

THE PERQUIMMANS WEEK



Merry Christmas

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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019

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All area lawmaker seats to be contested

BY STAFF REPORTS

All four of the region's legislative seats will be contested in next year's general election, thanks to last-day filers on Friday.

Tess Judge, a Democrat from Dare County, filed to run against state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, in the 1st Senate District in the November 2020 election.

Emily Bunch Nicholson, a Democrat from Chowan, filed to run against state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, in the 1st House District in next year's general election.

The region's other two legislative seats — in the 5th and 6th House districts — were already contested. Keith Rivers of Pasquotank is challenging Howard Hunter, D-Hertford, in District 5. The winner will

take on Republican Donald Kirkland of Ahoskie.

Rob Rollason of Dare is challenging state Rep. Bobby Hanig, R-Currituck, in District 6. The winner of the 6th District primary will face Democrat Tommy Fulcher of Dare in the November election.

In Perquimans County, Democratic incumbents Joseph Hoffler and Charles Woodard and Republican

Kyle Jones are running for the three open seats on the Board of Commissioners. Democrat Register of Deeds Jacqueline Frierson is also running unopposed for re-election.

There is a race for Perquimans school board. Incumbents Leary Winslow, Russell Lassiter and Arlene Yates are being challenged for their seats by Joseph Silva. The top three vote-getters will gain seats in

the March election.

Chowan County saw only one new filer on Friday: Travian Taylor filed to run for the District 3 seat now held by fellow Democrat Greg Bonner, who did not seek re-election.

Also not seeking re-election in Chowan is Democrat Don Faircloth, who holds the at-large seat. Two Republicans had already filed for the seat: Chris Evans and Michael

Dean.

Incumbent Commissioner Ron Cummings, a Republican, is running unopposed for his District 1 seat. Alex Kehayes, a former GOP commissioner, is also running unopposed for the District 2 seat now held by Patti Kersey, who did not seek re-election. Lynn Gilliard, the county's Democratic register of deeds, is also running unopposed for re-election.

Hertford touches Egypt

Rotary's Dr. Jaklic serves others, rides camel

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

Thanks to matching funds from Rotary International, local and countrywide local Rotary Clubs, including Hertford, San Francisco, New Jersey, Rotary clubs in Egypt and grant partner Alliance for Smiles, and his own wallet, Hertford Rotary Club member Frank Jaklic traveled to Aswan, Egypt. "Hertford Rotary Club has stepped up their game by participating in worldwide projects on a very real level by sending someone and sending money to help the project. That money is multiplied which is the real benefit of doing a global grant with Rotary. We get the experts and help fund it. Because of our donations to the Rotary Foundation, that money comes back to us through support of a global grant."

Jaklic and 23 other medical professionals, record keepers, videographers, photographers and Rotary and Alliance leaders led a mission to successfully operate on 47 Aswan, Egypt area cleft palate victims over a two week period.

Total grant was about \$72,000 to change children's lives overseas.

"I tell people the reason I went is that I want to see what our money is doing," Jaklic said. "I think we made a difference. It wasn't just the kids, it was their families. It's their friends. The hospital was glad that we did this — we put the hospital on the map because we did this. Wherever we went when they knew what we were doing, we were treated great. Thank-you's all the time."

Working in an unfamiliar hospital, with a crew from various cities in the U.S. and Brazil, doctors, nurses and the rest of the team, many who have never met, overcame language barriers with the help of local AFS (American Field Service) students.

The doctors, nurses, etc. had a wide range of birthplaces before emigrating to the U.S.A. Team members hailed from China, Burma, Pakistan, Mali, Viet Nam, San Francisco, Fort Collins, Chicago, Oakland, New Jersey, Akron, and Hertford.

"Here's 24 divergent people going to a hospital that they'd never been to before, working with equipment

'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Perquimans County



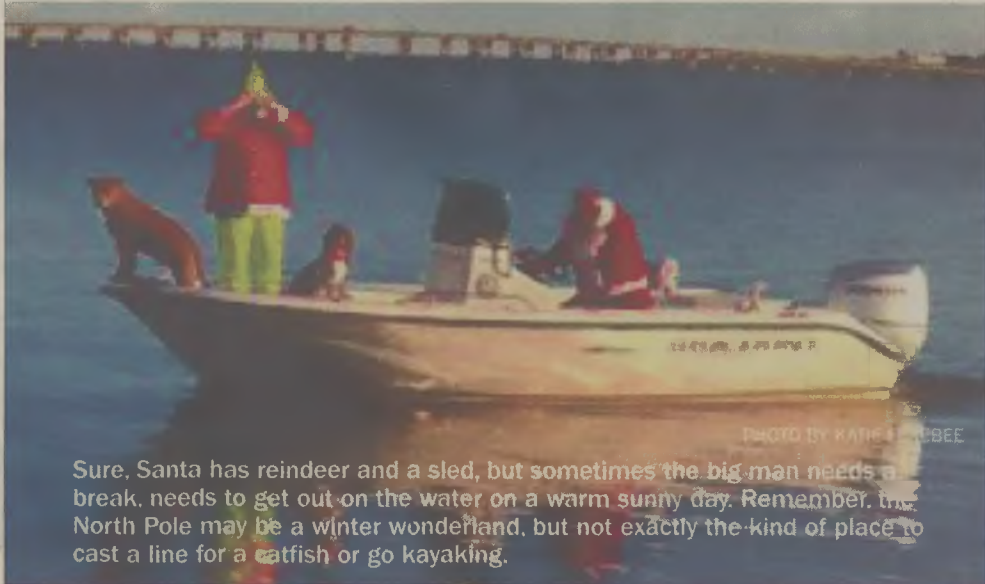
This photo submitted by Connie Jaklic brings to mind the song "O Holy Night" as sung by Josh Groban.

