

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019

County considers library lease

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Perquimans County will hold a hearing next month on a plan to lease the old Perquimans County Library to Historic Hertford Inc.

Commissioners were presented with a copy of the lease in advance of Monday's meeting. They were asked if they wanted to make any changes to it and none did.

The lease sets out an initial term of five years with the option to renew it up to five more times in increments of one year each. In exchange the county wants \$1 a year for lease payments.

The building has stood vacant since the Perquimans County Library moved from 110 W. Academy St. to a new \$2.5 million facility on Church Street in 2018.

The Town of Hertford expressed interest in the old library for a police station, but ultimately county officials agreed to extend the offer to HHI and the Carolina Moon Theater Group. The county board directed County Manager Frank Heath and Commission Chair Wallace Nelson to oversee the lease of the old library and talk to their counterparts at the town.

Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson made an appearance at Monday's county meeting to speak. Hertford was holding a









Rec League Volleyball, 7

75 cents

Schools seeking **\$4.1M**

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools system is asking the county for \$4.1 million in operating and capital funds for the next school year.

That's an \$800,000 increase over the \$3.3 million the schools got last year. Of that \$2.9 million was for operating costs, or "current expense" and \$475,000 for capital costs, for things like buildings or vehicles.

The \$4.1 million the school is seeking for next year breaks down to \$3.3 million for operating and \$764,000 for capital.

The State of North Carolina largely funds the salaries for classroom teachers, but counties are responsible for capital expenses. Most counties also pay a local "supplement" on top of the state salary to try and attract and retain quality teachers.

The current supplement of 3.25 percent costs about \$126,000. The new budget proposes raising that to 4 percent, increasing the total to \$156,000.

Three new positions would be added in the new budget. Two of them are for mental health workers. One would be funded for two years by a grant and the second would be funded for one year with another grant. There is \$50,000 in this proposed budget to fund the one-year position for a second year.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch said there is a

town workshop meeting at the same time. Without naming names, Jackson said the town wasn't being considered.

"They seem to want to talk to only those they want to talk to," Jackson said. "This is something we've wanted to discuss for five months.

Heath said he and Nelson did meet with Hertford Town Manager Pam Hurdle and Mayor Horace Reid, and while they expressed an interest in the building, they didn't offer specifics on what the building would be used for.

HHI and Carolina Moon currently leases two buildings from the Town of Hertford that may no longer be needed by the groups if the library lease moves forward. HHI uses one part of a building that once housed the Perquimans County Senior Center on Grubb Street. Carolina Moon's theater is in another part of the same building. Carolina Moon also uses a town-owned building across Grubb Street to store props and costumes.

While she didn't speak

See LIBRARY, 2

shortage of licensed school psychologists. Bunch was interim superintendent when the budget was put together.

When the last psychologist left, Perquimans school system, the district hasn't been able to find a replacement. The mental help social workers will help fill a gap.

"Mental health is a growing concern for not only for our district, but other dis-

See BUDGET, 2

Trent to be honored at holiday parade

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

Top, a crowd takes off

down Market Street for

a Star Wars-themed fun

run during the Riverbash

boats for a paddle event

Festival in Hertford

at Winfall Landing

on Saturday. Right, a

group assembles the

Park that was part of

a radio-controlled car

over a ramp at the

Hertford.

Festival.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Riverbash Festival in

Bottom right, people

Perquimans County

Recreation Center for a

jazz concert Sunday as

part of the Riverbash

sit outside at the

Riverbash. Bottom left,

takes flight after going

Dr. Maria Trent, a Perquimans County native and award-winning doctor at Johns Hopkins will be the grand marshal in an Independence Day parade in Hertford on July 6.

Trent earned her medical degree from the University of Chapel Med-1 ical School in 1995 and a PH degree from Harvard School of Public Health. She was named one of the nation's 100 most influential African-Americans for 2013. She and about why she got into the health on adolescent and young adult re-



TRENT

Center.

But her roots are in Hertford. In

her fellow honor- field.

Kerry

Lincoln

ees - including

Washington, Mag-

ic Johnson, Harry

Belafonte, Marian

Obama,

York's

"I grew up in a small rural town President Barack in North Carolina as part of a large extended family, so caring for children and aging relatives came with the territory. I attended the North Carolina School of Science and Wright Edelman Mathematics in Durham, which has and — were cel- an intense curriculum and early exebrated at New posure to health-related courses, so a health care career was a natural progression."

A major focus of Trent's research a Baltimore Sun article she talks and professional interest has been

productive health with specific focus on fertility preservation among high-risk youth.

Dr. Trent provides primary and subspecialty clinical care to children, adolescents, and young adults as a part of the Harriet Lane Program in the Johns Hopkins Children's Center.

The Perquimans County parade will be held July 6 starting at Hertford Grammar School. The route goes down Dobbs Street, takes a

See PARADE, 2

Murphy, Perry to face off in second primary

From Staff Reports

Two Republicans who are physicians will face off in a second primary this summer for the right to take on Democratic nominee Allen Thomas and the nominees



of the state Libertarian and Constitution parties for the vacant seat in North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District.

Dr. Greg Murphy, a urologic surgeon from Greenville, and Dr. Joan Perry, a pediatrician from Kinston, will compete for the GOP nomination in a runoff election on July 9.

Murphy, who is also a

See ELECTION, 2

DAY OF PRAYER



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Students from Perquimans County High School sing during a National Day of Prayer event last week on the Perquimans Courthouse lawn. For more, see the May 15 edition of The Perquimans Weekly.





BEAUCHAMP

Comedy to start Thursday

From Staff Reports

ater will present "The Savannah Sipping Society" on are drawn together by fate Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. each night.

The play is a comedy

about four unique Southern women, all needing to es-The Carolina Moon The- cape the sameness of their day-to-day routines. They — an impromptu happy

See COMEDY, 2