

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



The photography of John Matthews, P. 2

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

BOE dismisses Jackson's election protest

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Elections has dismissed an election protest filed by Quentin Jackson, one of three men who lost a bid for Hertford Town Council during the Nov. 8 election.

Jackson filed an election protest earlier this month

and asked that a new election be held.

Jackson claims he was targeted by "community officials that pass the opinion that I, Quentin Jackson, was not



Jackson

suitable to be a candidate for the position, severely tainting the views and actions of various governmental agencies including the employees of the elections board", his typed request to the BOE states. Jackson also alleged that the actions of those community officials "allows the main stream media a front page story to distort

views of entire voter population on the way to the polls."

Jackson alleged that a "top city official was fired for their participation" in his protest. He was referring to Joe Amos, former Hertford Police chief who was fired after posting a link to a news story about Jackson on the police department's Facebook page

on Election Day.

Jackson was arrested by sheriff deputies for delinquent child support payments just before the election and spent part of Election Day in Albemarle District Jail before family members paid \$1,000 for his release.

The three-member BOE voted unanimously to dismiss Jackson's protest

during a preliminary hearing Tuesday morning.

Jackson failed to attend the hearing, however, because he was back in jail - again - for failure to pay child support.

According to Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley, Jackson was arrested Friday on one count of

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Christmas parade is Saturday

Illumination set Thursday night

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Grand Illumination and annual Christmas Parade help kick off the holiday season this week in Perquimans.

Hertford's Grand Illumination will be held Thursday night at 6 p.m. on the lawn of the historic county courthouse. Seasonal music provided by the Perquimans County High School band and the annual lighting of the town's Christmas trees and downtown business district will officially open the holiday season.

Glowing luminaries lining the sidewalks and an illuminated 16 ft. Christmas tree help set the tone to ring in the Christmas season. Most merchants downtown will remain open late to kick off the holiday sales.

In addition to the illuminated business district and glowing courthouse square, 26 seven-foot handcrafted wooded River Trees will glow on the waterfront gracing Front, Church and Grubb streets.

Then on Saturday, Hertford's annual Christmas Parade gets underway at 2 p.m. Volunteer Steve Burkett will serve as Grand Marshall.

The parade's 55-60 entries will be decorated to the theme "Count Your Blessings." At least two bands are expected to march with a third band riding on a float. Santa will, and Santa will make his appearance

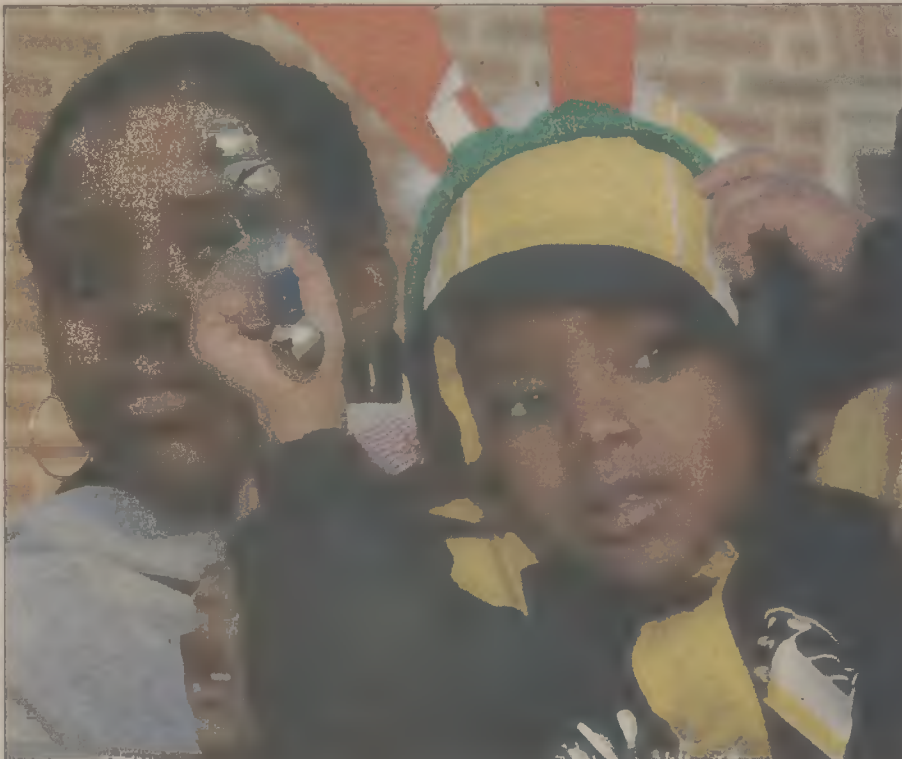
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FILE PHOTOS

