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"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

\$1.00

Town Council Closer to Adopting Budget

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Hertford Town Council's ongoing multi-hour marathon budget deliberations have been often heated contentious, but the end result remains the same – put the town's finances in order for fiscal year 2020/21.

Council is working through the draft budget proposal of more than \$9.6 million that increases spending by at least \$2.6 million



HODGES

– if there are no modifications – from last year's budget of around \$7 million.

In order to fund the draft budget at the current level – no modifications – Town Hall would

need to raise the funds necessary to generate \$2.6 million more in revenue, according to the budget

proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges said fiscal change, perhaps painful, is necessary to maintain local control.

"The reason we're looking at such drastic changes is if we don't make them and fall below the minimum fund balance mandated by the NC Department of State Treasurer Local Government Commission, the State can actually take over the town and mandate the changes they believe are required.

At that point there would be no local input into the process – we'd be at the complete mercy of the state," he said.

Council's Travel and Training budget has been reduced from \$35K to \$10K, but rather than lose the reader by going line by line through the budget to uncover the changes, the Perquimans Weekly adopted a Rolling Stone magazine question-and-answer approach with Hodges to preparing this article.

"Pro Tem Hodges's response is thorough and informative to the citizens, in terms of the complexities we face to resolve Hertford's revenue vs expenditures issues moving forward," Mayor Earnell Brown said. "I am very happy and impressed with his analytical abilities, his gift to articulate findings and his unselfish desire to help our town."

Hodges offered a lot of

See BUDGET, A2

Hertford residents arrested

Face drug charges after search of Plymouth home

BY STAFF REPORT

PLYMOUTH — Three Hertford men were among several people arrested and charged after a search warrant was served at a Plymouth residence.

Washington County Sheriff Johnny Barnes announced that the Washington County Sheriff's Office and Plymouth Police Department served a search warrant on Sunday, May 17, at 117 Bateman St., Plymouth.

Three Hertford residents — Tyler Land, 18; Dquan Prebble, 35; and James Brooks, 19 — were arrested and charged in connection to the search warrant.

Yahsha Humphry, 27, and Zabah "Monster" Humphrey, 31, both of Edenton, were arrested.

Yahsha Humphrey, a fugitive from Pennsylvania wanted for robbery with dangerous weapon and parole violation, also faces additional charges of possession of firearm by a felon. Zabah Humphrey also faces an addition charge of possession of firearm by a felon.

Others arrested include Dinah Mathews, 19, of Greenville; Khayyan Gales, 19, of Raleigh; and Plymouth residents Charmaine Coffield, 20; Cessquam Simpson, 33; and Cedric Young Jr., 23.

All were charged with trafficking heroin; possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver a control substance; maintaining a dwelling for the sale of a control substance; conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine; conspiracy to traffic heroin; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; possession of pyrotechnics; and possession of stolen firearms.

The search warrant yielded 12.1 grams of crack cocaine, 22.2 grams of marijuana, 637 grams of heroin, five firearms (three of which were stolen and various drug paraphernalia and illegal pyrotechnics and currency.

More charges are possible, as the case is still under investigation, according to the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

PICTURE PERFECT PERQUIMANS



PHOTO BY SARA WINSLOW

At the end of the day in Perquimans County, paradise is measured moment to moment, perhaps becoming memories that are forever etched in the mind's eye.

Albemarle Plantation Women's Club Awards Scholarships

BY STAFF REPORTS

Thanks to annual fundraising efforts, the Albemarle Plantation Women's Club awards scholarships to graduating Pirates' seniors.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, in late March applications were submitted to the Community Giving Committee for review. By teleconference the committee members selected seven deserving recipients from Perquimans High School who will receive \$1,000 each.

Normally the recipients would have been introduced and honored at the Women's club meeting held at the Albemarle Plantation Clubhouse in May. This event was cancelled and each recipient was asked to write a brief statement and send a photo which will appear in the Plantation's Soundings newsletter in June.

