

Christmas in Perquimans, traditions and greetings: Pages 7-12



Sports: Lady Pirates cruise to 5-0 record, boys struggle: Page 4

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

## Briefs

### Santa to visit Center

Santa Claus will be at the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center on Highway 17 on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 1-3 p.m. An Open House will also be held at this time.

### Museum closings

The Museum of the Albemarle will be closed Dec. 24-25 for the Christmas holidays. Regular hours will resume on Dec. 27.

### Bookmobile stops

The Pettigrew Bookmobile schedule for Jan. 10 is as follows: Has-It Store (New Hope) - 10-10:30; White Hat (Cartwright Driveway) - 10:45-11:15; G. Walker - 11:20-11:30; Woodville Fire Station - 11:40-12:30; A. Whitley - 12:45-1; Chapanoke (Stallings Driveway) - 1:05-1:30; Library - 2:30-2:55; and Wynne Fork Courts - 3-3:45.

### Clinic schedule

The Perquimans County Health Department clinic schedule for Dec. 24-27 is as follows:

Dec. 24-26 - HOLIDAY; and Dec. 27 - General p.m., Family planning follow up.

### Museum sets workshop

The Museum of the Albemarle will hold its annual children's Christmas workshop for youngsters 5 to 8 years of age on Dec. 23 at 10 a.m. The children will enjoy making a Christmas craft, listening to a Christmas tale, and of course, a visit from Santa.

The program is free, but space is limited (reservations are required). For more information or to make a reservation call the museum at 335-1453 or 335-2987.

### Holiday deadlines change

The news and advertising deadline for the Dec. 26 issue of The Perquimans Weekly is Friday, Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. Due to holiday scheduling, no late copy will be accepted. The newspaper will be mailed on schedule.

The office will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24 and will re-open on Thursday, Dec. 26 at 8 a.m.

Deadlines for the New Year's edition will be printed in the Dec. 26 issue.

Have a merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays

From The Perquimans Weekly

Holiday Deadlines for December 26 Edition

News & Advertising Friday, December 20 at 4 PM



Photo by Susan Harris

## On Porky, on Hambone!

Ham and sausage bring home the Christmas bacon for hog Extension Homemakers Christmas Ramble last Tuesday. farmer Elton Layden and his wife, Ariene, of Belviders. The For a run-down of the homes tour, see our special Layden's brick ranch was one of the homes on the annual Christmas section beginning on page 7.

## State highway patrol gears up for holiday traffic

The Christmas and New Year's holiday season is traditionally the most deadly time of the year for motorists on North Carolina highways. For that reason, the State Highway Patrol is urging motorists to drive safely and fulfill their wish for a safe holiday season.

Joe Dean, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, said, "This holiday season is a special time of the year, a time of caring and sharing with family and friends. The State Highways Patrol cares about the safety of every motorist and will be working hard to prevent traffic accidents during the holidays, but every driver will have to contribute for the Patrol's wish to come true. One careless driver can keep the wish from being fulfilled and

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Col Wayne A. Ballard  
Cdr. N.C. Highway Patrol

ruin a joyous time for many other people."

Last year during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period, 27 people were killed and over 2,200 were injured on North Carolina highways. The Christmas holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23 and ends at midnight on

Wednesday, Dec. 25. The New Year's holiday period begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 30 and ends at midnight, Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Colonel Wayne A. Ballard, Commander of the State Highway Patrol, said, "The safety of motorists is the Patrol's priority every day of the year. We will

continue to use every resource at our disposal to prevent collisions, deaths and injuries throughout the approaching holiday season. I urge every motorist to drive safely for their sake and ours.

"The toughest thing a Trooper has to do is deliver a death message. Imagine going up to a door during this season to inform family members of a loved one's death. It's a memory families don't want. Troopers don't need, and one you can prevent by driving safely. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Buckle up, be a defensive, courteous, and sober driver every day."

## Locals win music awards

Two Perquimans County residents captured top honors at the 1991 Virginia Country Music Association awards ceremony recently.

Barbara Jean Reames was named Top Female Vocalist by the Association. Her husband, Bobby "Muskrat" Reames, earned the Best Instrumentalist designation. The duo play together professionally in her band, Barbara Jean and the Band of Gold. Barbara Jean belts out the group's country tunes while Bobby plays peddle steel guitar.

On hand for the awards ceremony were over 200 Association members, Grand Ole Opry star Charlie Walker, Chesapeake vice mayor John Butt, and former Virginia Senator Joe Canada.

Last year, Barbara Jean and the Band of Gold traveled to Nashville, Tenn. to perform at the Opryland Hotel. They were invited for a return performance. The group is the house band at the Lido Inn in Norfolk, Va.

The Reames live in Belvidere with their daughter, Lacey Jean. Barbara Jean is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Layden.



## Beautiful decor

The home of Mac and Zenova White (above) was declared the winner of a holiday decorating contest sponsored by Layden's Supermarket in Belvidere dubbed "Let's Light Up Belvidere." At left, the White's choose a country ham as part of the \$50 shopping spree that was first prize in the contest.

## AADA honors Layden's

Layden's Supermarket was the Perquimans County winner of the 1991 Albemarle Area Development Association Economic Award.

Located in the historic village of Belvidere, Layden's has served residents in the northern end of the county for over 46 years. One of the few "country stores" still in existence, Layden's offers a full line of groceries, meats, household products, and gas. People come from far and near to purchase country sausage, cured hams, and "rat" cheese (cheese on the round.)

Originally known as the "Old Tim Perry Store," Layden's once served as a post office, blacksmith shop, and a place to list taxes, as well as being a general store.

Layden's has retained the special flavor of a neighborhood store since Charles Layden purchased it in 1945. Layden and his wife, Mittie Jean, could be found in the store daily, usually along with at least one of their six children. Everyone worked in the store, and that tradition has continued since elder son Douglas began managing the business in 1986. Seven of the eight employees are family members, including Douglas' wife Geri and children Christy, Charlie and Bobby. Younger son Elton raises most of the hogs which are processed into sausage. Except for some modernization required by health regulations, things have remained pretty much the same at Layden's over the years.

The Laydens are very civic-minded and have a long history in 4-H Club work. They sponsor a trophy at the Albemarle Livestock Show and purchase at least one animal. They are also active in Whiteville Grove Baptist Church, Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department and the Chowan River Moose Lodge. Each year they participate in the Chamber of Commerce-organized Indian Summer Festival.

## Hertford gets grant

Governor Martin has announced the Town of Hertford has been awarded a \$43,000 federal grant for neighborhood access to the Perquimans River in downtown Hertford. The town will contribute \$12,000 and \$2,333 in services to the project.

The new handicap-accessible facility will have an eight foot by 107 foot boardwalk and paved parking for about 20 cars. A 200-foot sidewalk will connect the boardwalk with the parking lot.

Local governments compete for access funds which can be used for land acquisition, project construction and improvements.

This grant is administered by the Division of Coastal Management, Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources.

The Town of Hertford is a Governor's Coastal Initiative community. Coastal Initiative communities have priority for state assistance with planning, permitting and grant projects. The Coastal Initiative promotes environmentally-sound economic development along the North Carolina coast.