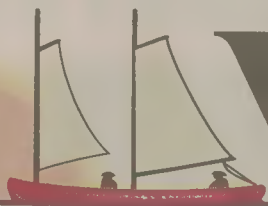


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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Museum exhibit to focus on Vietnam, 6

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

\$1.00

Plantation project may include plans for hotel

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Developers plan to take a proposal for a 2,400-unit second phase of Albemarle Plantation to the Perquimans County Commission next month.

The development would dwarf the size of Phase I, which has roughly 500 homes and includes a golf course, marina and clubhouse.

Phase II would be the largest single development in Perquimans County and could include an 80-unit hotel. It would be located across the road from the first phase and comprise about 1,500 acres with two miles of frontage on the Perquimans River.

The plans were approved last week by the Perquimans planning board. The next meeting of the county commission is Nov. 4.

The developers, Preserve Communities, have for so far termed the project "Albemarle Preserve" in keeping with the company's name.

Preserve is seeking approval of the project as a Planned Unit Development, or (PUD). The property is presently zoned for rural agriculture, but as a PUD, a three-story, 80 unit hotel could be allowed as well as homes, based on the plan-

ning board decision.

Under conventional zoning, a hotel is only allowed in the highway commercial zone.

"With a PUD you try and envision all the projected uses and try and have some flexibility that adjusts for the life of the project," said Bobby Masters, a spokesman for the developer.

He said any construction might not place until 2021 on a phase of the project.

"Everything we'll be doing depends on what people want."

He said one way to view the hotel is as place where people can come to stay at a resort and enjoy golf. Masters said it is not likely the hotel will part of the early development of the project.

Masters said the new project will be focused on what people want now.

"People really don't want large houses, but prefer

1,800 to 2,400 square feet."

He said some condos or townhouse units are included in the current design but he said those number only about 50 units.

If the county commission approves the project, the next step would be to build a first phase with about 100 lots, he said. That will require getting a preliminary and then final plat to show

See PROJECT, A2

SEWER REPAIRS



Heavy equipment excavates a hole in Market Street Monday as part of a project to replace aging sewer lines. The construction has forced the closure of some roads.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Jurors watch video of jail killings

BY SANDY SEMANS ROSS
 Correspondent

MANTEO — Jurors saw video of the grisly aftermath of a failed inmate escape attempt at Pasquotank Correctional Institution and heard from witnesses who lived through it during the first day of testimony in Mikel Brady's first-degree murder trial in Dare County on Monday.

Brady, who is charged



BRADY

showed no emotion as prosecutors showed video from a police officer's body camera that captured the carnage.

Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett opened Monday's court session by announcing that anyone displaying outbursts during testimony would be removed from the courtroom.

The first witness called was William Davis, a patrolman with the Elizabeth City Police Department, who said he was dispatched to PCI in response to a mutual aid request for law enforcement assistance to a report-

ed fire and attempted prison break.

Davis testified that he was directed by PCI staff to the prison's loading dock after his arrival. After arriving there, he said he was directed to the elevator shaft where he'll never forget the strong smell of blood.

Working with a nurse he knew — Michele Godfrey — who worked at the

See TRIAL, A2

Judge rejects complaint from Jackson

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

District Court Judge Amber Davis dismissed a complaint filed by Hertford Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson against a citizen he said was stalking him.

Jackson maintained Murielle Harmon had followed him and taken pictures of him driving the town's Chevy Tahoe. He also said Harmon was loud and aggressive at town meetings and got a temporary restraining order against her.

Judge Davis found that Jackson did not prove his case and so she dismissed the complaint.

"I didn't win, the town of Hertford won," Harmon said of the court case. "Hopefully people will realize you can't intimidate people. Hopefully this will bring out more people to the polls."

"She (Davis) told him if he really wanted to stay in the political arena, he'll have to develop thicker skin," Harmon said. "She said she had been threatened a couple of times with murder, but she said that didn't stop her from doing her job."