There will be plenty of floats, like this one (above) from 2010, during Saturday's Christmas Parade in Hertford,

Children anticipating Santa's arrival during a previous Hertford Christmas Parade. This year's parade starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday.



If you go

- What: Grand Illumination, Town Christmas Parade
- When: Grand Illumination, 6 p.m., Thursday, historic courthouse; Parade, 2 p.m., downtown

More info needed on sewer district

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners will ask customers of the Holiday Island sewer plant, which is in jeopardy of closing, to tell them how they plan to finance necessary repairs and future operations of the facility if the group buys the problem-plagued plant.

Monday night during a work session, commissioners directed Interim County Manager Frank Heath to ask the group to attend their January work session to provide more financial information. Utility customers in the camping sections of Holiday Island have asked commissioners to consider creating a sewer district for the camping areas which would allow the group to seek grants to fund the needed repairs and continued operations of the plant. The customers have formed an unincorporated nonprofit group called Minzies Creek Village.

Commissioners have instructed the county attorney to look into any county liability involved in creating the district. They also voiced concerns over the ambitious financial plans involving so few people. While the plant has about 100 customers, only 25-30 are actually full-time customers.

"Based on their history of getting the customers to pay assessments (which funds sewer service), I think they are facing an uphill battle to be self-sustaining and maintain a viable

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Perquimans poised to continue swim lessons

Kindergartners learn water safety

By PETER WILLIAMS
The Daily Advance

Operation Water Turtle is two-thirds of the way toward funding a program that would teach all of this year's Perquimans County kindergarten students the basics of water safety.

The Albemarle YMCA and the Albemarle Hospital Foundation underwrote the bulk of the cost to put the entire class of Perquimans kindergarten students through the pro-

gram late last school year. The school district wants to make the effort ongoing every year and expand it to eight days vs. the four they did last year.

"This program really has the potential to save lives," said Melissa Fields, the principal at Perquimans Central School.

It costs almost \$15,000 to do the four-day program in late May and early June.

Water Turtle comes from the mascot for Perquimans Central School, the only kindergarten school in the county. The YMCA donated the \$8,840 it cost to provide the students with the training and one free CPR class to school staff. The hospital foundation provided \$5,000 and

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Businesses help others this season

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Helping to feed others this holiday season will get you discounts on merchandise in selected Hertford businesses.

The Hertford Business Association is sponsoring a food drive this Christmas season that not only benefits the needy, but those donating the food as well.

From now until Christmas Eve, donate non-perishable foods at one of the participating merchants in town and receive a discount on your purchase. All of the food collected will be delivered to the Open Door food pantry just in time to help feed county residents who need a helping hand this holiday season.

Local businesses taking part in the HBA campaign include: Carolina Trophy, White's Dress Shoppe, The Twysted Turtle, Hertfordshire Antiques, The Silver Fox, The Carriage House, Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Gregory's 5 & 10/Custom Framing, and The Perquimans Arts League.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 126 of Hertford presents its annual donation to the Open Door of Perquimans County. This year's donation of \$500 comes from the proceeds of the Auxiliary's annual spaghetti dinner. Open Door Director Rosemary Smith (left) accepts the check from Auxiliary Treasure Barbara Spear (right), with other Open Door volunteers watching.

The downtown merchants aren't the only businesses helping area citizens this holiday season.

Coastal Carolina Family Practice is also collecting food for Open

Door. Office employees usually adopt a family with gifts or provide presents for needy children each

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