

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020

\$1.00

**PAGES A6-B6**  
Letters to Santa from children in Perquimans public schools



**PAGE B7**  
Toys for Tots helps children throughout region



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## Mayor Calls for Action Against Councilman

Jackson Defends Himself Against Accusations

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Mayor Earnell Brown urged Hertford town councilors last week to take action against Councilman Quentin Jackson, claiming his conduct, some of which has resulted in criminal charges, is reflecting negatively on the town.

### MORE ONLINE

For more on this story, visit [PerquimansWeekly.com](http://PerquimansWeekly.com).

"Over the past year, the display of unethical behaviors have been committed by Councilman Jackson, several resulting in criminal charges," Brown said during the Dec. 15 Town Council meeting. "These behaviors and actions reflect negatively on the town of Hertford. They reflect

negatively on the board's credibility to effectively govern this municipality, create potential liability against the town, and impede the ability to protect the citizens' safety.

"If the Hertford governing board continues to remain silent and to take no action against such ongoing behavior/ac-



BROWN



JACKSON

tions, it is guilty of condoning the unethical behavior of Councilman Jackson," Brown said.

Brown called for council to either censure Jackson, seek to remove him from office, or seek state legislation authorizing the town to hold a recall election. (Brown's list of Jackson's

actions is published on page A3.) Citing general statutes, Brown said any council actions or discussion about Jackson had to be done in open session.

"This is not personal," she said. "This is not vengeful. It's not mean or negative. And I apologize if it is taken that way. I feel compelled as the mayor of the governing board, that we have an ethical integrity requirement that we all took the oath

See **ACTION**, A3.



## PAL to Begin Renovations for New Gallery

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Perquimans Arts League announced it will begin renovating its new location at 133 N. Church Street in Hertford.

PAL contracted Derek Waters Construction, a local builder, has been hired to perform the project.

"Derek Waters has worked with us for nearly two years in providing options for the project," said Ed Sanford, PAL's President. "We are very pleased to have a local builder with close ties to the community perform this work."

PAL purchased this "shell of a building" exactly 3 years ago this month (2017) with the goal of transforming it into a new art gallery and headquarters.

Sheryl Corr, PAL's president in 2017, understood the risk involved in this venture.

"The seller made a very generous offer to us, and we took a leap of faith" she said. "However, we did not have a concrete plan for raising the funds to convert the building into our new home. Honestly, we believed that the community would support us in raising the funds."

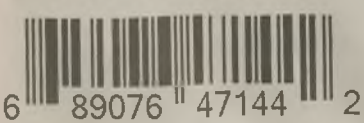
PAL applied for several grants to fund the project, which were unsuccessful. Despite these setbacks, PAL continuously took its case to its membership and to anyone else who would listen.

Over time, it replenished the amount in its building fund by soliciting a large series of small donations from its membership, business sponsors and other efforts like its annual Arts on the Perquimans event.

Subsequently, PAL changed its approach. It was not realistic to renovate the entire two-story building as a single project. Therefore, the PAL Board of Directors began focusing on just "getting into the building."

This pragmatic approach required two phases. Phase 1 focused on renovating the first floor only, enabling the organization to move the gallery from its current location

See **PAL**, A3



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PHOTO BY ANNA SPRUILL

"He's making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming to town!" Inner Banks Santa Claus wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

## Santa Shares Christmas Spirit

CEO of World's Biggest Toy Factory Explains How He Does It

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Seeking out the Christmas spirit, the Perquimans Weekly interviewed Santa Claus, albeit the Inner Banks incarnation.

Rather than spoiling the fun for families awaiting a visit from Santa Claus, the newspaper is not going to reveal Santa's alter ego identity particularly since a lot of kids will be reading the letters to Santa in the B section.

Here's what we can say reveal about the Inner Banks Santa - he's a generous, compassionate person who cares greatly about oth-

ers. And Christmas is his season to shine. He truly gets emotional around this time of year when listening to kids' wishes, appearing in parades and answering tons of Dear Santa letters.

Perquimans Weekly: What do you think the meaning of the season is?

Santa explained, "Christmas is more than Santa Claus and gift-receiving. Of course, the real meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, whom many of us honor. And everything that Jesus stands for...Love.

THAT is the true meaning of Christmas. Love. Loving your family, your friends, even your enemies. Loving what you have, not what you want. Loving where we live and what we can do to make

it better. LOVE. And all of us exclude the Christmas spirit when no matter what we do, we do it with love. That's what Santa tries to do all the time.

So it's a good time to look at the Good Book and remember, the greatest thing is Love."

Perquimans Weekly asked Santa if he, the elves and the reindeer are ready for Christmas Eve?

Santa answered, "Are we ready for Christmas Eve? Remember, for us, it's a 24 hour-plus night, covering the whole world. The reindeer have been working out since Easter...getting their flying skills in shape. The elves have been working pretty much non-stop since January...because

See **SANTA**, A2

### ROUND-UP

## St. Paul's AME Zion and Luke

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

Perquimans Weekly is giving you a chance to brush 2020 off your shoulder with Good bye 2020, a special page that will appear in a January edition of the newspaper. We are looking for one or two sentences of things you'd like to see go away when 2020 ends.

All we ask is that you keep it kid friendly and positive. Enter for a chance to win \$100 simply by telling us why you are done with 2020! The page is sponsored by Bass's Landscape Lawncare LLC in Edenton.

Submissions can be sent via good-bye2020.apgenc.com Entries will be collected from across eastern NC and we will produce a page that will go in all Adams Publishing Group's newspapers in January.

In other news, see our new web page at [PerquimansWeekly.com](http://PerquimansWeekly.com) - that's our gift to the community. Check it out!

Speaking of good will, Greater St. Paul's AME Zion Church recently

See **ROUND-UP**, A3



PHOTO BY CHRIS LANE

Lane Gregory with her pony Bells

## Former Perquimans High Athletes Offer Scholarship

BY BRENDA LASSITER  
For the Perquimans Weekly

Dr. Larry Honeyblue and Bobby Tolson recently reached out to the Perquimans County Schools Foundation to offer a \$1,000 scholarship to a PCHS 2021 Graduate.

Both Honeyblue and Tolson were highly recognized star athletes while attending Perquimans County High School in the late 70's and early 80's, respectively. Their abilities landed both into the Perquimans County High School Athletic Hall of Fame during the years 2008 - 2010.

Although recognized for their astounding athletic abilities, the scholarship established by Honeyblue and Tolson is to encourage athletes as they pursue their love of athletics to recognize that being a great athlete cannot compensate



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pirates' alumni Dr. Larry Honeyblue and Bobby Tolson (right) are paying it forward by offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Perquimans County High School 2021 graduate. Both Honeyblue and Tolson were highly recognized star athletes while attending PCHS in the late 70's and early 80's, respectively.

for other aspects of success in their lives.

"Student athletes must realize they are receiving a free high school education and must prepare themselves for higher edu-

cation to help carry them through life," Honeyblue said.

This \$1,000 scholarship is sponsored by Larry Honeyblue and Bobby Tolson, and is available to male or female student athletes who plan to attend a 4-year university and pursue a degree in Human Health Services (medicine, public health, social services).

Selection of recipients will be based on scholastic achievement, community service, character and financial need. An essay will also be required with the application. Applications are available at the high school guidance office.

The Foundation manages 25 annual scholarships and 7 endowments. Anyone interested in establishing a scholarship for graduates of Perquimans County High School, may contact the Foundation Office at 252-426-5741.