

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Graduation 2017, 4

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

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50 cents

County adopts budget but open to changes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission voted to adopt the final budget for 2017-18 as presented Monday night, but left the door open for more capital funding for schools if needed.

The budget includes no increase in the 57 cents per \$100 in valuation tax rate. It does include a \$250,000 in Emergency Medical Services to improve the training and equipment for paramedics re-

sponding to emergencies.

Only one person spoke in the public hearing part of the process. Alan Lennon called on the board to increase spending for schools, especially for teacher supplemental salaries and funding teacher's assistants.

He called last year's decision to raise the tax rate to 57 "reactive" and a response to falling property values.

"This is an opportunity to be proactive," he said. He said raising the rate by two cents would gen-



LEIGH

erate \$280,000 a year. He said that works out to about \$30 per month for a typical homeowner.

"When you look at it by the month I think taxpayers will say 'I can handle that,'" Lennon said.

Lennon ran for county commissioner in the last election.

The budget vote was 5-0 in fa-

vor. Chairman Kyle Jones did not attend the meeting because he had to attend a conference in Winston Salem. Vice Chair Fondella Leigh presided over the budget discussion.

Commissioner Joseph Hoffler said he would like to give more money for schools, but he didn't have a certain figure in mind. Hoffler however was opposed to hiring a fourth School Resource Officer. The new budget already includes hiring a third school-based deputy, but Superintendent

Matthew Cheeseman was pushing for one for all four schools.

Cheeseman did not address the board Monday, but he did present written comments. A fight at Perquimans County High School last year left a dozen teachers injured. The same SRO that handles the high school rotates to Hertford Grammar School and the deputy was at HGS at the time the fight broke out.

Hoffler called hiring a fourth

See BUDGET, 3

Golf tourney changing

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Albemarle Plantation is no stranger to putting on pro golf tournaments. It's hosted three over the previous three years, and brought in young golfers working their way towards a spot on the PGA.



LOUGHLIN

But come June 26, the Plantation is poised to do a fourth one without using another organization to run it. It's also the first time it's hosted a pro event since the departure of Kenny Saunders, the long-time pro at The Plantation. Saunders left this spring for a new job in Tennessee.

Running the show this year for the Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Classic will be Tom Loughlin, a Plantation resident. He's confident the event will be a success.

"The biggest thing that is different is we don't have a tour (to run it)," Loughlin said last week. "It's a little scary."

Loughlin said the Plantation made the call to do the tournament themselves after having mixed results using tours like the NGA in the past. Last year they used the Swing Thought tour.

But based on the turnout for the first Swing Thought tournament this year, Plan-

See GOLF, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Farrar will work with the department's newest K-9 named Roll.

New K-9 to join the force

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The newest Perquimans County Deputy has a special skills, was born in Germany and has four legs.

Within a week Roll, a black German shepherd, will be (pardon the pun) rolling in a sheriff's office SUV outfitted to handle a dog.

The sheriff's office hasn't had a K-9 on the staff for the

more than a year. Current Sheriff Shelby White was the K-9 officer when he served as an investigator and worked with Boz until the dog had to retire because of hip problems and was retired and went home with White to stay. Boz eventually had to be put to sleep.

"Hip displasia and arthritis worked on him, White said. "He got to where he couldn't jump."

The sheriff's office got X-

Rays of Roll to access his bone health. That and being 15-months old is a sign that he may be able to serve the county for eight or nine years, instead of six or seven for older dogs, White said.

Without a K-9 on staff, Perquimans deputies have had to ask other agencies in the area to borrow their dog.

The Currituck County Sher-

See K-9, 2

Boat basin funding approved

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The final state budget approved this week includes \$2,885,000 to start the boat basin at the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park.

Jordan Hennessy, an aide to Sen. Bill Cook, shared the news with Cathy Davison, the director of the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission. The Perquimans County money appears in page 410 of the state budget.

"Thank you to Sen. Bill Cook and Rep. Bob Steinburg for their support of the Perquimans Marine Industrial Park in negotiating the \$2,885,000 for the project into the conference committee budget. The Perquimans Marine Industrial Park is a project that not only has a valuable economic impact on Perquimans County, but a substantial impact on the region through committed investment, committed jobs and new businesses. The Albemarle Commission

See BOAT, 2

Regional agency looking to move

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After 40 years in the same location, the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission is looking to move.

Executive Director Cathy Davison says it shouldn't be moving far from the current Church Street location.

"It looks like we're going to stay in Perquimans County," Davison said on Monday.

She said the commission is looking at a site about a mile away on Har-

See MOVE, 2

Library fundraiser deadline looms

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Time is running out to get your memories on a special quilt that will be hung in the new Perquimans County Library.

The Perquimans County Library Board is selling the squares to raise money to properly furnish the new library. The deadline to get a quilt square is July 1.

Doug Layden, a library board

member, said 100 squares have been sold thus far. A traditional quilt has space for about 150 squares. The library will get \$90 of the \$100 fee and \$10 will go toward actually creating the square.

Albemarle Screenprinting and Embroidery will make the individual squares and the Perquimans County Quilters will use to create the actual quilt.

"If we sell 150 squares, that

will be successful for us," Layden said.

He hopes in the future more quilts can be sold that can be hung on display in the library. If we have more than one, we can rotate them from place to place," he said.

Buyers can pick from six colors — copen, cornflower, pear, honeydew, lemon and maize. There

See LIBRARY, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Librarian Michele Lawrence holds up an example of one of the quilt squares that will go into the final product that will hang in the new Perquimans County Library.

Coast Guard Petty Officer responds to pleas for help

From Staff Reports

A Hertford woman driving to drop off her daughter at a daycare before going to work at the U.S. Coast Guard



WILSON

base in Elizabeth City is being credited with helping a victim of a car accident on U.S. 17.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Nancy Wilson witnessed the accident as she was headed north on the same highway on June 7.

The other drive hit a ditch and rolled, ejecting its driver.

Wilson, a storekeeper at the base and self-described "paper pusher" immediately pulled over and turned on her hazard lights. She then

called 911 and notified the dispatcher that at least one person had been ejected from the crashed vehicle between the Foreman Bundy and Okisko Road Exits in Elizabeth City, according to a release from the Coast Guard.

Wilson, a Florida native, was on her way to drop off her 20-month old daughter,

Ayla, at daycare before going to work.

After the wreck Wilson took Ayla from her car seat and joined a small group gathered at the edge of a drainage ditch filled with murky brown water several yards from where the Tahoe left the road. She let them know help was on the way.

The group could not see

where the ejected driver was, but they could clearly hear the distressed man calling out for help. Wilson said she could hear the confusion and pain in his voice, coming from some tall grass and cattails on the other side of the water, about 20 feet from where they stood.

See HELP, 2

