

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021

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Santa's Helpers donate \$3,000 to help county students in need



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Perquimans volleyball team wins opening-round playoff match



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Who qualifies as "honorable" and do they deserve title?

Candidates head into final stretch of Hertford election

Hertford polls open Tuesday at 6:30 a.m., close at 7 p.m.

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Patterns in early voting for next month's Hertford municipal election suggest turnout will be higher than the last time council seats were on the ballot without a mayor's race.

Kathy Trieber, director of elections for Perquimans County, said



ANDERSON

turnout in the Hertford town election is on pace to be higher than in 2017, the last town council election in which there was not a mayoral race.

But Trieber said turnout so far is lower than in 2019, when the office of mayor was on the ballot.

As of Friday afternoon, 165 bal-



BORDERS

lots had been cast in the election — 163 by in-person voters and two by mail.

By comparison, Trieber noted, in 2017 144 ballots had been cast at this point in one-stop voting.

As next Tuesday's election nears candidates for town council seats



BROTHERS

continue to reach out to voters and ask for their support.

First-time candidate Connie Brothers said she has a great team of volunteers who are canvassing door to door in Hertford. She's also talking to voters outside the Perquimans County Board of Elections Office during



FELTON

early voting, she said.

"The citizens have been very receptive to our canvassing," Brothers said. "They are excited about change in Hertford and they know that the only way to have change is to elect new

See CANDIDATES, A3

Water Turtles



PHOTOS COURTESY PERQUIMANS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Swim instructors Meg Horton (left) and Mike Beteta (right) at Albemarle Family YMCA teach a group of second-graders from Perquimans Central School water safety and swim skills during the Water Turtles program at the Y. After a two-year pause because of COVID-19 restrictions, the free program launched by the Perquimans Schools Foundation resumed last week.

Schoolkids back in the pool after COVID pause

Program teaching water safety to 371 Perquimans students

From staff reports

After a two-year pause because of COVID-19 restrictions, Perquimans County's youngest schoolchildren are finally back in the pool learning how to swim.

The school district's 11-year-old Water Turtles program, spearheaded by the Perquimans County Schools Foundation and funded by corporate sponsors, restarted this week at the Albemarle Family YMCA in Elizabeth

City. Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the foundation, said 140 second-graders at Perquimans Central School began receiving free swim and other life-saving lessons on Tuesday and will continue in the program until Friday. The school's 116 first-graders and 115 kindergartners will receive their swim lessons in November, she said.

Typically, only Perquimans kindergartners are taught to swim in the Water Turtles program. However, because the pandemic canceled the

See POOL, A3



Meg Witten instructs second-grader Kaylee Bateman on the proper technique for floating on your back in the water, during the Water Turtles program at the Albemarle Area YMCA last week.

Hertford hopefuls weigh in on making meetings more civil

Anderson, Borders, Brothers offer fixes for council woes

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Confrontations between council members. Confrontations between councilors and the mayor. Confrontations between council members and members of the audience.

If one word could best sum up Hertford Town Council meetings over the past several years it's this one: incivility.

The Perquimans Weekly recently asked all six of the candidates seeking the two seats on the Hertford Town Council in next week's municipal election for their thoughts on how to improve civility and decorum at council meetings.

Only three candidates — Sandra Anderson, Martha Borders and Connie Brothers — responded. Three others — incumbent Councilors Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman III and former Councilor Gracie Felton — did not.

Our specific questions and the candidates' responses follow:

TPW: What do you believe the town council can do to improve decorum at

town council meetings? How important do you think it is that decorum improve? How can councilors promote mutual respect among each other and with citizens?

Martha Borders:

"Decorum at council meetings went out the window in January 2018 and decorum will not return until two councilmen leave office in December 2021. They disregard rules unless it is for their convenience. They know the law and they can't be thrown out of a meeting. One councilman even started a fight with a downtown business owner and ended the meeting with nothing accomplished. The council had to schedule another meeting to get town business done.

"The results of this behavior, as I wrote about in December 2020, is our democracy suffers and no business get done. Furthermore, citizens are very reluctant to step forward to volunteer or speak before council. Once decorum returns Hertford can move forward.

"Respect is required on council to discuss issues and help the town manager run an efficient town. Presently mutual respect does not exist on council mainly due to

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Jackson complaint against citizen stems from July 6 meeting

Councilman already convicted of making threats in incident

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office is investigating a complaint by Town Councilman Quentin Jackson against Perquimans businessman Patrick Morrissey.

The complaint stems from a dispute at the July 6 meeting of the Hertford Town Council.

Jackson was convicted of communicating threats in connection with the incident and has appealed the conviction to Superior Court.

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said Friday he could not release



JACKSON

any details regarding Jackson's complaint since it remains under investigation.

He said he expects interviews to be completed within a week and at that time will forward the report on the investigation to District Attorney Andrew Womble for his consideration.

Morrissey said officers interviewed him at his home Thursday.

Jackson has maintained since the incident occurred that he felt threatened when Morrissey got out of his seat during the council meeting.

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Hertford Fire's Sportsman's Giveaway keeps growing

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The big Sportsman's Giveaway fundraiser for the Hertford Fire Department was even bigger this year.

In previous years the fire department has printed 2,500 tickets for the drawings, which are sold at \$20 apiece. There's a grand prize of \$5,000, plus dozens of shotguns, rifles and other prizes are raffled away.

This year 3,000 tickets were printed and 2,850 were sold.

"It just seems to get bigger every year," said Hertford Fire Chief Drew Woodard.



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
Jerry Newell (left) confirms that Michael Hurdle holds the winning ticket for a \$500 cash prize at the Sportsman's Giveaway at the Perquimans County Recreation Center, Saturday.

Woodard noted that last year the department needed was able to buy a search and rescue boat that was equipped with state-of-the-art electronics using the funds raised in the community.

He noted the department depends on

community support.

"We have very good community support," Woodard said, looking around at the crowd in the recreation center. "And a lot of the folks who bought tickets aren't here tonight."

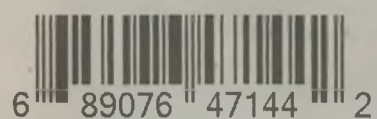
About 300 people turned out in person at the Perquimans County Recreation Center Saturday evening to await the results of the drawings. Numerous others bought tickets and simply waited for a phone call telling them they had won a prize.

Gary Harrell of Richmond, Virginia, bought five tickets and went home with a Ruger .308 rifle.

He said he was surprised to win the drawing.

Harrell, who grew up in Perquimans County and had come home for the weekend to hunt here, decided to buy tickets and come out to the Sportsman's Giveaway — and he was glad he did.

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