Following are highlights about the seven recipients:

ORDAZ-RIOS' GOALS

Claribel Ordaz-Rios has committed to UNC-Chapel Hill as an Honors Carolina student and proud to be a Tar Heel! She will

be majoring in business administration with a minor in Spanish for the Professions. At submission of her application, Ordaz-Rios was ranked #1 in her class. She is a member of the National Beta Club and the National Society of High School Scholars.

Ordaz-Rios received the Virginia Pilot Scholastic Achievement Award, Hertford Rotary Student of the Month award, was named Perquimans Weekly's Student of the Month for February, and has been on COA's President's List since grade 11. Ordaz-Rios will receive an Associate of Arts degree from COA in June.

Ordaz-Rios is a member of the Perquimans High School Soccer Team and an active participant in the school's Lead Club. Currently, Ordaz-Rios has taken over the role of home schooling her

See SCHOLARSHIPS, A3



CLARIBEL ORDAZ-RIOS



ELIZABETH STORY



ATAVIA MALLORY



MADISON JENNINGS



JENNA O'NEAL



ABIGAIL SAWYER



KATELYN SHARBER

ROUND-UP

Charter School and Rotary

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... Pending state approval, Elaine Riddick Charter School is poised to open its doors for the first time in the fall. School seeks students grades K-3 to enroll at the new school located at 1054 Harvey Point Road.

School leaders met recently with the State Board of Education Charter School Advisory Committee to discuss their plans. Committee told school administrators to return in June to provide an update on progress as to meeting enrollment goals, hiring a teaching staff and completing other pressing issues related to the facility's needs that demand attention before any school bells can ring in the fall.

Perquimans Weekly reached out to school leaders for comment and has collected a treasure trove of documents, all public record, related to the school's founding. More on this story will appear in the next edition.

Met Hertford Rotary Club's leadership Jacqueline Kretzer and Winfield Boyer at Albemarle Plantation. Food was excellent and I recommend what my wife Nicole had for lunch, the oyster po' boy sandwich from the Clubhouse Restaurant.

Learned that Kretzer retired a couple of years ago after a long impressive career with the US Postal Service. Boyer has embraced a storied life that included stints as a high school history teacher, ad sales and businessman.

Being that lunch took place at Albemarle Plantation, I asked about how to bridge the divide between those folks and Hertford because I want to break away from the perception that the Perquimans Weekly is primarily a newspaper just for folks

See ROUND-UP, A2

Folwell: Economic virus taking its toll

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor



FOLWELL

Ever busy and putting in long days as state Treasurer, Dale Folwell took a few moments to talk to the Perquimans Weekly/Chowan Herald about reopening the economy and how leadership in Raleigh needs to address the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly as scientific data becomes more readily available.

"People are very stressed out right now because of the unknown, but every time someone chal-

lenges a mathematical assumption, whether it is at the local or state level, you can't just dismiss

that and say they are being political. It's not about politics or emotion – it is about mathematics," he said. "Right now, people don't care what political party you are a member of, they just want their problems solved. Their

problem right now is how are they going to buy food and how are they going to remain employed."

Folwell said North Carolina should be able to recover from the economic toll brought about by COVID-19 because of the state's strong financial position. The state he said has \$2 billion in unappropriated state budget funds; \$4 billion in its unemployment fund; and \$1.5 billion in its rainy-day fund. The state also received \$4 billion in federal relief from the CARES Act, \$2 billion of which the state hasn't

yet allocated.

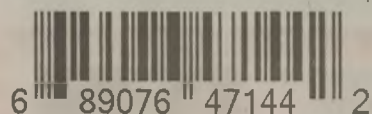
"As the state Treasurer, I don't know of any state in the country, as large as we are, that's in a better financial position to come out of this quicker and stronger than anyone else," he said.

Folwell spoke from the heart as he sought to inspire hope about the future, reopening and challenging assumptions about how to contend with the pandemic. Day to day, more data compiled from scientific analysis indicates a flat or downward trend to the spread

of COVID-19. He said decisions should not be based on assumptions, fear or politics, but from an applied analysis of the facts.

"I say this from the heart and from the stomach as much as I do from the mind. In order to be successful, we have to be willing to challenge assumptions," he said. "Anytime you challenge assumptions, everybody calls it political. But the fact is that your readers don't care what political party anybody is a member of,

See FOLWELL, A3



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