

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Baseball, softball seniors, B1

"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

\$1.00

**HISTORIC HAPPENINGS**

Update on events and activities in Hertford — A2

**KIDS' CORNER**

Agriculture on — B2

**THIS WEEK IN NC HISTORY**

County music star Randy Travis was born May 4, 1959 in Union County. — B3

**CHURCH**

Apply Jesus' example in time of anxiety — B5

## Hertford Council Works to Improve Transparency

### Town Will Buy Waterfront Properties

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Hertford Town Council approved plans Monday to pursue the purchase of two waterfront properties on West Grubb Street.

Following a closed session meeting conducted via Zoom that lasted nearly an hour and

a half, council voted 4-1 with one abstention to buy property located at 212 and 216 West Grubb Street for \$225,000 with the financing for the purchase coming from First National Bank. Purchase price is close to the tax value for the two parcels of property — \$221,600 for the land and the building.

Mayor Earnell Brown along

with Councilmen Ashley Hodges and Jerry Mimlitsch voiced their support for the purchase while Councilman Quentin Jackson voted against the measure and Councilman Frank Norman abstained, which by state law a vote to abstain counts the same as a

See **WATERFRONT, A2**

### Audit Findings Addressed

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

State Treasurer's Office has analyzed an audit that reveals "serious operational problems" within the Town of Hertford's finances during the past fiscal year.

Town Hall has responded to these concerns by implementing a corrective plan of action that includes policy changes.

Prepared by Jeff Best, a certified public accountant

See **AUDIT, A3**

## 2 Added to ABC Board

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

Hertford Mayor Earnell Brown and Town Council disagree on changes made to expand the membership of the ABC Board.



JACKSON

By a council vote of 4-1, Councilman Quentin Jackson and Town Manager Pam Hurdle were recently appointed to the ABC Board — thus expanding

Board's membership from 3 to 5 seats, plus the store's general manager, Don Keaton.

Mayor Pro tem Ashley Hodges along with Councilmen Jerry Mimlitsch, Frank Norman and Jackson voiced their support in favor of the appointments while Brown was the dissenting vote. Hurdle was appointed as an ex-officio member of the board.

Regulated by state law, the ABC Board is responsible for hiring decisions and oversight of affairs of the liquor store that provides a steady stream of revenue to Town coffers.

ABC Store is located on town property, though the contents of the store belong to the state. Board meetings are public, allowing citizens to voice concerns.

Brown said the ABC store is one of Hertford's dependable revenue sources — 100% of their net profits go into the Hertford General Fund. She said there is no need to change a system that isn't broken.

"I found no need to change the dynamics of the existing ABC Board," she said. "They have been functioning in an efficient and responsible manner, consistently contributing to the much needed Hertford revenues. I did not find it a value added or warranted to first, induct a fifth ABC Board position then support a self-nomination (Councilman Jackson) to fill that position."

Hodges shared his reasons for expanding ABC Board.

"ABC Store profits constitute an important part of the Town of Hertford's budget each year, so it's logical to pay close attention to how the store is administered," he said. "Clearly the current Board has done a great

See **ABC BOARD, A2**



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Molly High, now a survivor of COVID-19, recently donated plasma that is filled with the antibodies needed to fight the virus. She is a former Edenton resident who now lives in Austin, Texas. Her father, Hackney High, is the county attorney for Perquimans County.

## High Atop a Silver Lining COVID-19

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

News these days is filled with fear mongering stories about COVID-19 that usually include dark statistics about the number of people infected, those who are suffering and those who have died.

Rather than root in that hog trough of bad news, this newspaper took a different path — a story of hope about someone who recovered after being exposed to the coronavirus.

"The message that I would give others is that the virus is real, but there are a lot of survivors like me and there are ways to help

See **COVID-19, A3**



John A. Holmes High School Class of 2013, Molly High has gone onto a successful career as a technology consultant for Oracle Corporation.

## ROUND-UP Mayor Gives Fireside Chat

BY MILES LAYTON  
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County... News of Hertford Town Council dominated coverage in this week's edition.

All that started early one morning last week when my phone started blowing up with news of Councilman Quentin Jackson's appointment to the ABC Board.

Later I watched/listened to a council meeting conducted via Zoom that was either hit or miss, depending on the tech gods. Not happy that I gave up an evening with my family to stay tuned to that meeting, but came up short.

Next day, my phone started beeping about how Councilman Frank Norman compared Mayor Earnell Brown to Hitler. More on that page A4. Hertford Town Council is never boring — long meetings, yes — but never boring.

While I may be practicing social distancing by kayaking or sailing if you reach out to me, I will always take time to respond via email

See **ROUND-UP, A3**



See next week's newspaper to learn more about Lizzy Story.

## HONOR ROLLS

### HERTFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Honor Roll for the Third Quarter  
 Grade 3

A Honor Roll

Angelica Ainslie, Chase Baker, James Byrum, Brody Dail, Chloe Davis, Ethan Drew, Laciaa Hodges, Eliza Jethro, Izaak Pollock, Jacob Quimby, Eden Tarragano, Alayna VanHorn



AB Honor Roll

Ariana Amodova, Bella Basnight, Landon Brinkley, John Chain, Taylor Cox, Madison Davenport, Cassidy Graham, Paige Guertin, Franco

See **HGS, A5**

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Even when school doors are closed, academic achievement is important, so the Perquimans Weekly is dedicated to posting these Honor Rolls, which start on the front page. Published as promised, these are the Third Quarter Honor Rolls for each of Perquimans top schools.

### PERQUIMANS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Honor Roll for the Third Quarter  
 6th Grade

Principal's List: William Byrum, LileeAnn Estes, Katie Fisher, Tyler Gregory, Aven



See **PCMS, A5**

### PERQUIMANS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Honor Roll for the Third Quarter  
 9th Grade

A Honor Roll

Benjamin Anderson, Carissa Baker, Jonathan Banks, Kenneth Barnes, Tyequasha Bembry, Dayne Colson, Maura Colson, Joleigh Connor, Mackenzie Davenport, Reagan Elkins, Olivia Fain, Olivia Ferris, Ryan Hansley, Craig Horton, Aidan Mummert, Lilian Sablon, Ariana Salupo, Eby Scaff, Meadow Stacey, Noah Swinney, Breanna Vaughan, Aiden White, Victoria Williamson, Macon Winslow



AB Honor Roll

Abigail Baker, Logan Bennett,

See **PCHS, A5**