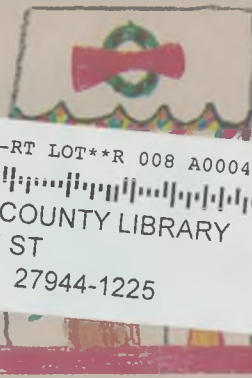


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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Hertford Grammar School student Allison Manning won third place in Perquimans County Schools

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

\$1.00

Mayor, councilmen sworn-in

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A new era has dawned as Hertford's new mayor and two new councilmen took the oath office at a ceremonial swearing-in held Sunday for the public, politicians and family.

The first female mayor in the town's history, Earnell Brown placed her hand on the Bible as she recited the oath administered by mentor and longtime friend Janice Cole, a former District Court Judge.

Newly elected councilmen Ashley Hodges and Jerry Mimlitsch were also sworn-in by Cole.

More than 100 people attended the ceremony held in the courtroom that had a portrait of Cole dressed in her judicial robes.

To see a video of Sunday's swearing-in ceremony, see the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page. That video has been viewed more than 1,100 times and has reached nearly 1,500 people – first time the newspaper has posted a "live" video feed.

Brown's parents, family and many friends were in the audience as she paid tribute to God for her election success as she steeled herself for the work ahead.

"God set me up for this," she said. "Never in a million years has it been my dream, aspiration or desire to come to Hertford and run for office, then be elected first female mayor of this town. My feet have still not touched the ground, but as I look out over this audience, I want to say how grateful I am."

Brown's campaign slogan was "Unity in the Community."

"I have two goals," she said. "I want to maintain your trust and respect, and I want a youth center for our children – some place safe that they can go."

Brown looked over at Hodges and Mimlitsch and said, "I think we have a magnificent team. We have each other's backs and that's what it's all about."

Hodges thanked

See SWORN-IN, A3



PHOTO BY MILES LAYTON

Honorable Janice Cole hold a Bible as she swears in councilman Ashley Hodges (right) and Jerry Mimlitsch, and Mayor Earnell Brown on Sunday within a courtroom inside the county annex building.

Council calls for financial review

Travel policy at issue

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A new mayor and two council members were officially sworn-in Monday during Hertford's Town Council meeting.

There had been some question as to whether Earnell Brown would be able to take the oath as mayor and Jerry Mimlitsch along with Ashley Hodges would be able to take their oaths as new council members.

Councilman Quentin Jackson sought an injunction to halt the new council from being sworn-in so as to have more time to address his issues from November's municipal election when he lost his bid for mayor.

However, a Wake County Court dismissed Jackson's attempts to overturn the election, so the mayor and new councilmen were sworn-in during Monday's marathon meeting that lasted four hours.

Council approved a spending moratorium with plans to review financial data and ordered a halt to any travel plans.

Town Manager Pam Hurdle said spending irregu-

See COUNCIL, A2

Candidates file for re-election

BY STAFF REPORTS

Here is the latest update for candidates have signed the line to run for office in Perquimans County as of Tuesday's press time. The filing period continues through Dec. 20.

Commissioner Kyle Jones, a Republican, has filed for re-election as has Commissioner Joseph Hoffer, a Democrat.

Democratic Register of Deeds Jacqueline Frierson has filed for re-election.

Leary Winslow has filed for re-election to the Board of Education.

State Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, and state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, filed for their second terms.



PHOTO BY PAM HADDEN

Dozens of colorful ornate floats marched their way through downtown during Saturday's Christmas parade in Hertford.

Parade embraces holiday spirit

BY STAFF REPORTS

Hertford's Christmas parade was a huge hit.

People from across Perquimans County lined the streets to see floats ranging from a battleship to one crafted by the Pirates' Future Farmers of America Club.

And there were fire trucks, an assortment of classic cars, a Grinch, Santa Claus and much, much more.

Huge display surely spurred folks to embrace the Christmas spirit.



Merry Christmas goes Jessica Murphy and her 7-month-old Charlotte Murray; her first parade! For more parade photos, including coverage of the Winfall parade, see Page A6.

Grand Illumination lights up Hertford

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Grand Illuminations was, well, a grand success.

Friday, Hertford streets and the big tree were lit up. Songs were sung, memories made for hundreds of people who attended the annual event that seeks to inspire and fire-up the Christmas spirit – like a Hallmark movie!

"I've heard nothing but good things from so many people who attended. Everyone loved watching the children perform," said Nancy Lodge, event co-chair.

Event Co-chair Joyce Gurganus added, "Between the middle school band, the high school band, the children's dance company, singers Hail-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Meet Mr. Santa Claus!

ee Williamson and Hertford Baptist preschoolers, there were scores of children to entertain us. And, children bring out the parents. In addition, a favorite teacher, Rodney Ly-

ons, sang a couple of songs."

Lodge said her favorite moment was when Santa (Pete Owens) arrived on a mule-driven wagon (Randy Williams). "Once he was dropped off, the children followed Santa into the courthouse to tell him their wishes for Christmas and receive a gift from him," she said.

Last word goes to Gurganus, who said scores of participants and entertainers as well as behind-the-scene volunteers gave the 500-600 attendees a night to remember.

"It was a perfect evening in which to welcome the Christmas season to downtown Hertford," she said.

Staff writer Miles Layton can be reached at mlayton@ncweekly.com

ROUND-UP

Nativity and Egypt

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

Hertford Baptist Church hosted its second annual live Nativity scene Sunday. Good day to do it as temperatures were mild. Featured a live sheep and donkey. Nativity scene should inspire and get people to know more about the reason for the season.

Courtesy of Heather Jones Conway, here are the folks who participated: Paul, Heather, Harlee, Kaydee and Aaryn Hunter, Samantha and Sarah Jordan, Thad, Tilsyn and Thomas Woodard, Elizabeth, Evan and Easton and Heather Conway, Linda and Whitney White, Landon, Colby and Benjamin Brown, Macon and Nixon Winslow, Morgan and Macy Baccus, Ava Miller, Trenton Reed, John Riddle, Sierra Bonner, and Ethan Jordan.

In other Christmas news, those lighted trees by the water front – this is not done by the Town. Historic Hertford originally funded materials for the trees. A key organizer, Skip Matthews has been helping to put the trees up along with Don Keith and Frank Jakkic also Mike Niver. Others have helped over the years. Group needs some help – some new recruits/volunteers to make the waterfront pop!

Speaking of Jakkic, a member of the Hertford Rotary Club, he recently traveled to Aswan, Egypt. Jakkic and 23 other medical professionals, record keepers, videographers, photographers with Rotary and Alliance leaders led

See NATIVITY, A3

PAL shares county's best kept secret

BY ED SANFORD

Velvet Sanford, the Perquimans County Arts League (PAL) treasurer, overheard a patron exclaim, "I had no idea that Hertford had a public gallery with such wonderful art!"

Ironically, PAL's active members hear comments like this all too often. Despite having been in operation for nearly 25 years, PAL is unknown to many local residents.

A group of interested citizens formed the Perquimans Arts League in 1995, and its first home was in a corner

of the old library building on Academy Street.

Subsequently, PAL leased space in the Hall of Fame building at 109 N. Church Street, which remains its current location.

This venue is both a blessing and a curse. While occupying very nice space in this multi-tenant building, it does not have a "street front presence" to make it prominent in the Town of Hertford. PAL is effectively a "word of mouth" organization where a friend tells a friend or its artists inform their followers of

See PAL, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Throughout the year, Perquimans Arts League holds seminars and classes to enable its artists and members to learn new skills and techniques. Regional, national and international artists lead these learning opportunities.



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