

Heating bills assistance remains available

From Staff Reports

Low-income North Carolina families struggling with winter heating bills may apply for help through an assistance program run through county departments of social services.

More than \$9 million re-

mains available to help eligible households pay their heating bills through the state-administered Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The federally funded program helps keep families safe and healthy by providing a one-time payment directly to the

utility company.

Last winter, more than 120,000 families benefited from \$38 million in assistance. The frigid start to 2018 that brought several inches of snow to most of the state left many North Carolina households reeling from unusually high heating

costs.

"These funds assist families who have experienced an unusually high heating cost this year," said Wayne Black, director of the Division of Social Services. "We're thankful for the opportunity to help families stay warm during the winter season."

County departments of social services are accepting applications for the program through March 31 or until funds are exhausted. More than \$27 million in LIEAP funds have been distributed to families across the state since December.

For more information

and to apply for assistance, people should contact their county department of social services: <http://www.ncdhs.gov/divisions/dss/local-county-social-services-offices>.

The phone number of the Perquimans office is 426-1240.

College of the Albemarle program wins certification

From Staff Reports

NCWorks presented College of The Albemarle (COA) with the Advanced Manufacturing Local Implementation certification for the Northeastern Region, during the college's Board of Trustees meeting in February.

This was one of four awards given. Additional recipients- Perquimans Coun-

ty High School, Edenton-Chowan's J.A. Holmes and Dare County's Cape Hatteras Secondary, First Flight and Manteo High Schools.

In 2013, the state realized a skills gap existed for their 20-county service area and began developing "NCWorks Certified Career Pathways," targeting adult learners. There are now 27 pathways certified across the state.

"We have a great partnership and collaboration with COA, and the certified pathways open opportunities for job seekers in our region."

Larry Donely

NCWorks Regional Operations Director – Northeast

"COA was the first to nail down the Northeastern Healthcare Local Implementation Certifica-

tion with NCWorks, and now it has received a second Local Implementation Certification," said Brandi

Bragg, Northeastern NC Career Pathways facilitator.

This initiative has eight criteria to qualify: it must be demand-driven and data informed, employer engagement, collaborative, career awareness, articulation and coordination, work based learning, multiple points of entry and exit including non-degree training and the final evaluation.

"We have a great partnership and collaboration with COA, and the certified pathways open opportunities for job seekers in our region," stated Larry Donely, NC-Works Regional Operations Director — Northeast, after presenting Dr. Evonne Carter, COA's Vice President of Learning, with the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway Award for Northeastern NC.

Rev. Sawyer gives black history program

From Staff Reports

The Rev. William Sawyer delivered a presentation for Black History month to College of The Albemarle's (COA) Pathways to an Accessible College Experience (PACE) and Adult Basic Education Transitioning Opportunities (ABETO) students on Feb. 20.

The PACE and ABETO programs provide one to two-year learning experiences for college-aged students with intellectual learning disabilities. Rev. Sawyer engaged dialog with students by asking them what their interpretation of love is and how important it is to love one another.

He touched on his experience as a child and the

many lessons learned along the way. He discussed historic moments as a child that gave him the meaning behind freedom. Students spoke about the American Flag and the right to vote, and how others died for us to have these rights.

"You can't make it by yourself; be kind to one another because you need each other," Reverend Williams said. He gave Faye Oliver, COA's ABETO Coordinator, an apple to thank her for making the students feel good about themselves and for loving them.

COA will hosted a Black History Month program on Feb. 26 at the Edenton-Chowan Campus Culinary Building.

NUTRITION

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school, they may be too far gone."

Just offering free food isn't enough. Before Pelletier was hired, the school system struggled with getting some students to eat cafeteria food even though they qualified for a free meal. That creates a problem because the school system was paying for food and staff to prepare the meals but if students don't eat, then the school can't be reimbursed. If the schools can't be reimbursed, that means the school system must dip into other funds to make up the difference. School nutrition is supposed to be a self-sup-

porting enterprise.

So in the fall of 2016, Pelletier started rolling out menu items including things like Cobb salad and chicken and waffles for lunch. High school menus also offer different items than the other three schools.

"High school students like choice," she said. "They like being in control."

When she was hired, Pelletier remembers a young student coming up to her and asking "please tell me I'm not going to have chicken nuggets on Monday."

