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Pirates win at Border Clash, A7

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020

\$1.00

Public records request reveals mayor's purchases

\$1,399 spent for furniture and office tech

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

When the topic of new furniture for the mayor's office came up during a recent Hertford Town Council meeting, the Perquimans Weekly filed a public records request to learn more about the \$1,399 spent to modernize the office.

Before yawning at the very mention of furniture, then skipping over this story and moving onto the sports section page A7 to read about the Pirates' bas-

ketball team's victory over Deep Creek and the swim team's conference triumph, maybe keep reading because it's going to get interesting.

Perquimans Weekly filed a public records request Jan. 16 to learn more about the purchase of \$1,399 worth of furniture and related office accessories.

A few hours after filing the public records request, Town Hall responded by providing a list of the items purchased, photos and a memo from Mayor Earnell Brown explaining the reasons why the expenditures

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Photo reveals that prior to the purchase of new furniture and office accessories, the mayor's office was a simple affair furnished with the basic necessities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO S

Photo, reproduced from a response to a public records request, reveals that after the furniture and office items were purchased, the mayor's work space offers a more modern appearance.

ROUND-UP

Hunter, KEYS, furniture

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

First, thanks goes to the Perquimans Sheriff's Department for assisting me with getting my vehicle out of the mud Monday after the MLK service in the parking lot of Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church. I misjudged a mud puddle that was more like a creek.

Chief Deputy Tom Reid quickly assessed the situation and made a phone call to Deputy R. Farrar and Sergeant Kendall Harrell for assistance. Community is in good hands with these folks.

Monday's MLK service was a breath of fresh air. Fondella Leigh gave a great speech. Choir was excellent as was Connie Brothers' piano playing skills. Winfall Mayor Fred Yates announced that funds raised by the breakfast will be used to assist the NAACP's work.

In other news, let me emphasize this in no uncertain terms - there are no plans to close the Catfish Hunter Museum that is located in the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce office.

However, there has been a preliminary discussion to move the museum to another place with a date that has yet to be determined - if they move it.

"We will never close the museum. It will stay in the chamber building until we have a solid plan in place and people will be notified when that will happen. Until then we are working on it," said Katrina Mann, chamber director.

Born and raised in Hertford, Hunter was a professional baseball player in Major League Baseball (MLB). From 1965 to 1979, he was a pitcher for the Kansas City/Oakland Athletics and New York Yankees. Hunter was the first pitcher since 1915 to win 200 career games by the age of 31. He is often

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PHOTOS BY MILES LAYTON

As the choir sings "Glory, glory, hallelujah," the words memorialize a time and place that conjures up a speech which transcends history. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK service asks 'What's Going On'

Leigh's keynote speech blends MLK with Marvin Gaye

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Perquimans County Commissioner Fondella Leigh was the keynote speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Monday at Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church.

Connie Brothers played piano for a choir that sang "Lift Every Voice" and the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for a congregation that included among other local notables, Perquimans Board of Education Chairwoman Anne White and Perquimans Sheriff Shelby White. To see a video snippet of the choir performing, see the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page.

Dr. Landon Mason served as master of ceremonies for the service that was organized by Winfall Mayor Fred Yates, who is also president of Perquimans' chapter of the NAACP.

Following Leigh's speech, Yates presented her with a plaque from the NAACP that honors her "passion, unconditional commitment and enduring dedicated service to the community of Perquimans County."

In Leigh's remarks, she blended

See MLK, A2



Perquimans County Commissioner and pastor Fondella Leigh gives an inspiring speech during the annual Perquimans County Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, Monday at Porter's Chapel AME Zion Church.

Tide rising to develop Hertford

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

One recent Saturday, folks came out to learn more about possible plans to transform Hertford's waterfront.

Organized by the Citizens for the Preservation and Growth of Hertford, the meeting featured noted Urban Planner Allison Platt, who presented a proposed master plan for the waterfront development and community plan.

Platt, a senior landscape architect/project manager with Rivers and Associates, has drafted a concept plan to identify how best to utilize the town's waterfront. Platt has worked on projects that have transformed New Bern and little Washington's waterfronts.

Platt said that by the county and town endorsing resolutions in support of these plans, it will make it easier to attract grant funding that will be needed to pay for the transformation.

Think, maybe dream about it - Hertford has this amazing waterfront, but little has been done to develop items Platt spoke about that included a boardwalk/waterside pathway, a multi-slip marina and plans to plant trees, create parks, perhaps utilize existing buildings that can be transformed into popular attractions.

"Every study highlights the importance of Hertford's waterfront as a key to our future," said Tim Brinn, a key organizer for the event. "We now have a proven partner in Allison Platt, who transformed waterfronts in

See HERTFORD, A3

Smart Start offering B.A.B.Y. classes for mothers

BY STAFF REPORTS

For the last five years, B.A.B.Y. (Birth and Beginning Years) classes have been offered in the Fall for expectant and new mothers.

As a result of mothers asking for the classes to be held year-round, the Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership (CPSSP) is hosting the classes the second and fourth Thursday of the month all year long.

Expectant and new mothers are invited to register for the class. Fathers are also invited to attend.

The goal of the B.A.B.Y. program is to create informed and healthy new mothers and to support the well-being of their young children.

Facilitated by members of the Maternal Child Health Albemarle Region Collective (M.A.R.C.), the class focuses on health education concerning the

pregnant women, changes their questions and concerns.

The facilitators also provide resource information, such as proper car seat installation, Dr. Dad workshops, Vidant Breastfeeding Support Group, Vidant Childbirth

Classes, and child development and literacy tools to

ensure children are ready for school.

CPSSP Family Support and School Readiness Coach, Sherlon Broadnax is the main facilitator of the B.A.B.Y. class.

"As a former Biology teacher, I feel that this class is essential for a new mother to understand the developmental stages her child undergoes in the womb and as an infant.

See B.A.B.Y., A2

