciones federales, incluidos el Título I y el Título II, para el año escolar 2022-23. Los proyectos describen los programas especiales que las Escuelas del Condado de Perquimans proponen para el financiamiento federal para el año escolar 2022-23. Se llevará a cabo una reunión el miércoles 16 de junio de 2022 a las 4:00 pm en persona en la Oficina Central del Condado de Perquimans, con el propósito de compartir información con el público sobre los programas y brindarles a los participantes la oportunidad de brindar información para la planificación y la implementación. Se anima a las personas a revisar las enmiendas al proyecto y hacer comentarios sobre la implementación de los programas bajo estos Programas Federales. Todos los comentarios serán considerados antes de la presentación del Proyecto enmendado al Departamento de Instrucción Pública de Carolina del Norte en Raleigh, Carolina del Norte. Los planes de Título I y Título II están abiertos al público para revisión y comentarios durante la semana del 13 de junio al 17 de junio de 2022 en la oficina del Sr. James Bunch, Asistente del Superintendente, en la Oficina Central de las Escuelas del Condado de Perquimans, que se encuentra en 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Comuníquese con la Sra. Shatasha Miller, Coordinadora de Desarrollo Juvenil, al 252-426-5741 ext 239 para programar una cita.