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WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018

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Budget will keep Commission in Hertford for now

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

After rectifying a math problem, The Albemarle Commission adopted a new \$6.4 million budget for the next fiscal year Thursday. That effectively shelve any plans to move the 10-county agency from Hertford to Elizabeth City.

A week before, the commission rejected a proposed

INSIDE

■ The Albemarle Commission last year allowed its director to hire a firm for a construction management project led by her husband — a move at least one member of the commission's Board of Delegates now describes as a conflict of interest. **Page 2**

\$6.8 million budget that included money to lease a more expensive building in Elizabeth City plus a salary for economic development

director. Instead the board voted to adopt a continuing resolution that would fund the next fiscal year at the same level as this year.

State law requires local governmental agencies to adopt a new fiscal year budget by July 1.

"A continuing resolution is not an adopted budget and the executive committee felt strongly that we needed a real budget by July 1, and we now have one," Executive Director Cathy Davison said.

Last year Davison floated the idea of building a new

larger building in Hertford. Perquimans County agreed to provide the land for free, but Pasquotank County officials balked at the idea of locking themselves into the long-term debt to pay for it. The land is located across Harvey Point Road from the Perquimans Senior Center.

Instead, the board directed Davison to look into leasing a building that was large enough to consolidate

all of the board staff under one roof. The estimated cost, \$154,000 a year, apparently was too much for some board members. The Commission currently pays Perquimans County \$45,000 a year to rent the space they use now in Hertford. The main office is located on Church Street behind the

See BUDGET, 2

Jones won't run for judge

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County Commissioner Kyle Jones will not run for a District Court judgeship this year.



JONES

Jones, 32, expressed an interest earlier this year. He would have faced Judge Meader Harriss.

Harriss is seeking his second term.

The deadline to file is Friday and Jones made his announcement Wednesday evening.

"I wanted to take all the time the law gave me to pray about it and come to a decision. I'm grateful for the sound advice of a few mentors.

"I talked to Judge Harriss and informed him of my decision not to seek election to the District Court Judgeship.

He won't rule out running in the future, but not now.

"I will always keep that option open," Jones said. "For now, it's my desire to serve the people of the First Judicial District by doing the best that I can as an assistant district attorney to make the First Judicial District a safe place for families

See JONES, 2



The interior of the new Hertford Bay Taphouse.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Taphouse to open soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Area residents will soon have a place to grab a cold pint in Hertford

Stephen Gunther and his wife Rachel plan to open the Hertford Bay Taphouse on Grubb Street by late August or early September.

"It will probably be more like September," Stephen said last week.

The town does not have a business that just serves beer and wine.

Gunther said Hertford needs to adapt to survive, and a tap house may be part of that.

"We can't stay the same. If you want to do that, just look at Plymouth."

So far Gunther said he's had

See TAPHOUSE, 2



A walk-in cooler waits to be assembled at the Hertford Bay Taphouse.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lassiter named HGS principal

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

John Lassiter, a 30-year-old Perquimans County native, will be the new principal at Hertford Grammar School.

The county school board made the decision last week. He will replace Jason Griffin who



LASSITER

accepted a job as director of elementary education in Craven County.

"We are excited about the new opportunities Mr. Lassiter will bring to Hertford Grammar and the district," said Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman. "He joins an elite team of educators."

Lassiter has been principal at Chowan Middle School for the past three years. He plans to start work at HGS on July 11.

The father of two young girls said being able to spend more time with his wife and family was a big attraction.

"Moving to Hertford Grammar allows me to fulfill two lifelong dreams. One, to be the father and husband I am called to be. The time commitments that come with being an effective middle/high school principal make balancing work and family difficult. Thank you to my wife (Jenna) for her unconditional support for the past five years. I love you. Two, I get a chance to invest into the school that Emily and Erienne will attend."

Emily is 4-years-old, so she'll be attending HGS in four years. Erienne is 18-months-old.

Attending evening events at Chowan Middle wasn't required, but Lassiter said

See KEYS, 2

See LASSITER, 2

Program to target school safety funding

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Perquimans County now has a program that will raise money to address school security needs that aren't funded in the regular budget.

The K.E.Y.S. program is a partnership between the Perquimans County Board of Education, the Perqui-



mans County Sheriff's Office and the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.

The Perquimans County Commission and the school board has already address some concerns, like limiting access to each school to one door. Visitors have to be buzzed in by somebody in the office. The schools also have cameras installed in all buses.

They've been useful said Sheriff Shelby White.

"I've worked on cases be-

fore and the cameras on the buses have come in handy," White said.

Perquimans is rather unique in that it will have a sheriff's deputy as a School Resource Officer at all four schools. But White said while some of the bigger ticket items have been addressed, there are always some things that are needed.

"There are always little things here and there that can be done," he said. "You can always do something, you can never be too safe."

The K.E.Y.S. project is similar to those adopted in Pasquotank and Camden counties.

In 2012, just after the shooting at Sandy Hook

See KEYS, 2

See LASSITER, 2

Apex considering sale, publication reports

From Staff Reports

The Virginia-based wind energy company seeking permits to build a 40-turbine wind farm in Chowan County could potentially be sold to another company, a wind industry publication reported recently.

Dahvi Wilson, senior director of public affairs for

Apex Clean Energy, told Windpower Monthly in April that Apex is currently undergoing a "strategic review," and an "M&A transaction is one of the potential outcomes of that review." An "M&A transaction" would be a merger or acquisition.

Apex currently owns more than 60 wind projects, including Ikea's first North American wind investment, according to Windpower Monthly's article. It also requested permission to build more than 50 wind turbines in the Bear Swamp area of

Perquimans County, but the request was denied by the Perquimans County Commission. Apex took the issue to court, but was denied on appeal.

Apex is still currently seeking federal and state permits to build 40 wind turbines for its Timbermill Wind project in Chowan County.

A company official declined to say last week how the potential sale might affect the Timbermill project.

"At the moment, we have no further comment beyond

what has previously been publicly reported," said Cat Strumlauf, Apex's manager of corporate communications.

News of Apex's possible sale emerged during a talk about corporate mergers and transactions at a Windpower 2018 conference in Chicago in May, according to Windpower Monthly.

Frank Palladino, director at CohnReznick Capital, told the conference about his firm's "experiences

See APEX, 2

GOLF CART PARADE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Primo Viray created a replica of the Statue of Liberty for a golf cart parade Sunday at Albemarle Plantation. Fireworks in Hertford and Winfall are set for Friday at 9 p.m.