The menu had gotten that predictable.

While new items have been added, ultimately Pelletier still has to meet the standards set by the federal government. Nothing

in the school is fried and the menus have to adhere to guidelines for fat and salt.

Pelletier is currently the president of the NC School Nutrition Association, a group of child nutrition directors.

Pelletier said some of the things she's started in Perquimans County are spreading to other school system.

The school serves between 1,000 and 1,200 meals a day.

Pelletier admits while there has been improvements in school meal participation, she can't rest on her laurels.

"I've not put all my cards on the table. I know a lot of it is marketing and I'm always looking at what other states are doing. I'm not go-

ing to reinvent the wheel. That's too much work."

Ultimately Pelletier knows what she does can have an impact on how students perform in school. When she plans menus, she knows if that's a week where there will be mandatory testing, and she adjusts to accommodate that.

She also knows that the meal she provides may be the only good meal some students get.

"You don't know who had breakfast that morning or who has food at home and who doesn't."

At the awards ceremony here HGS cafeteria manager Geri Layden, and assistants Charlotte Saunders, Jamie Best, Kishonda Fletcher and Sarah Biter.

THREATS

Continued from 1

time students were allowed to use their cell phones. When the time ended, the student refused to quit using the phone and when the teacher came and took it, the student made the verbal threat.

"We're in an atmosphere, an environment, where it makes it (threats) a differ-

ent ballgame," Lane said.

White said he treated Friday's incident the same as the first one.

"Each one has been treated equally to be fair," he said.

"It is very important as parents and family to emphasize to our children to choose their words wisely and watch carefully what they say," the sheriff said. "These times are very perilous and we take the safety

of our children very seriously whether in school or home."

The school system issued a plea last week to parents to talk to their children about the seriousness of the situation.

"Please continue to communicate with your students to ensure they understand that such behavior, whether verbal or physical, will be immediately addressed by the district and

local law enforcement as the district's first level of concern will always be the safety and security of all students, employees and community stakeholders," the statement said. "Please encourage your students to say something to an adult should they see or hear something of concern."

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman directed those with questions, to contact Lane at 426-5741.

COMMISSION

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ence, but that's OK," he told The Daily Advance.

Muzzulin is registered as unaffiliated.

It will be Leigh's second four-year term. She's a Democrat.

Nelson returned to the Perquimans commission board in 2014 after serving a couple of four-year terms on the Perquimans

Board of Education. Nelson previously served as a Perquimans commissioner from 2000-04. He's a Republican.

So far in the sheriff's race, Sheriff Shelby White is trying to win his first

election against Republican challenger Jim Bray. White is a Democrat.

As of Tuesday morning, only Amy Spaug has signed up for one of three seats on the Perquimans County School Board.

JACKSON

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County last week on charges of displaying a fictitious license tag and resisting an officer, the police officer who pulled him over during

a Feb. 1 traffic stop testified the town councilman had a handgun on the passenger's seat next to him.

District Court Judge Edgar Barnes found Jackson guilty Feb. 14 of resisting an officer but not of displaying a fictitious tag. Barnes sentenced Jackson to serve an active 10-day jail sentence. The sentence is on hold, however, because Jackson has appealed it to Superior Court.

In an interview with The Daily Advance following his arrest, Jackson acknowledged having a handgun in the vehicle he was driving. He claimed the handgun was holstered and that he advised the officer who stopped him of having it.

Jackson said he got out of his vehicle — and did not follow the officer's instructions to go back to his vehicle — because he got upset when he saw the officer attempt to

remove the handgun from the holster. Jackson said he asked the officer to return his handgun. Instead, the officer placed him under arrest for resisting an officer and took him into custody.

Hertford police have not responded to a request for an interview about Jackson's charges.

Jackson could not be immediately reached for comment about Tillett's decision to find him guilty of violating probation.

Jackson was elected to the Hertford Town board in November.

PAL

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Monies for the trip can be mailed or dropped off in person, together with the application to: Perquimans Arts League, 109 N. Church St., Hertford, NC 27944. Checks should be payable to PAL. Payments are non-refundable and must be paid by March 6.

Sandwich choices should be submitted with the reservation. The \$13 for the lunch will be collected on the bus the day of the trip. For more information contact Barbara Dabolt at 426-1531.



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