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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

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SUBMITTED PHOTO
 Flanked by family, Earnell Brown signs the line to run for mayor. After the ballots were counted Nov. 5, Brown would make history as the first woman, first African-American woman too, to be elected as Hertford's mayor.



NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR: Mayor Earnell Brown

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Perquiman's Weekly's Newsmaker of the Year for 2019 is Hertford's new mayor, Earnell Brown.

Brown, who made history Nov. 5 by becoming the first woman to win a mayor's race in Hertford,

believes she was victorious because of her message.

"I think the reason I won is because of my slogan (Unity in the Hertford community), my narrative and how my belief was sincerely presented to the citizens of Hertford: Unity — we can do this together," she was quoted as saying in the Dai-

ly Advance.

Brown, who defeated Quentin Jackson, a sitting member of Town Council, by garnering more than 60 percent of the vote, said the results show citizens embraced change, including in how their government conducts business. Flanked by newly elected councilmen

Jerry Mimplitsch and Robert "Ashley" Hodges, Brown led a movement intent on transforming town government.

"I believe the citizens of Hertford want their town to move forward with integrity, transparency and with truth for every citizen," she

See BROWN, A2

ROUND-UP

Santa & PAL

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

First, Hertford Police have discovered the whereabouts of the Town vehicle's license tag for the Tahoe within the trunk of the Town's Impala.

Someone went to the trouble of removing the Tahoe's license plate while it was parked in the municipal lot the night of Dec. 11/12 and placed it inside the Impala!?

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact HPD at (252) 426-5587.

Speaking of HPD, give thanks to Officers Downing, Sullivan, Martin, along with Chief Brown who worked Christmas day. Officer Downing, Captain Rodriguez and Officer Webb deserved to be on Santa's nice list too for working Christmas Eve.

In other news, Holiday Island Civic League held its annual Breakfast with Santa Dec. 14 at the clubhouse. Forty-nine children had their picture taken with Santa. The children also wrote letters to Santa letting him know what they wanted.

Swearing-in ceremonies and oaths aside, once you get the new email address and the shiny name plate, you're officially the mayor. So in another inauguration of sorts, Mayor Earnell Brown's official email address is: mayor@townof-hertfordnc.com

By sending the "Way-Back Machine" to read a copy of the Perquimans Weekly for the first week of January in 1940, we learn that the honors for the first baby of the New Year goes to the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray D. Lane of Belvidere. The little lady was born at 11:30 a.m. Monday (Jan. 1) according to Dr. C. Davenport, attending physician. Several counties have come forward claiming the honor of the first baby born in the Albemarle in 1940, the newspaper's front page story reports. These claims will not dissipate, but to Mrs. Lane goes the honor of being the New Year's baby of Perquimans County.

Perquimans Arts League will host a new show, "History & Heritage," beginning

See LAYTON, A2



Volunteers from Historic Hertford, Carolina Moon and 3 Rivers Rotary Club made Christmas special for many families.

PHOTOS BY PAM HADDEN

Annual event held in new location

BY SUBMITTED REPORTS

Historic Hertford held Breakfast with Santa at its new location at

110 W Academy St., Dec. 21. Tickets were purchased in advance so Santa's helpers would know how many gifts to bring for the children. Break-

fast was pancakes, sausage and orange juice.

Forty children had an opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and request new toys.



Little Connor Aydlett, 1-year-old son of Erik and Brittany Aydlett, received a toy tiger from Santa.



Not only children had requests, Joe Musico with the Weeksville Fire Department asked for a new fire truck. Pictured with Joe is his daughter Olivia.

Taxpayers fund trip to Texas

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

HERTFORD — A trip to a conference in San Antonio cost taxpayers thousands of dollars and may have spurred growing calls to reform Town Hall's travel policy.

Perquimans Weekly submitted public records requests to Town Hall to learn more about the costs associated with Councilman Quentin Jackson and Councilwoman Gracie Felton's trip in November to the National League of Cities conference.

Texas trip is but one of many conferences across the nation that the taxpayers have funded, so Town Council has halted any new council travel, ordered a review of the town's finances and is revising the travel policy.

"Town Council is improving upon existing policy to apply and ensure transparency, integrity and account-

See TRIP, A2



JACKSON



FELTON

HISTORIC HERTFORD HAPPENINGS

Carolina Moon to Santa

BY LYNNE RAYMOND
 Historic Hertford

Welcome to our column that will keep y'all informed about Historic Hertford, Inc. and Carolina Moon Theater's events and plans.

It's hard not to look back at the joyous holiday season in Hertford. On Dec. 6, HHI kicked off the holiday season with the Grand Illumination attended by over 350 people. Santa arriving in a mule-drawn carriage was a big hit!

The River Trees were put up by Skip Matthews, Frank Jaklic and Don Keith and looked just great. Kudos to Pam Hurdle, Town Manager, Dwan Bell, Public Works Director, the Town of Hertford staff, and our own Downtown Beautification Committee, Joyce, Nancy, Lillian and Debbie

who without them we could not "light up the town" in so many ways! A big thank you to all who performed at the Grand Illumination ... you made the night a big success!

On Dec. 15, the Albemarle Community Orchestra performed Christmas songs in the Carolina Moon Theater for our listening pleasure. What a great opportunity to see the wonderfully talented musicians right here in Hertford!

On Dec. 21, HHI hosted our first annual Breakfast with Santa. We were over-subscribed and am sorry we had to turn so many away. We had 54 children from 11 days old to 10 years old and 46 adults who attended.

Olaf visited and was, of course, a big hit and then the man in the Red Suit showed up to listen to their hopes for Christmas presents; have their pic-

tures taken and receive a gift from Santa. What a great day for everyone — young and old alike!

We couldn't do all this without our wonderful volunteers so a big THANK YOU TO ALL OF THEM!

January Calendar

Below are some opportunities to become involved and things to do!

■ Historic Hertford, Inc., in conjunction with the Town of Hertford, has put up new banners downtown to welcome visitors! Don't they look great! Watch for 10 more banners to go up once the snowflakes come down.

■ Auditions are coming for Carolina Moon Theater's upcoming play, "Red Velvet Cake War" written by Jones, Hope, and Wooten. Go to carolinamoontheaterinc.org website for dates! Play dates are May 15, 16 and 17th.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

During Christmas tree season, Historic Hertford volunteers were out putting the finishing touches on downtown for the Grand Illumination.

■ On Friday, January 24th from 5 - 7 p.m. Historic Hertford, Inc. will host a Business After Hours, If you haven't had an opportunity to see the renovated building step in! In the words of P.T. Barnum you will be amazed! There is no charge but you must

signup at Carolina Trophy or on line at office@historichertfordinc.org for planning purposes.

■ On February 22nd at 7 p.m. the Carolina Moon theater will host The Grassabillies, a high-energy group of musicians based

See HISTORIC, A2

