

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021

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SCAN ME



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 Rhythm Run helps make Higgins scholarship endowed fund



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 Annual Christmas card winners announced



A8-11
 Third-graders write letters to Santa

Anderson, Brothers join council, vow better communication

Brothers: Hertford Town Council should respond to citizen concerns at meetings

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

Sandra Anderson and Connie Brothers joined the Hertford Town Council Dec. 13, reiterating their campaign promise to improve communication with residents.

Just moments after taking the oath of office as a town councilor, Brothers made a motion to change the council's policy on public comment to allow council members to respond to concerns raised by citizens at meetings. The current policy doesn't allow council members to do that.

Brothers said citizens who are willing to stand before council and speak want and deserve to have their concerns addressed.

Councilor Ashley Hodges, who was re-elected as mayor pro tem at the Dec. 13 meeting, agreed to second Brothers' motion on the condition that it be amended to say that Brothers would draft the proposed policy change and bring it to the council for its consideration in January.

Hodges' amended motion passed unanimously.

Anderson and Brothers were the two top vote-getters in the town's Nov. 2 election, ousting incumbent councilors Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman. The election was widely seen as a referendum on the incumbents, whose behavior with fellow councilors and members of the public at meetings was often combative.

Brothers said after being sworn in that she would do the best she can in her service on the council and allow God to lead her.

Anderson also addressed communication with the public in her comments at the meeting.

"I would like to have better communication with the residents of the town," Anderson said.

Hodges said he would "lean heavily" on Anderson and Brothers to help the council become more grounded and engaged with the community.

Anderson said councilors will respect



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

New Hertford Town Councilor Sandra Anderson (left) is administered the oath of office Monday, Dec. 13, by former Judge Janice Cole as Anderson's husband Karl holds the Bible.

See COUNCIL, A3

Colonial Christmas



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Sid Eley, (left) portraying the Lord Mayor, welcomes visitors to the Newbold-White House during a holiday skit at the Colonial Christmas Open House Dec. 16. To Eley's right are Sandy Stevenson (center) and Dee Ponte, who also performed in the skit. The event was sponsored by the Perquimans Restoration Association.

Newbold-White House spreads holiday cheer

Performers explain Yule Log, other traditions in holiday skit

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

The Newbold-White House treated guests to hot spiced cider, comedy, history lessons and seasonal music at a Colonial Christmas Open House last week.

The event, held Dec. 16, drew some 80 visitors to the historic house on what event organizers described as "a beautifully warm, moonlit night."

A humorous skit that also

taught some history about the Yule Log and other traditions featured Sid Eley as Lord Mayor, Lamb Basnight as the Lord of Misrule, Sandy Stevenson as Master and Dee Ponte as Mistress.

Stevenson explained the history of the Yule Log tradition, which has origins in Winter Solstice observances in pre-Christian Europe and came to be part of Christian celebrations of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In pre-Christian times the Yule Log represented the battle of light versus moonlit night.

See COLONIAL, A3



Harpist Nora Crouch performs at the Colonial Christmas Open House at the Newbold-White House, Thursday, Dec. 16.

Manager: Former councilors haven't turned in property

Norman, Jackson did not comply with council resolution

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

Two former town councilors did not turn in laptops and other town-issued items as they were directed to by their former colleagues, the town's manager said Friday.

A resolution adopted by the Hertford Town Council at a special meeting Dec. 9 required then Councilors Frank Norman and Quentin Jackson to return the property by 9 a.m. on Dec. 14. Neither had done so as of late Friday afternoon, Town Manager Pam Hurdle said.

Newly elected Councilors Sandra Anderson and Connie Brothers were sworn in at an organizational meeting of the



NORMAN



JACKSON

council on Monday, Dec. 13. Norman and Jackson lost their bids for re-election in the town's election on Nov. 2.

The Dec. 9 resolution, which passed over dissenting votes by Norman and Jackson, required the two councilors to return to the town manager by 9 a.m. Dec. 14 town property that

See PROPERTY, A3

Council met Tuesday on town manager

Council to interview town clerk candidates Jan. 8

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council was slated to meet Tuesday to discuss the possibility of naming an interim town manager.

Town officials have not yet advertised the position of town manager.

"That process has not begun," said Town Manager Pam Hurdle, who retires at the end of this month, when asked last week whether the



HURDLE

position had been advertised.

The town clerk position in Hertford is also vacant.

The agenda for the meeting Wednesday included a closed session to discuss personnel and also an agenda item for appointment of an interim town manager.

Town Council announced

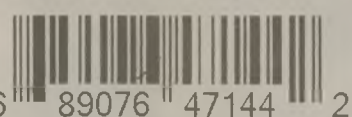
See MANAGER, A3

Lady Pirates' Burke wins 100th game as high school coach

Burke has coached numerous sports at PCHS for 15 years

BY JULIAN EURE
 The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — Aaron Burke



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hasn't had a lot of time yet to reflect on what it means to win 100 basketball games.

Burke, the coach of the Perquimans Lady Pirates, just accomplished the feat Monday, Dec. 13, with his team's 52-24 road win over Lawrence Academy in Merry Hill.

But even if he had the time, joining the 100-win club is not something Burke would spend a lot of time thinking about.



BURKE

As Burke said afterward, "The kids, not the wins, are the most important thing."

Besides, Burke is too focused right now on getting the 60 Lady Pirates ready for conference play which begins soon.

Burke would have had a chance to win game number 100 at home Friday, Dec. 10, against the Edenton Lady Aces. The game was canceled, however, because of a threat against John A. Holmes High School earlier that day.

Burke, who started coaching around 2003, says he's "coached everything" in his 15-plus years at Per-

quimans, including both football and boys basketball. He's now in his fifth year as the Lady Pirates head coach.

Sixteen of his 100 wins in fact came as head coach of the Perquimans' boys basketball team. The remainder have come as the Lady Pirates' coach.

Asked if there's any difference between coaching boys and girls basketball, Burke said there really isn't. He said his approach has always been the same.

"You're trying to get them to do what they're coached to do so that when it's time, they — male or female — are going to get it done," he said.

And so far this season, the Lady

Pirates are getting it done. Burke is pleased with their play, particularly their defensive effort.

"Right now they're playing together as a team, feeding off each others' energy," he said.

One of Burke's personal highlights this season is the presence on the team of his daughter, Lailana Harris, who's a freshman.

Burke says he treats Lailana "just like any other player" on the team, but it's nonetheless been a "pleasing and enjoyable experience" for father and daughter to share their love of

See BURKE, A3