



Shalom International holds first Mercy Service, PAGE 6B

## FEMA, state reject funding millponds

**By RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

Recent funding rejections have Chowan County leaders scrambling to find alternate monies to pay for damaged millponds.

County Manager Paul Parker informed the Board of County Commission-

ers at its Monday night meeting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency refused to pay any of its \$120,000 estimated flood damages at Dillard's and Bennett's millponds, caused by the deluge from September's Tropical Storm Nicole. Parker said FEMA reported that the

damages did not qualify for agency funding.

After next turning to the state's Division of Water Quality and the Wildlife Association, both also refused to allocate funding for the repairs, Parker said.

Although the matter was scheduled for discus-

sion later in the meeting, Parker's comments came earlier after four residents used the public comment section to express their concerns about the millponds and the perceived lack of effort to make timely repairs.

"The millponds are still there. They're not going

anywhere," said Eddy Goodwin, board chairman.

Floodwaters washed away surrounding grounds after levees broke at both millponds, also damaging boat landings and structures at the parks. Nicole dumped nearly 14 inches of rain on Edenton-Chow-

an within two days.

The speakers talked about the millponds' valuable contributions to the community, including educational, recreational, agricultural, and historical. The millponds date back to the 1600s. Because of

See **MILLPONDS**, 3A

## A HOLIDAY GIFT



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Malynda Brickhouse, (l-r), and her two daughters, Quas-unique, 5, and Zia-lieya, 15, stand on the porch of their new house. The Tyler Lane house is part of the Habitat for Humanity program and was dedicated to the family on Dec. 18.

## Family gets Habitat house before holidays

**Home marks Chowan's 5th**

**By RITCHIE E. STARNES**  
Editor

A single mother and her two daughters celebrated the holiday season with a wish come true after taking possession of the latest house courtesy of Habitat for Humanity — the family's first home.

Malynda Brickhouse, 34, and her daughters, ages 5 and 15, were presented the keys of their new 202 Tyler Lane house on Dec. 18, a week before Christmas, but

plenty of time to add holiday decorations to the 960-square-foot, three bedroom house.

"This was the best Christmas present that I ever had," Brickhouse said. "Words couldn't explain how happy I felt. I love it because it's my own house."

Her girls were equally as ecstatic, smiles still beaming two weeks later.

They were especially glad to be rid of having to use kerosene heaters for a source of warmth, particularly during December's frigid temperatures. Their new house has central air conditioning and heat.

The Brickhouses previously lived in a substandard rental house for three years. Part of the application process requires their Habitat house candidates live in such quarters.

Malynda acted quickly to become a candidate for the new home. She was one of three applicants pursuing the local Habitat house, the ninth for the group and the fifth in Chowan County.

"She is quite honestly one of the best applicants that we've ever had," said Dick Vail, Habitat organizer.

After applying about a year ago, Malynda sus-

pected early on that she had been selected as the next Habitat recipient.

"I thought I must have got the house because they kept calling me for information," Malynda said.

Habitat applicants are required to invest 250 hours of sweat equity into the project.

"You got to do it all, paint, yard, floors" Malynda said.

Vail added that Malynda more than fulfilled her obligation to qualify for the house.

"She came there every night to help clean up.

See **HABITAT**, 4A

## Christmas sales improved locally

**Merchants: 2010 better than last year**

**By REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

Local merchants say sales this holiday season were as good or better than last year's.

They are hopeful the surge of shoppers they have seen in recent months is a sign that the community is finally beginning to climb out of the recession that led to gloomy sales in 2009.

Among them is Edenton Mayor Roland Vaughan, co-owner of Vaughan's Jewelry and Fine Gifts.

"In the months of November and December we've seen our sales revenue increase by about 20 percent," Vaughan said. "Obviously, we are very pleased."

Vaughan added that overall sales picked up from month to month during 2010 "which we hope is a sign we are finally coming out of this long, painful recession."

Vaughan credited his store's success this year to having a good mix of inventory at a wide range of prices, as well as having a skilled sales staff that made shopping a pleasant experience for customers.

"We are cautiously optimistic we will continue to see improvement in our (sales figures) in 2011," Vaughan said.

Jadelle Wagner, manager of Peebles Department Store, said busi-

*"We are cautiously optimistic we will continue to see improvement in our (sales figures) in 2011."*

**Roland Vaughan**  
Edenton mayor and co-owner of Vaughan's Jewelry and Fine Gifts

ness was also strong at her store during the Christmas season.

Wagner said the big difference over last Christmas was in the number of last minute shoppers.

She said that last Christmas there was hardly anybody in the store the day before Christmas.

This Christmas, Wagner said, "There was a big jump in the number of people who waited until the last minute to shop. We had a huge Christmas Eve (when it came to sales)."

Wagner added that Peebles had a better Christmas in 2009 than expected given the poor economy. She credited a marketing strategy that emphasized sales and putting coupons into the hands of as many potential shoppers as possible.

See **SALES**, 2A

## Area welcomes New Year's baby

**By REBECCA BUNCH**  
Staff Writer

A Perquimans County couple's first child born at Chowan Hospital is also the New Year's baby for 2011 in the Albemarle area.

Melissa and Robert Stallings Jr. of Winfall welcomed their little girl, Everista Marie, into the world at 12:25 a.m.

Melissa said the baby, who will be known simply as Eve, was named for her maternal great-grandmother.

"We thought that she was



REBECCA BUNCH/CHOWAN HERALD

Baby New Year. Melissa and Robert Stallings Jr., of Winfall, are seen with their daughter, Everista Marie, who was born at 12:25 a.m. Saturday at Chowan Hospital in Edenton.

going to be a New Year's Eve baby, but Eve took a little longer to come," Melissa, 26, said. "We were

just glad she waited and came this week instead of

See **BABY**, 4A

## LAST 2010 SUNSET



PHOTO BY SUSAN DIXON

The last sunset of 2010 over Edenton Bay creates an image difficult to distinguish water from sky.



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**Healthcare Reform & the Constitution**  
Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 7-8:30 PM  
2nd Floor, Public Safety Bldg. FREE Admission