

OBITUARY

Joanne Francine Sawyer Brown

HERTFORD - Joanne Francine Sawyer Brown, 74, of 507 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC, passed away Friday, June 12, 2020, in her home where she was being cared for by her family.



Mrs. Brown was born in Pasquotank County on May 15, 1946, and was the daughter of the late Gerald Meekins and Lizzie Anderson Sawyer. Retired from Perquimans County Schools, she was a longtime agent with A & A Insurance Agency, was a member of First Christian Church, and had also been active with the Jaycettes. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Franklyn Ainsley "Frank" Brown, Sr., and by two brothers, Charles Wayne and Gerald Douglas Sawyer.

Surviving are her daughter, Elizabeth Anne Brown and husband, John Livingston; two sons, Franky Brown, Jr. and wife, Michelle, and Lyl Brown and wife, Natalie; a sister, Donna Sawyer Baker and husband, Ronnie; and six grandchildren, Mitchell, Logan, Landon, Colby, Benjamin, and Alexander.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 15th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral Chapel, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, and was conducted by Todd Tilley. A private burial followed in Cedarwood Cemetery. Friends joined the family Sunday, June 14th, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the residence.

Online condolences may be made by visiting www.millerfhc.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT LOG

BY STAFF REPORTS

Perquimans Sheriff's Log between June 5 and June 11:

■ Nyreese Morre of Edenton was arrested June 5 and charged with carrying a concealed gun and possession with intent to manufacture drugs. Bond was set at \$6,000 secured.

■ Deondre Copeland of Harrington Court, Hertford, was arrested June 5 and charged with possession with intent to manufacture drugs and possession of a stolen firearm. Bond was set at \$10,000 secured.

■ Thomas Leary of Drummonds Point, Edenton, was arrested June 5 and charged with failure to appear and obtaining property by false circumstances. Bond was set at \$5,000 secured.

■ Robert Hall of Explorer Arch, Hertford, was arrested June 7 and charged with second degree trespassing and injury to personal property. Bond was set at \$1,000 secured.

■ Jody Hall of Explorer Arch, Hertford, was arrested June 7 and charged with second degree trespassing and injury to personal property. Bond was set at \$1,000 secured.

■ Trayvien Miller of Island Trail, Hertford, was arrested June 8 and charged with second degree trespassing. Bond/other.

■ April Jackson of Island Trail, Hertford, was arrested June 8 and charged with second degree trespassing. Bond/other.

■ Reginald Jenkins of Ocean Highway South, Hertford, was arrested June 9 and charged with simple physical assault. Bond was set at \$500 unsecured.

HPD Crime Log May 2020:

■ 5/9 Vandalism at the Family Dollar-Officer Castellanos investigating

■ 5/9 Disorderly Conduct at the Speedway-Suspect trespassed by Officer Castellanos.

■ 5/10 Unauthorized Use

of a Motor Convenience at Dogwood Mobile Home Park-Officer Castellanos investigated and warrants have been issued

■ 5/10 Drug and Paraphernalia Possession on Dobbs Street-Officer Castellanos made an arrest

■ 5/10 Speeding to Elude on Hwy 17-Officer Downing and Investigator Duncan assisted NCSHP on attempting to stop a motor vehicle. Investigation continues

■ 5/12 Disorderly Conduct at Wynne Fork-Captain Rodriguez is investigating where some unknown person(s) kicked and pounded on someone's back door. Investigation continues

■ 5/15 Assault with a Deadly Weapon with Intent to Kill already reported-Officer Duncan has issued warrants for the arrest of Jatrel Colman

■ 5/15 Disorderly Conduct on Hwy 17-Officer Martin made an arrest on an accident scene

■ 5/15 Counterfeiting at the Speedway-Officer Suliban is investigating the passing of counterfeit money

■ 5/16 Obstruction on Hwy 17-Officer Downing made the arrest

■ 5/16 Communication of Threats on Dobbs Street-Officer Martin investigated, and a criminal summons was issued

■ 5/18 Obtaining Property by False Pretense at the Food Lion-Officer Castellanos is investigating a fraud case

■ 5/19 Obtaining Property by False Pretense at the Dollar General-Officer Castellanos is investigating a fraud case where a white female who drives a gray mustang was involved

■ 5/24 Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling (already reported) on Edenton Road-Inv. Duncan is investigating

■ 5/25 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle at Hardees-Officer Martin is investigating where an unknown person stole a wallet from a car in the parking lot

FUNDING

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Jackson responded, "U just cost the Town Of Hertford 50,000 and u didnt know the substance maybe u shoulda answered ya phone mayor pro tem! But u know so much i will also make this email public."

Hodges then replied Jackson - "This sounds pretty serious. Why then did you not

respond to my text, not leave a voice mail, not send an email with details, and not coordinate the time of the meeting in advance to make sure everyone could make it? Why did you call the USDA grant evaluator out of the blue yesterday (June 11) and not let anyone know? And why had USDA not called or emailed us through any formal channel (Manager, Mayor, Attorney) before your call to let

us know there was a problem?"
When reading through a text message that has become part of public record, the newspaper sought information/statement on these matters arising from the meeting, the grant and more.
In a second screenshot obtained by the Perquimans Weekly, Jackson wrote, "Town of Hertford will not be getting this grant. Thank me later."

Newspaper sought comment Monday from Jackson and Town Hall about these matters. As of press time Tuesday evening, Jackson nor Town Hall has responded to the Perquimans Weekly's request for information arising from these matters. The newspaper will continue to follow these matters.

Miles Layton can be reached at m Layton@ncweeklies.com

SCHOOL

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cate of occupancy.

