

## JACKSON

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the town board in November. More recently he has expressed an interest in running for the N.C. House seat for the district.

Jackson detailed his version of the arrest. He said he was driving a Ford Explorer he had obtained from a dealership when he was stopped by a Hertford police officer, who asked for his license and registration. Jackson said the vehicle's license plate had been stolen, but he was carrying a valid registration card.

Jackson also said he had a holstered firearm resting on the console of the vehicle and that he told the officer who stopped him about the weapon.

Jackson said a second police officer who arrived

asked him if he would hand him the holstered handgun, Jackson said. He said he complied with the request and the officer placed the holstered weapon in the first officer's patrol car.

Jackson said he didn't identify himself to the officers as a councilman because he did not expect preferential treatment from them.

Watching with his rear-view mirror, Jackson claims he saw the second officer try to remove the handgun from the holster. Jackson said that prompted him to get out of his vehicle and tell the officer, "Hold on. We're not going to play these games."

Jackson said the first officer told him to get back in his vehicle, which he declined to do. Jackson said he then asked the officers to return his handgun. He said

*"I will tell you that this was an eye-opening experience for me as a citizen and also a councilman."*

**Quentin Jackson**  
speaking about arrest

the officers again warned him to get back his vehicle or face arrest.

At that point, Jackson claims he extended his arms in front of him and told the officers it was fine if they had to arrest him, but he planned to keep watching what they were doing with his handgun. Jackson said the first officer then placed him under arrest and took him into custody.

Jackson said he con-

tacted Shoaf, who told him Hertford's acting police chief would meet him at the Perquimans Magistrate's Office. There, Jackson said he was released on a \$500 unsecured bond.

Noting he has been a past critic of Hertford's police department, Jackson said he believes the town's officers aren't properly trained and aren't following proper protocols. Still, he expressed surprise at being arrested for not following an order he believes was unlawful.

"I will tell you that this was an eye-opening experience for me as a citizen and also a councilman," Jackson said. "If I can get treated like this as a councilman, I'm concerned for my citizens of Hertford to be treated how we're treated."

Thursday's traffic stop wasn't the first time Jackson has been arrested. Accord-

ing to N.C. Public Safety records, Jackson was convicted in Perquimans in May 2007 of simple assault and communicating threats. He also was convicted in Dare County in 2016 of accessing a computer without proper authority. He was sentenced to probation for both convictions.

Jackson also was arrested in November 2011, when he was in the midst of what ended up being an unsuccessful campaign for a Hertford Town Council seat. Jackson was confined at Albemarle District Jail after he was arrested at a traffic checkpoint on an outstanding warrant for failure to pay court-ordered child support.

Police Chief Joe Amos was terminated by Shoaf for allegedly violating town policies and police department rules by posting a link

to a news story regarding Jackson on the Hertford Police Department's Facebook page just prior to a town election. The link was to a news story on Jackson's arrest for failing to pay court-ordered child support.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Perquimans County NAACP picked Jackson to be the top speaker.

He admitted he had made mistakes in the past, but he's grown up now.

"I am happy with the man that I am today," he said.

In addition to serving on the town board, Jackson has asked to serve on some of the county's advisory boards.

Specifically he mentioned Perquimans County Commission's recreation advisory committee, the Albemarle District Jail Commission and the Perquimans County Planning Board.

## PRISON

Continued from 1

Oct. 12 escape attempt that led to the deaths of four correctional employees.

Three of the four dead had Perquimans County ties. Geoffrey Howe went to Perquimans County High School. Wendy Shannon, as well as correction enterpriser sewing plant manager Veronica Darden were residents of Perquimans County. Correctional officer Justin Smith lived in Elizabeth City.

Four inmates have been

charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of the prison workers and will face the death penalty if convicted of that charge at trial.

The NIC report found Pasquotank Correctional Institution was very understaffed, and said that contributed to a lack of oversight of inmates and the cutting of corners on safety procedures. The report found that a hallway door left open may have facilitated the inmates' escape attempt. It also determined that improper control of employees' keys may also have aided the escape at-

tempt.

The report documented other deficiencies after the escape attempt, including blind spots for security cameras, an inadequate area for conducting strip searches of inmates as they entered and exited the now-closed sewing plant where the escape attempt started, a lack of review and training for emergency plans, and a lax security audit that gave false comfort to prison staff. The report also found that PCI benefited from a security audit that glossed over "key and lock control" violations. Prison employ-

ees suggested there was a "you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours" approach to those audits.

