

## MITI

Franzino, a surgeon, said they are excited about working with an "enthusiastic work force," and noting the "plan provides opportunity for MITI and the people of Washington County."

"We can help you as you have helped us to bring economic prosperity to the region," said corporate president John Bala. "We feel that we want to be a part of the Plymouth and Washington County family long into the future."

"Based on what I know about this company and what

they've brought to bear for eastern North Carolina, this is phenomenal," said Norris Tolson, president of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. "This is important stuff."

"We planted a good seed today," he continued, "now we have to water and fertilize it."

In 30 to 45 days, about 25 workers here will begin assembling the endoscopes in the old Tideland Mental Health building on Washington Street. MITI will operate out of that facility until a new, state-of-the-art building is

constructed on a parcel near the Plymouth airport.

When that facility is completed, MITI will move in, initiating an already-negotiated 15-year lease and the workforce will swell.

Peoples said they expect to employ 40 people in the second year and 144 by the third year. Those jobs, he said, will carry annual salaries ranging from the mid \$20's to \$95,000 with benefits.

"MITI's intent is to hire Washington County people," Peoples continued, "assuming the appropriate skill sets

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## BUDGET (Continued from front page)

it and spend less, spend the same as last year and draw from reserves, or increase it and draw from reserves.

Total collections thus far in this fiscal year, said County Financer Officer Gayle Critcher, are \$83,607. "We only had a conservative budget of \$100,00," she said, "so we only have to collect \$16,300 for the remaining three months."

Patel suggested budgeting \$100,000, but spend more to ensure "heads on beds."

The budget, as proposed, recommends leaving salary and benefits at its current level, \$40,997 for a director and part-time employee. Critcher noted that benefits might have to be tweaked a bit as health insurance is increasing.

Operating expenses are proposed at \$22,475, \$800 less the current fiscal year. Five hundred dollars less is proposed for travel and training; \$300 less, or \$2,200, is proposed for supplies/postage. Major operational expense is \$13,800 budgeted annually for the Chamber of Commerce where TTA shares office space.

The marketing and advertising proposal is about \$10,000 less than the current budget. Some projects have been completed, or are nearing completion, including a video and new website. \$2,000 less is proposed for billboard advertising.

Marketing considerations, presented by Wright, include the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War anniversary.

"I probably mail 2,000 e-

mails out to promote Living History Weekend and you wouldn't believe the response that comes back," Wright said. "It is absolutely well worth our money ... we need to continue to invest in [Living History promotion]."

Wright said she would also like to continue efforts to market to school groups, motorcycle clubs and paddling and birding groups.

Harrison asked Patel what category of hotel guests he felt TTA should concentrate its efforts toward.

Patel noted, among others, the beach crowd, reunions, fishing and hunting.

"For the first time," Harrison said, "we'll have a hunting and fishing page on the website" that includes information such as where to obtain licenses and where to go.

Patel suggested putting the fishing schedule on the website, and Wright said that could be done.

"We have a lot of ... angles we can pursue on the website," she said.

She and Harrison also demonstrated the possibilities of marketing Washington County to the Internet community with short video commercials on YouTube that users could download without charge.

"I thought this [was] something we could do," Harrison said, with the "Go Wild" logo.

The board appropriated \$20,900 for grant funds in the current budget and will look at funding requests for the upcoming budget when it meets at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 19.

## DEAL

strictive covenants to ensure future construction is in keeping with the aesthetics. Current cost estimates are \$2.2 million. The county is in process of obtaining some \$1.2 million as part of the Golden Leaf Community Assistance Initiative and is seeking just over \$1 million from the fed-

eral government in the form of a 10-year, zero interest loan.

✓ The county will loan MITI \$500,000 to help with initial start-up costs. Collateral in that loan will be 150,000 shares of corporate common stock, 250,000 shares of "Series A" preferred stock. MITI

also has agreed to invest in equipment that would further collateralize the loan.

✓ MITI will sign a 15-year lease on the new building. Payments will be \$10 per square foot the first year, jumping to \$11 per square foot the second year and \$12 per square foot for years three

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through 15. After the initial 15-years, Peoples said MITI will have two five-year options to continue the lease or purchase the property "at the then fair market value."

✓ While the new facility is being developed, MITI will lease the old Tideland Mental Health building on Washington Street for \$1,000 per month. The county will pay utilities at that site with a \$250 per month cap on electricity.

"We're looking at a \$3 million investment," Peoples said. "Our biggest fear is that some huge corporation will buy it and move it some place else." However, he noted that if that happens, MITI would be required to pay out the lease.

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him as being understanding and informative as a man of the law.

"I want them to say I talked to them with respect and was nice. Most of all I treated them with respect and helped them out, showing concern. I will help them out the best way I can, while treating criminals with respect."

Things he learned while being raised. Things that helped him to be the man behind the badge, not the young boy facing it.

## CHARGES

to make his next court appearance on May 7.

He has been charged with one count felony attempted first-degree murder, one count felony discharging a barreled weapon into an occupied dwelling and one count felony breaking and entering.

Furlough allegedly admit-

ted to shooting into the house but denies intending to kill anybody else, said Sawyer. He was cut while breaking into the home.

Motives for the shooting are unclear at this time and Sawyer said to his knowledge Furlough had no past criminal history.

Officers seized a large cache of weapons and ammunition from his home. Sawyer was unable to confirm number, but stated it could be as many as 50. Furlough is an avid hunter and some weapons and ammo were for target shooting or clay shooting.

More charges are pending.

## NEW FACE

my favorite holiday growing up. That stuck with me. I was blessed, some called me spoiled. I want to do the same thing for my kids."

He continued saying, "my mom and dad always stuck by each other." That is what Quentin and his fiancé' are doing. She is studying occupational therapy at ECU.

With good reason his family worries about him while he is at work. The youngest of three children, his mom wants him to check in when he is on break, so she can make sure he is okay.

His fiancé' wants to make

sure he comes home everyday.

"She wants to make sure she sees me everyday or every night, tells me to be careful."

But Norman says there is no part of his job that scares him. Thinking about it for a minute he responds, "honestly nothing at all."

Norman says he sees himself going far in law enforcement. He would love to be a K-9 officer, as he is a big dog lover, eventually becoming a narcotics officer.

As others in the past few months, he looks at President

Obama as an inspiration.

"He gave more hope. If he can go and do his thing, I can do mine. It is all about attitude and focus. I am serious about my career."

When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his daughter and sometimes going to the speedway. Mustangs and racing are two of his passions. He lost a friend to an accident in street racing and that changed him. Made him turn away from street racing.

Still trying to make his mark, Norman says he would like for people to remember



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