School proponents said so far, more than 80 students have registered their intent to attend the charter school in the fall. Construction and facility upgrades are underway to make the site compatible with education needs. A member of the school's Board of Directors, Tony Riddick said a local person has been hired as an administrator to lead the school.

Another member of the charter school's Board of Directors, Archie Aples spoke in no uncertain terms during his speech in support of the school. He said school organizers have worked long and hard to formulate plans - "dotted every I and crossed ever T" - that the state has approved to found this educational institution.

Aples told a story about how he became inspired to assist the school's creation. He recalled a conversation with a young lady, who was raised in Perquimans County, about New Orleans; she asked him if that city is located on the other side of Edenton. When a few people in the room laughed, Aples shot back the tragic story is not meant to be joke, "that's not funny." He then spoke out about the importance of obtaining a quality education, no matter where a kid goes to school.

Riddick spoke out against the bigotry of low expectations when only 30 percent of students are grade level proficient within the school system. Formerly employed in Silicon Valley, Riddick noted how once upon a time Americans dominated engineering and technology fields, but that is no longer the case.

Hertford Town Councilman Frank Norman shared a powerful story about his son, a product of Perquimans County Schools, who is now an Army major. Norman said even though his boy graduated in the top 10 percent of his class from PCHS, his ability for written communication needed a lot of work.

When the young man attended North Carolina State University, he was advised to take a remedi-

al English course. Later when as an Army officer he wrote a report for his superiors, he was advised never to submit such a badly written report again - to get someone else to write it.

Norman also tore into the county commission's penchant for underfunding the school system. He complained that year after year, school funding falls far short of what is needed to provide students a proper education.

When Norman challenged a comment from Matthews about how not every kid attending a public school would succeed, Matthews clarified his comments after the meeting.

"Frank was adamant that 'every kid' would excel and I noted that no matter how good the school, 'not every kid' will excel," he said. "Some kids do not have the capacity to excel and some elect not to excel. That probably did not come out as well as I intended, but it's a fact. No system can guarantee 100% success."

Riddick addressed the money situation - how tuition and fees don't belong to the school, but follow the student. He countered that the right way to look at the matter is not that the county school system loses money when a student attends school elsewhere, it is that the money remains with the student wherever he/she is educated.

For Perquimans, the amount for fiscal year 2019-2020 that was "reduced" from Perquiman's state funding was approximately \$79,000.

County's Economic Adviser Dave Goss noted that rather than turn this site into a school, the county's premier industrial facility should be used to attract industry so the county can gain the jobs needed for economic development. He said without such a facility, the county would decline economically as it falls behind other regional competitors that offer such facilities. Moreover, if the school moves forward with its plans, the county stands to lose at least \$8,000 annually in tax revenue from the industrial site, he said.

Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson noted how the facility has been vacant for some time,

so it is best to use it for a school. He said the facility meets the standards needed to grant CUP, so zoning board should approve this request.

Matthews was the sole vote against the CUP.

"It was an 'interesting' meeting," said Matthews, in an interview after Monday's meeting. "It appears that I may be the only one of the Planning Board that had reviewed the full application for the charter school. It was not provided in advance and we were not referred to its presence online. That said, I know I took the meeting into much more discussion than called for in a meeting of the planning board. I'm sure that offended some people. However, I did this because I was trying to point out that this proposed school that is scheduled to start classes in mid-August is not prepared to provide a quality of education that is anywhere close to that provided by our current public schools."

Dr. Matthews formerly worked as a toxicologist at the National Institute of Health Sciences for 30 plus years as a Research Scientist and Chief of Staff at the Institute in the Department of Toxicology. When queried by the Perquimans Weekly about the zoning board meeting, Matthews noted several points including whether teachers or support staff have been hired or, to his knowledge, even identified and how only 50 percent have to be state certified.

"Any teachers hired will have to be on board and available for preliminary training in only six weeks," he said. "I don't think it is likely they can find the 'highly qualified' teachers they propose that are not already committed to work elsewhere."

School supporters countered that in addition to certified teachers seek-

ing employment with the school, they have highly qualified individuals with formidable resumes and valuable skills who are interested in teaching.

Matthews said the school will be managed by Torchlight Academy. The student body of Torchlight Academy in Raleigh is 99% minority.

Matthews noted how the school plans to focus on attracting minority students. A total of 90 students are required to open such a school. He said the Perquimans County School system does not have 90 minority students in K-3, the grades the school seeks to teach.

"Therefore, they plan to recruit from Pasquotank County," he said. "They plan to buy three or four used school buses to transport students to the school. I am not sure how many parents in Pasquotank will be willing to have their K through 3 age kids make such a long trip every day."

Riddick and other school supporters took offense when Matthews applied the word "minority" to what he considered as the charter school's target enrollment demographic. They didn't deny that while they want to attract minority students, their aim is to attract all students without regard to race so as to provide a quality education.

Matthews said the lease arrangement with school site is a lease-to-purchase agreement that has not been finalized. He said it is not clear where the money to purchase this building will come from. He asked whether it come from the money that is designated for the education of the children?

School leaders contended that the lease was signed and that money from the state would be used to pay the rent, not fees set aside for education.

OBITUARY POLICY

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notices by fax. Obituaries must be received, processed and approved by noon on Tuesday to appear in print in the Thursday edition.. Death notices are \$25 and can include the name and age of the decedent; funeral and visitation or viewing information; and the name of the funeral home.

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Robin L. Quillon.....Publisher
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Miles Layton.....Editor
Phone 252-426-5728 ■ Fax 252-426-4625
Email: m Layton@ncweeklies.com

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