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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Santa is coming to town Saturday

ERIN RICKERT

More than 33 individuals and groups will come together Saturday to participate in the annual Christmas Parade.

Jerry Peer, coordinator of the Chamber of Commerce-sponsored parade, said with the help of Wes Hosteiler the "Peace on Earth" themed event will begin at Perquimans County High School at 2

p.m. Saturday, rain or shine.

While the parade route will stay the same as last year, a few things about the holiday event have changed.

This year Planter's Ridge has donated a 16-foot Frazier fir Christmas tree that sits on the courthouse lawn.

Natalie Brown, co-owner of the business, said Monday as she began the

arduous task of decorating the tree that she expected the tree would take close to 5,000 lights to decorate.

In addition to the tree, Natalie and her husband and business partner, Lyl, plan to donate 50 poinsettias to decorate the reviewing stand in front of the courthouse on parade day.

Peer said the more than 30 participants in the event are well over last year's total.

"Participation in the parade is definitely better than in the past," Peer said.

Yet even with the added participation, Peer said he expects the parade to continue on schedule — running its typical hour.

Residents planning to travel on the parade route Saturday need not worry.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said officers would not start blocking off Edenton Road, Grubb,

Church and Dobbs streets until the parade begins.

He suggested individuals planning to attend, especially in the downtown area, utilize parking in the Municipal Parking lot as well as Missing Mill Park.

Vanscoy said he expects the largest crowds in the downtown area.

Chamber Director Sid Eley said float winners will be announced from the downtown reviewing stand

during the parade. Checks for first through third place will be awarded to winners by mail in the amounts of \$50, \$25 and \$20.

After the parade parents and children can visit Santa on the courthouse lawn. Santa will be assisted by Keith Burnett of Inteliport.

At 6 p.m., the Town of Winfall will celebrate the holidays with a tree lighting.

Residents open homes, businesses for Ramble

Erin Rickert

Across Perquimans County Thursday, residents will get into the holiday spirit as they participate in the traditional Christmas Ramble.

The event, put on by The Perquimans Extension and

Community Association, will allow residents to tour decorated homes and businesses in the area from 6:30-9 p.m.

Featured stops on the tour include: Dotty's Bed and Breakfast and Café at 103 South Church Street, The Nicholson Tea Room at

1500 Belvidere Road, Eagle Pottery at 658 Ocean Highway South, The Onley Place at 308 Craney Island Road and the home of Chris and Gina Wharton at 285 Riverwood Drive.

While each of the five stops on the Ramble will decorate for Christmas, each one plans a unique experience for their guests.

The Onley Place on Craney Island Road, owned by Steve Casper, was named after the Onley family who first purchased the land in 1772.

Casper has now constructed a large barn equipped with dance floor and dining area where dinner theatres and square dances are held.

Fully decorated with five trees, the barn will be open for tours and starting at 7 p.m. Casper's friends and family will sing Christmas music.

In Hertford, Craig and Theresa Christensen's bed and breakfast will feature at least three Christmas trees including a 10-foot revolving tree.

During the Ramble the couple plans to serve hot apple cider, coffee and Theresa's specialty — caramel pecan turtles.

The couple recently fulfilled their longtime dream when they opened Dotty's Bed and Breakfast and Café a year ago. They said their choice to be in the Ramble was to share their love for Christmas with others.

The Wharton family will open their newly constructed two-story farmhouse to guests during the Ramble.

Gina, who originally



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Guests who enjoy the annual Extension Christmas Ramble Thursday will see handmade pottery such as these angels at Eagle Pottery. Owner Sherri McNeill even plans to allow those interested to try their hand at her pottery wheel.

grew up in the area, said the family chose to feature their home on the Ramble because it helps support the community.

"We have gone to the Ramble for years," Wharton said. "It's lots of fun."

The Wharton's said they hope to have family entertaining guests with not only a tour of their home featuring a 12-foot Christmas tree, but music played on their baby grand piano.

At The Nicholson House Café and Tea Parlor, owners Paul and Deborah Byrum thought the Ramble was a great opportunity to allow people to view the end result of nearly two years of restoration and

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County native pens book on his WWII experiences

Lane will sign his book Saturday

ERIN RICKERT

Kerry L. Lane, 81-year-old World War II veteran and author, will visit Hertford to sign his newest book Saturday.

A native of Hertford, Lane will sign his second book, "Guadalcanal Marine" from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at M. James Booksellers on Market Street.

The 352-pages of the book recount his experience serving in World War II and offer insight to what life was like for him growing up in the area.

Lane's wife Connie said she encouraged Lane to write the book mainly so the first hand history would be documented for the family.

Melanie M. James, owner of the bookstore, ordered 40 copies of the \$35 book for the signing and she said she has already had one person purchase a book early.

James said she expects a good turnout at the signing because of Lane's ties to the county.

"We have an awful lot of veterans in the area," James said. "Some may have even grown up with him [Lane]."

Lane lived in Perquimans County until



Hertford native Kerry Lane was captured on film during his stint as a Marine in World War II.

the age of 16 when he left to join the Marines.

Lane's father, John, and mother, Elsie, owned a farm on US 17 where his father grew pumpkins and his mother sold dolls.

In 1971, after 32-years of service with the Marines, Lane moved to Spotsylvania, Va. where he is now the owner and operator of Post Oak Farm.



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

This 10-foot revolving tree is one of several that will be seen at Dotty's Bed and Breakfast and Cafe during the Ramble.

Local runners give all in ultimate competitions

ERIN RICKERT

(Editor's Note: Earlier this fall The Perquimans Weekly brought readers a two part series on area runners. This is an update to their stories.)

Leslie Piercy and Mick McClung are two residents who enjoy a challenge so much that last month they traveled to opposite ends of the U.S. just to compete.

In Philadelphia, Penn. 57-year-old McClung finished his fifth marathon and in Panama Beach, Fla. 47-year-old Piercy added her first Ironman to her list of more than 300 road

competitions.

The Ironman, a race known by runners as the highest of all competitions, tested Piercy's dedication with a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride and a 26.2 mile race.

Piercy said she originally set a goal to finish the race in around 12 hours — five hours less than the cut off time of the competition.

Yet clocking in at just a few minutes more than 15 hours Piercy still celebrates her victory.

"It was great," Piercy said. "It was a real spiritual journey for me."

For McClung, victory was not only finishing his



Mick McClung is all smiles after finishing his fifth marathon in Philadelphia, Penn. recently.

fifth marathon with a time of 4 hours and 34 minutes but also helping raise money for the needy.

"It was a good race and a good cause," McClung said.

During the marathon, his second in Philadelphia, McClung wore a T-shirt covered in the signatures from donors who participated in a campaign created by the runner and Rosemary Smith, director of Open Door.

Together the two came up with the "Running for Hunger" campaign to help provide money to aid needy residents through Open Door.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 58
LOW: 36
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 55
LOW: 32
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 52
LOW: 34
MOSTLY SUNNY