

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

\$1.50

266 8 HER_944_8 ##
*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
514 S CHURCH ST
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225

SCAN ME



INSIDE
Summer 2023 edition of Albemarle Magazine explores 'Yoga on the Green'



PAGE 3
PCRA's 30th annual Garden Party draws 80, raises \$12K



PAGE 7
ECU Health Chohan Hospital hosts golf tourney

Celebrating Juneteenth



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Leading the Juneteenth Freedom March in Hertford are (l-r) Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges, Town Councilwoman Connie Brothers, Perquimans County Commissioner Joseph Hoffer, and Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown.

Storyteller: Juneteenth holiday for all

Akinlana performed libation ceremony at Hertford event

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Obakunle Akinlana seeks to spread the word that Juneteenth is a holiday for all Americans

— a message he brought to Hertford's Juneteenth celebration on Monday.

"This needs to be known as a holiday of celebration, not a Black holiday," Akinlana, a professional storyteller and member of the N.C. Association of Black Storytellers, said in an interview at the town's celebration.

The celebration of Juneteenth began years ago, but "has been hidden in certain communities," he said. "It's beginning to spread, but an effort is still needed to make sure younger people find out about it."

Akinlana said Juneteenth does not exclude white Americans. He noted white

Union soldiers delivered news of emancipation to Black residents of Galveston, Texas, in the historical event that Juneteenth commemorates.

"It's a new day and everybody needs to come together," Akinlana said.

See **HERTFORD, A6**

Perquimans OKs budget with a 3-cent tax hike

County to spend \$500K more on schools, employee COLA

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County property tax rate will increase by 3 cents to 64 cents per \$100 property valuation following commissioners' adoption of the county's 2023-24 budget Monday night.

The spending plan, which takes effect July 1, holds the line on other fees. The county's solid waste fee will remain at \$160 a year for each household and business. The county's water rate will also remain at \$17.50 for the minimum bill and \$9 per 1,000 gallons after the first

1,000 gallons.

Additional costs related to schools and county personnel are among the spending increases cited for the proposed tax rate hike. Also, a 5% cost-of-living adjustment for county employees will cost about \$225,000.

Following a public hearing Monday night, Commissioner Kyle Jones' motion to adopt the budget as presented passed unanimously.

Local operating funds for schools in the budget will be \$3.4 million, up from the \$3.1 million the county provided in the current budget year. That's about \$400,000 less than the \$3.8 million the school board requested in local

See **PERQUIMANS, A6**

Chowan approves budget without fee, tax rate hikes

County workers to get 3% COLA, teachers to see boost

BY VERNON FUESTON
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Chowan commissioners approved the county's \$19.4 million budget for 2023-24 Monday that holds the line on taxes and fees but awards both county employees and local teachers a pay boost.

The approved spending plan for the fiscal year that starts July 1 spends \$950,000 more than the current year's budget. Its additional expenses were offset by higher sales tax revenue and interest income from interest-bearing investments, said County Manager Kevin Howard.

The budget includes funding to pay for a 3% cost-of-living increase for county workers.

Chowan County's Department of Social Services also received money to hire two new employees to cover the expected rise in participation in Medicaid following the state's agreement in April to expand the insurance program for the poor and low-income workers.

The 911 Communications Department will also get new workers, but the Sheriff's Department received pay increases to help hire new officers in the current budget.

There were some changes in the new budget. Teachers

See **CHOWAN, A6**

500 attend Edenton's first celebration

Monument protesters take part in march on Broad Street

BY VERNON FUESTON
Staff Writer

EDENTON — About 500 Edentonians and visitors gathered at the town's waterfront park Saturday to celebrate America's final

step in 1865 toward eradicating slavery.

It was the first year that Edenton officially celebrated Juneteenth, which became a federal holiday in 2021.

Juneteenth celebrates the moment when 250,000 enslaved people in Texas were informed that the Confederacy had been defeated, free-

ing them under Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

That proclamation freed enslaved people in enemy territory once Union troops liberated those lands. It was not until 1865 that Texas was occupied, abolishing slavery.

Erika Alexander of Edenton, was among those who

gathered along Broad Street for a Juneteenth parade that kicked off Saturday's event. She said Juneteenth is more than a celebration.

"It's a recognition of history," she said. "It's a recognition of overcoming obstacles that we face, particularly those in Texas who

See **EDENTON, A6**

DAR to have key role at Clams' game

Tea Party Chapter to also host Fourth of July Ceremony

From staff reports

EDENTON — The Edenton Tea Party Chapter of the

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will again play a leading role at the Edenton Steamers' upcoming "Military Appreciation Night," Sunday, July 2.

Not only will the chapter be donating funds toward the cost of the fireworks show following the Steamers' home game at Historic Hicks Field against the Tarboro River Bandits, chapter

See **DAR, A6**

Interpretive signs go up near monument

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — More than a year after being approved by county officials, interpretive signs were installed last week near the foot of the Confederate Soldiers Monument on the lawn of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Perquimans County Commissioner Joseph W. Hoffer, who originally sought to have the Confederate monument removed from the courthouse green, said he appreciates the historical context that the

signs provide the monument.

"I never thought I would say this, but it is better than moving the monument," Hoffer said of the interpretive signs. "It educates people about the Civil War. I like the educational aspect of it. I like that better."

The signs consist of bronze panels inlaid on granite markers placed at either side of a brick walkway around the monument.

One panel reads: "Residents of Perquimans County unveiled this

See **MONUMENT, A6**



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Perquimans County Commissioner Joseph W. Hoffer's shadow covers part of the interpretive sign now in place near the Confederate Soldiers Monument on the lawn of the Perquimans County Courthouse.



Every day is Saturday...
at PerquimansWeekly.com

News updates, events, scores, all updated during the week.
Stop by perquimansweekly.com for the latest on your local community.



More about your community every day at Perquimansweekly.com