Higgins said that Lassiter, in consultation with DPS' Chief Deputy Secretary Reuben Young, appointed Daniels interim administrator at PCI because of "his experience, reputation, familiarity with the facility and his abilities." Asked if Daniels has made changes to improve security at the prison, Higgins said the interim administrator is evaluating operations at PCI. DPS has already ordered numerous changes to PCI

and other prisons.

DPS' website shows that Maury Correctional Institution is a larger prison than PCI. It was built for a capacity of 1,504 inmates and a staff of 599. Like PCI, it also houses close-custody inmates who've committed major and often violent crimes.

Higgins reported Daniels' pay will remain \$94,628 a year. Taylor and Respass are paid \$76,747 and \$72,693, respectively.

Following the deadly escape attempt in his district, state Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, has emerged as

a major critic of the state's prison management. Reacting to Taylor's and Respass' suspensions Wednesday, Steinburg described the move as a step in the right direction.

"They should lose their jobs, if this report is to be believed," Steinburg said, noting both administrators were in "the catbird's seat" at PCI and responsible for its oversight.

Steinburg also said he has heard concerns about MCI, but said he needs to look into Daniels' background there, noting he has no immediate judgment of him.

## WRECK

Continued from 1

and they put some light on us. I knew we had to have hit something, but I didn't know what. We couldn't see what we'd hit because it was on the other side (of the train)."

They stood in the dark and cold until they were taken to a reception area. There they prioritized the people in terms of how badly they were hurt.

"We didn't require hospitalization," Cheeseman said.

He said he can't say enough about how caring and professional everybody was.

Cheeseman said one reason why he and his family weren't more seriously injured may have been they were in a sleeper car which is roomier. Their rail car was behind a dining car, and that's the one you can see in pictures crumpled.

*"I knew we had to have hit something, but I didn't know what. We couldn't see what we'd hit because it was on the other side (of the train)."*

**Matthew Cheeseman**

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent

The more serious injuries were in the coach cars. They are equipped with seats similar to those you would see on an airplane and people were closer together.

"We just had more room," Cheeseman said.

He said Amtrak had an

impressive response to the accident. He said they offered to put passengers on another Amtrak train to continue their journey or an Amtrak bus. But to do that, they'd have to wait until everybody's luggage could be located and placed on that train or

bus.

For Cheeseman, they offered him a rental car. They were packing light for the trip. They opted to take the car Amtrak offered to finish the trip to Florida.

"We didn't check any bags, and when we got off the train we took our bags with us. This wasn't a major vacation, it was a minor trip."

This time in February has a special significance for both he and his wife, and he'd asked school board chair Amy Spough for permission to take the few days off.

Cheeseman plans to be back at work late this

week, and when it comes to the trip back to North Carolina, he said they'd be taking an Amtrak train.

"It was an accident," he said. He said accidents can happen driving a car or flying in a plane. The wreck in South Carolina has not soured his feelings toward Amtrak.

And he said the superior response from emergency responders, including the local school superintendent there, will stay with him. The reception center was at Pine Ridge Middle School.

"I have these as professional friends for the rest of my life," he said.



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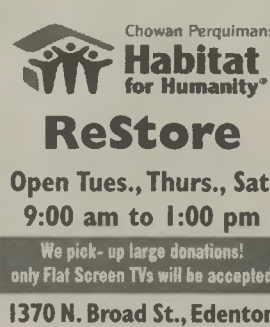
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## SCHOOLS

Continued from 1

classes but this was more hands on," Jordan said.

Teachers were able to use a Braille Writer, a sort of typewriter that has only seven keys. With it, they can type and the writer creates the raised bumps on paper that blind people can read using their fingers.

Jordan said you can type Braille using contractions. Instead of typing "star" you can use one for "st" and another for "ar."

Jordan has 17 students in her class, but team teaches with another teacher so she has 36 students she's in contact with. When she writes anything in the classroom, she makes sure she says it aloud as well.

"My student has an awesome memory. If she hears it, she remembers it," Jordan said.

"She is blind, but very honestly academically she's very bright," Griffin said. "She learns like everybody else, she's just blind."

For more information, contact Kanika Griffin, at 426-5741, ext. 234.

## ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

The annual Shareholders meeting of Hertford Savings Bank, SSB will be held:


**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018**  
**5:00 P.M.**

AT:  
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**HERTFORD, NC**

The meeting is called for the purpose of electing Directors and transacting other business that may come before this meeting.

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