"There were three allegations, and he could not prove any of them. He did not prove I had taken the pictures, and that I was following him. And he said I was confrontational at town meetings and that was



JACKSON

causing him 'severe mental stress.'

Jackson is 34-years-old and stands over 6-foot

tall. Harmon is 76-years-old and stands 4-foot-10. Jackson declined to comment on the court decision.

While Jackson has two years remaining on his council seat, he is running for Mayor in November. He faces a challenge from Earnell Brown. Mayor Horace Reid decided not to seek re-election.

In court Jackson said he would appeal the ruling by Davis in the civil case, but Davis said he couldn't since she dismissed the case. He then he would seek criminal charges against Harmon. Davis said he hasn't shown he can meet the criteria for criminal charges.

Harmon said she doesn't plan on backing down. She will to continue to attend town meetings and question town officials when she thinks they are not acting in the public's interest.

She quoted Margaret Mead, the late American cultural anthropologist: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Board OKs use of lottery funds for schools

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission signed off on a request this month that will allow the school system to use \$105,000 in lottery money to pay for half the cost of replacing an aging heating and air control system that runs two schools.

The replacement of the DDC controls was already in the school system's high priority category in the capital budget for this year. It's been on the list for at least the past two years, but until now, project hasn't moved forward in part because of the high cost. To replace the entire system for Perquimans Central, Perquimans

County High School and the central office will cost \$210,000. The school system will match the lottery funds with \$105,000 from its own capital spending account.

The school system was hit with a series of unexpected failures at the start of the school year, including the loss of HVAC pumps beneath the PCHS auditorium. The pumps had to be replaced in order for a large portion of the high school to have air at the beginning of school in August.

Lightning also struck a component at Perquimans Central. The \$12,000 repair has been made and insurance should cover about \$7,000 of that, but it was unexpected. All told the unexpected repair cost more than \$66,000.

Superintendent Tanya Turner made the argument to county commissioners that replacing the DDC system was an urgent matter to maintain the ability to heat and cool the two schools and the central office. The middle school and Hertford Grammar School operate off a different system.

"They don't have the same urgency that these schools do," Turner said.

The DDC system works to save energy by making things energy efficient. The current system is so old that a single update of the Java system software that it uses could make it inoperable.

Turner said replacing the DDC system for the other two schools will be

See FUNDS, A2

Bridge closed to vehicle traffic

From Staff Reports

Hertford's S-Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic Monday after a problem developed with the locking mechanism.

"There is currently a problem with the mechanical system that locks the swing span to the fixed portion of the bridge," said Clemmon W. "Win" Bridge-

ers, Jr., the division maintenance engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation. "These locks are necessary to stabilize the swing span for vehicle traffic. The bridge is currently closed to vehicular traffic until this repair can be completed."

He said crews were actively working on diagnosing the problem.

Early voting starts today

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

One-stop early voting for municipal elections in Hertford and Winfall starts today and will run through Nov. 1. Early voting takes place at the elections office on Edenton Road Street.

In Hertford, Mayor Pro Tem Quentin Jackson is running against for Earnell Brown for the seat of mayor. Mayor Horace Reid opted not to seek re-election.

There are also four candidates running for two open seats on the Hertford town board.

They include Gracie Felton, who was appointed to the seat vacated by exit of Archie Aples. Political newcomers also

See VOTING, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Shelby White are collecting used bicycles.

Sheriff collecting used bikes for kids

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office is collecting used bikes so they can be repaired and given away to local children this Christmas.

Sheriff Shelby White said that as of last week they'd received 30 bikes and all were in very good shape. He said he has a donor who plans to give some but they may need work.

"We might be able to use parts off one of them and fix maybe-five of them," White said.

White said as the holiday approaches, he plans to get with the school system to find children who are in the need of a bike.

Anyone interested in donating can call the sheriff's office at 426-5615 or drop the bike off at the sheriff's office, 110 N. Church St. in Hertford.



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