

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

NOV 25 REC'D

50 cents



Perquimans chamber to hold holiday turtle contest, 8

New superintendent named

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Matthew Cressman speaks Monday night after being named the new Perquimans County Schools superintendent.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County School Board named a new superintendent Monday night.

The board hired Matthew Cheeseman, 43, to replace Dwayne Stallings who will be retiring at the end of December.

Cheeseman comes from a job as chief administrative officer at the Washington County Schools based in Plymouth. His Perquimans contract runs from January through June of 2019 with a salary of \$120,000.

The school board has been working to find a replacement since June when Stallings gave them notice he would retire. It's been eight years since the board had to hire a new leader, and they enlisted the services of the Wilmington-based Masonboro Group to help. The effort included meetings with the public, educators and staff to find out what they wanted to see in a new leader.

"It's been a long process," said Susan Cox, the chairman of the school board. "But this is the most important thing the board of education can do

— selecting a new superintendent."

She thanked the board for their diligence, and one board member thanked Cox right back for taking the lead.

"You have done a fantastic job," Ralph Hollowell told Cox.

Cheeseman started in education as a chemistry and physics teacher with the Upper Adams School District in Biglerville, Pa. He went on to work with school districts in San Lorenzo, Calif. Nicolaus, Calif., and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School

See CHEESEMAN, 8.

Community pitches in to help with Turkey Drop

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Food pantry volunteers were thankful a few days early this week when community support made it possible for nearly 300 families to have a proper Thanksgiving meal.

Rosemary Smith, the director of the Winfall-based Open Door Food Pantry, said a "Turkey Drop" held by Hertford United Methodist Church collected 150 birds plus more than 770 pounds of other holiday food and \$800 in cash. The pantry had already ordered more than 100 turkeys.

The HUMC effort was 50 birds shy of the goal it set itself, but Smith said the cash would more than enough to buy the rest. Last year's Turkey Drop collected 103 birds.

"The community has been so very supportive," Smith said Monday as volunteers were handing out the food. "I really don't know what to say."

It's the second year the Hertford church has acted as a collection point for



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Sandra Hoffer hands a turkey to Bob Halter Friday during Hertford United Methodist Church's "Turkey Drop" event.

See TURKEY DROP, 4

Search continues for missing woman

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The family of a woman missing since May has enlisted the help of a national volunteer agency.

Karen Bosta was last seen visiting the Walgreens

in Edenton on May 30. Her car was found a few days later in the Candle Square parking lot off Broad Street in Edenton. Bosta was living in Holiday Island at the time of her disappearance.



BOSTA

To date lawmen have had few clues as to what happened to her.

"As her mother, I am pleading with the community to be vigilant when you are out and about especially our hunters, farmers, boaters, fisherman, aviators and all outdoor workers for anything suspicious," said Arlene Murrin. "Pay attention to abandoned homes, barns or buildings. Any rumors or hearsay should be reported. With everyone's help, I know we can find her."

The Wilmington-based non-profit group CUE Center for Missing Persons is helping with the search. CUE stands for Community United Effort. The group was founded in 1994.

See BOSTA, 4

Perquimans should see insurance savings

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Shifting insurance to a state health plan is expected to save Perquimans County taxpayers about \$300,000 next fiscal year.

The county along with Albemarle Regional Health Services and Pasquotank County are covered now by a self-insurance pool called Northeast Albemarle Group Health.

The Northeast group was created to counter high insurance rates, but had become more expensive as the group got smaller.

In June the General Assembly passed legislation that opened up the state plan to allow up to 10,000 more enrollees from local governments.

"We were talking about doing something anyway, but when the General Assembly threw us this rope, we had to grab on to it

as quick as we could," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath.

As of late October all but about 750 of the 10,000 open slots had been spoken for.

Heath said the idea of the Northeast group was it would save money because it would pool the risk of a far larger group. And save money it did, he said.

But the pool got smaller when Chowan, Currituck and Camden

county dropped out. A few recent large claims and federal regulation forced rates up even higher for the three members that remained.

Pasquotank County expects to save \$900,000 in 2016-17 as well as some savings in fiscal 2015-16 since the switch takes effect Jan. 1. ARHS expects to save about \$750,000 in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Insurance remains a significant

See SAVINGS, 8

WWII replica of ship to take part in Christmas parade

From Staff Reports

A 55-foot replica of the World War II battleship USS Alabama is scheduled to take part in this year's Perquimans County Christmas Parade on Dec. 5.

A group of Naval reserv-

ists built the float in the early 1980s.

The actual USS Alabama, BB-60, was built at Norfolk Navy Yard and launched in 1942, just three months after the United States entered World War II. It served in the Pacific and received nine battle stars.

Accompanying the battleship float will be Capt. Scott M. Brown, U.S. Navy,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A replica of the USS Alabama is scheduled to take part in the Perquimans County Christmas Parade in Hertford.

See BATTLESHIP, 4



Albemarle Magazine

Available now at many locations across Northeastern North Carolina and Southeastern Virginia or call 252.335.0841

Albemarle Magazine is the leading lifestyle magazine covering the Albemarle area. This award winning magazine is located in over 190+ locations so you are sure to find a copy. Encompassing our history and tradition to the growing arts community, discover the people, places, and personality of this special region we call home.

