

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

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PCRA hosts Colonial Christmas event



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A TikTok sensation: EC biz owner has 170K followers on app



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All I want for Christmas: Youngsters write to Santa

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Hertford to use part of grant prepping for ferry project

Part of \$725K will help upgrade docks, build pavilion

From staff reports

The town of Hertford will use part of a \$725,000 state grant preparing for the start of the Harbor Towns ferry project.

Gov. Roy Cooper announced last week that Hertford is among the 42 local governments statewide set to receive a total of \$19.76 million in grants

during the second round of funding from the Rural Transformation Grant Fund. The funding comes from the American Rescue Plan signed by President Biden last year.

Hertford will use its \$725,000 grant for several projects, interim Town Manager Janice Cole said last week. One project will allow Hertford to connect its downtown with its public docking area, she said.

"The docks will be upgraded, a pavilion will be

constructed and the sidewalks will be upgraded," Cole said in an email.

She said the infrastructure improvements are designed to prepare Hertford for the arrival of the Harbor Towns ferry vessels and dinner boat "which are anticipated to be ready in the spring."

According to Cole, the town's Rural Transformation grant will also be used to make improvements at the intersection of Grubb and Church streets in the

downtown.

"This is another step toward fulfillment of the Hertford Community & Riverfront Plan and our partnership with Allison Platt of Regeneration by Design continues in this endeavor," Cole said.

Area officials announced last week that Harbor Towns Inc. is close to finalizing a contract to purchase the 85-foot Anticipation V dinner-excursion boat from



PHOTO COURTESY NICK DIDOW

The town of Hertford plans to use part of its \$725,000 Rural Transformation grant to improve access to the public docks where the Anticipation V, a dinner-excursion boat, will be moored when it starts visiting the town next spring.

See GRANT, A3

Time with St. Nick



JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Santa tells (seated, l-r) Royal Archer, Myracle Archer, (standing, l-r) Nova Felton and Legacy Warren more about himself prior to listening to their wishes for Christmas during Historic Hertford Inc.'s annual Breakfast With Santa event at the Carolina Moon Theater in Hertford, Saturday.

Breakfast With Santa draws sellout crowd

110 attended event hosted by HHI at Carolina Moon Theater

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

The Historic Hertford building was filled with the aroma of pancakes and sausages as well as a bit of holiday wonderment during Saturday's annual Breakfast

With Santa event.

The breakfast, hosted by Historic Hertford Inc., boasted sellout crowds during both its 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. sessions, drawing a total of 40 adults and 70 children.

HHI members scurried like elves during both sessions, flipping flapjacks, pouring orange juice, bus-sing tables, and taking res-

ervations for times with Santa — all while making sure everyone was having a jolly time.

Peggy Winslow, on the piano, and Nancy Jones, playing the violin, added to the holiday mood by performing Christmas music.

Both young and old peaked through the doors of the Carolina Moon Theater to get a glimpse of St. Nicho-

las, who was sitting center stage on a red velvet couch and engaged in reading long lists that apparently contained the names of exactly who had been nice and, well, who hadn't been.

Once breakfast was finished, the doors to the theater opened and children entered and were greeted

See SANTA, A3

Open Door hoping to raise \$50K to start facility work

Food pantry needs to raise \$50K to match challenge grant

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County hopes to open the doors at its new expanded facility by the end of next summer.

But that timetable will largely depend on the generosity of community donors.

This month marks the beginning of the Open Door's \$50,000 matching grant Jump Start Challenge. The nonprofit has received grant donations totaling \$50,000 to complete phase one of its renovation project at the for-

mer Andy's and Highway 55 restaurant building on Creek Drive in Hertford.

But the grants require the Open Door to raise a matching amount to secure the \$50,000. The Open Door hopes to raise \$50,000 in December so it can secure the grant in early 2023 and start the renovation project.

Currently Open Door is working with A.R. Chesson Construction Co., Inc. and is in the final design phase for a new addition that will add space and style to the existing building.

"We anticipate the approval of the plans to be after the first of the year with the construction starting as soon as possible

See OPEN DOOR, A3



IMAGE COURTESY THE OPEN DOOR PANTRY

Shown is an artist's rendering of what The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County envisions its renovated facility will look like once renovations are complete.

Orchestra performs Christmas concert

Concert included Ukrainian composer's 'Carol of the Bells'

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

Conductor Nancy Jones and the Albemarle Community Orchestra brought the seasonal sounds of Bach, Tchaikovsky, and Douglas Wagner to life last weekend at Hertford's Carolina Moon Theater.

Sellout crowds turned out both Saturday and Sunday evenings to enjoy the music performed by the orchestra whose 23 members are from the local community.

This year's concert,

"Christmas Around the World," included arrangements of a "Cold Winter's Night" by Erica Donahoe; "Jolly Old St. Pachelbel" by Matthew Putnam; and "Carol of the Rising Bells" by Tyler Arcari.

The new composition by Arcari is an arrangement of "House of the Rising Sun" and "Carol of the Bells."

"Carol of the Bells" was written in 1916 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovich and titled "Shchedryk." The composition is based on a tale about a swallow who flies into a family's house to proclaim the plentiful year that's ahead for them. The song's title is derived from the Ukrainian word "shchedryk," meaning "bountiful."

"House of the Rising Sun" was written by Georgia Turner and Bert Martin and tells a different story. Arcari is a composer, ar-



JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Albemarle Community Orchestra conductor Nancy Jones (left) shares notes during a rehearsal with cellists (l-r) Walter Schmitt, Hilary Hunsberger and Melody Clopton while trombonist Courtney Young looks on. The orchestra performed its "Christmas Around the World" concert at Hertford's Carolina Moon Theater on Saturday and Sunday.

ranger, author and clinician, penned the piece in 2020. While it may have a more special meaning today, given the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it was not written with the Kyiv-Moscow standoff in mind.

The orchestra, organized by Jones in June 2017, is

made up of local community musicians from Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank counties.

The Albemarle Community Orchestra performs twice a year, once in the spring and again in December. The spring concert dates have not yet been announced.

Trooper had missed previous court date

One dismissed DWI case had been continued 9 times

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The 11 driving while impaired cases dismissed in a single session of Perquimans County District Court in September because of a state trooper's absence from court had been continued from a June court session because the same trooper was absent from court then, too.

In addition, all of the DWI cases dismissed had been continued — rescheduled to a future court date — at least three times and several others had been continued numerous times, including one continued nine times.

And in at least two of

the cases, the defendant charged with DWI had themselves previously been charged with failing to appear in court when they were scheduled to.

The Perquimans Weekly previously reported that five of the defendants in the cases also had been convicted of DWI before, including one involving Gregory Twine, who, according to the state's dismissal form, had three prior DWI convictions in Perquimans County — in 1993, 1995 and 2019 — and one in Chowan County, in 2011.

The cases were dismissed by the prosecutor in Perquimans County District Court on Sept. 14 after Judge Meader Harriss III denied the state's request

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