POEM BY CLEMENT CLARKE MOORE

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
 Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
 The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
 In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
 The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
 While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
 And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
 Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.
 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
 I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
 Away to the window I flew like a flash,
 Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
 The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
 Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
 But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.
 With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
 I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
 More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
 And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!
 "Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
 On, Comet! On, Cupid! On, Donner and Blitzen!
 To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
 Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
 As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
 When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
 So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
 With the sleigh full of toys, and St Nicholas too.

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Sure, Santa has reindeer and a sled, but sometimes the big man needs a break. needs to get out on the water on a warm sunny day. Remember, the North Pole may be a winter wonderland, but not exactly the kind of place to cast a line for a catfish or go kayaking.

ROUND-UP

'Pass the Buck' and new friends

BY MILES LAYTON
Editor

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

Town Council had a special meeting last Tuesday to discuss the **travel policy**. Meeting lasted about two hours — shorter than most meetings.

Councilman Hodges penned some revisions, worked hard over the weekend and into Tuesday afternoon to put together a new and improved travel policy.

Though council hadn't had a much of a chance to truly review the document before Tuesday evening's special meeting, they opted to discuss the revisions in open session, more or less line by line.

Transparency up front — that's a good start. No action was taken and nothing will be decided until January's council meeting when there will be a more complete news story about the matter.

During Tuesday's meeting, **Councilman Frank Norman** said Town Hall was supposed to provide some financial data related to recent trips for elected and non-elected officials. Spending is an essential part of any travel policy discussion.

Town Manager Pam Hurdle apologized for not having the information ready for Tuesday's special meeting, but pledged to get the information to council in the near term, perhaps by the end of last week.

On a related note, Perquimans Weekly has still not received any answers from Town Hall regarding **Councilman Quentin Jackson's** trip to San

Antonio in November.

However, all of this may have changed after press time for this edition of the newspaper, so I'll follow up as needed.

For now, keep reading... Newspaper made a Freedom of Information Act request Nov. 25, and subsequent inquiries to follow-up.

State law says public agencies must provide public records "as promptly as possible" — GS 132-6. Though the time frame as to when to honor these requests may vary within reason, if the newspaper had asked for a line-by-line travel expenditure request during the last 10 years, yeah, that's going to take some time for any Town Hall to produce.

On the other hand, Perquimans Weekly's very generic request should be reasonably forthcoming, perhaps a day or so.

Friday, Town Manager Hurdle sent this note Friday and thanked me for my patience.

"I will be sending you the answers to the questions below. Waiting for one more statement from our Banks. But if that is not available by Monday, I will send you the information that I do have and will note that the remaining information will be sent to you when I get it. My apologies to you for the delay but the statements and traveling receipts had to be compiled and processed by our Finance Department."

In a subsequent email Saturday morning, Hurdle asked

"Can you redirect your questions about the San Antonio trip and ask for

See LAYTON, A2

Habitat selects new homeowner

BY VERONICA DOWNING
Correspondent

Things are starting to look up for Daneyell Bunch, a part-time employee of Vidant Chowan Hospital and Tar River LTC. This year, the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat For Humanity and their Partnership Program worked with Bunch to get her a remodeled home for she and her five children: Daniyah (16), Deondre (14), Kelvontae (11) and her 10-year-old twins Malaya and Marchello. The home came after a

slight disappointment in waiting.

"I was in line for a home that was being built from the ground up," Bunch said in a phone interview Saturday. "But someone got to it before me."

Habitat continued to work with Bunch until another home became available. This home, in Edenton, will be a complete renovation, and should be available by the beginning of summer 2020.

"I am very excited," Bunch joyfully confirmed.

See HABITAT, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity has selected the Bunch family as the new Partner Family for renovating a house in Edenton. From left to right, Daneyell Bunch, Deondre, Daniyah, Kelvontae, Malaya, and Marchello.



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