

Christmas parade is Saturday

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Newbold-White site of yule log

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Warren remembered

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Holiday blaze destroys home

MARGARET FISHER

A fire in the residential downtown area caused extensive damage to a home and placed fire fighters at risk as two gas tanks caught fire.

The fire broke out in a shed, filled with extra furniture and antiques, that quickly spread to the nearby LP gas tanks, as well as to the home located at 211 S. Covent Garden.

Homeowner Jesse Mae White was asleep in her home at 3:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning with her son, Isaac White, grandson, James Carter, and her visiting daughter, Leeora Brown, when the fire started.

A neighbor, William Felton, was the first person to spot the fire and alert the occupants, Brown said. Brown, who takes care of her mother on a regular basis, said that she awakened her nephew and brother and the two went out to the backyard to hose down the gas tanks. When Brown saw that the fire had worsened, she woke up her mother.

"My nephew (Carter) and I literally picked her up and carried her out," Brown said.

By the time first-responder Hertford Fire Department arrived, the occupants were safely out of the house, said Fire Chief Robert Reed.
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PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

A kerosene heater may have started a fire in a downtown residence on Thanksgiving morning. The fire caused extensive damage to the home and destroyed the shed where the fire is thought to have started.

Apricot closes

70 people unemployed as result

MARGARET FISHER

A textile firm that has been operating in Hertford for more than 20 years is closing its doors, leaving about 70 workers looking for jobs before the holidays.

Apricot, Inc. has been finishing up the last of its contract orders for the past two weeks with about five employees and will close within two weeks, said the firm's owner, Carl Terranova Jr. As textile production has increasing-
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TRUE HEROES

Four noted for bus wreck heroism

MARGARET FISHER

It was an event to remember, complete with television cameras and special recognition for four local heroes.

An event to honor a school bus driver, a passing motorist and two teachers was held by Perquimans County Schools on Monday in front of more than 150 people.

Special recognition, including being named Employee of the Month, was given to Zita Privott Ferebee, who kept her bus upright after a truck collided with it twice and helped 40 middle school students out while the bus was burning on Oct. 24. Her calm demeanor was praised by school and town officials,



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

students, parents and other

Bus driver Zita Ferebee, motorist Earl Ward Jr. and teachers Rachel Ward and Karen Atkinson were honored by Perquimans County Schools for their efforts to help 40 children off a burning bus and comfort them after an Oct. 24 crash.

community members.

Kenneth Rea, 14, was on the bus during the ordeal. Rea was the only student who was transferred to Pitt

Memorial Hospital from Chowan Hospital and suffered a concussion.

"She's the real hero tonight - Zita," Rea said.

"She did more than her job. She saved 40 kids' lives, including my own."

Ferebee preferred not to
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NO OLF gears up for fight against Navy

Local group preparing in case Navy changes focus to county

MARGARET FISHER

While the U.S. Navy focuses on Washington County as a potential site to build an outlying landing field, residents in Perquimans County are not idly waiting on the sidelines to see what the Navy will do.

"I know (the Navy) keeps saying they are focused on Washington," said Stan Winslow, organizer for the Perquimans County Chapter of North Carolinians Opposed to the OLF, "but I don't think we need to assume that we are totally out of the picture."

Winslow met with residents and No OLF supporters on Nov. 22 to discuss what the group can do while the Navy conducts a

supplemental environmental impact study in the five potential OLF sites, including Perquimans, Washington, Bertie, Craven and Hyde counties.

While the Navy is conducting their SEIS, the No OLF group is making plans to conduct an economic impact study in the northern part of the county where the Navy has expressed interest in building a practice landing strip for F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft.

Part of that information will include how the county will be affected by the loss of taxes if more than 500 residences would be removed from about 30,000 acres in the Belvidere area. However, taxes are not the only loss to the county, Winslow said.

"It will be a much further-reaching thing than a tax loss to the county," Winslow said.

Winslow hopes to be able to get information this winter on how farming operations and the agriculture industry will be affected.
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PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Beech Star Alpaca Wear is a new store that is open on Saturdays at Beech Springs Alpacas. The store features yarn and clothing and blankets made from the plush fiber of the llama-like animals. Unlike wool, alpaca fiber does not contain lanolin or cause the skin to itch.

Breeder starts Peruvian tradition at southern farm

MARGARET FISHER

A local breeder of alpacas, similar to llamas, is opening a store to sell clothing and blankets made from the fiber of these woolly animals.

Catherine "Kate" Brown, who owns Beech Springs Alpacas, has joined with Chesapeake breeder Deborah Tabor, owner of Autumn Star Alpacas, in opening Beech Star Alpaca Wear.

The store, open on Saturdays, sells sweaters, throws, hats, gloves, socks, shawls, and Teddy bears. It also features yarn from the two breeders' own animals. Some of the items are a combination of alpaca fiber and silk or wool.

Tabor had wanted to open a store at her farm,

but the city of Chesapeake wouldn't allow a retail business at her residence. So she and Brown decided to sell their fiber products in Perquimans County.

Alpacas are native to the Andes region of Peru, Chile and Bolivia, Brown said. They are predominantly raised for their soft, plush fiber - often compared with cashmere.

"It's much softer (than wool)," Brown said. "It doesn't have the lanolin or the greasy feel. It doesn't have the itch factor."

It's also a strong fiber, she said.

Since the mid-1980s, the alpaca fiber industry has been working to build up the herds in the U.S. for breeding and selling purposes.

Brown, a nurse practi-

tioner, purchased her first alpacas more than two years ago and brought them to Tyner about a year and half ago. Tabor bought her first alpaca about a year ago and now has seven, including two at six months old.

Brown has been breeding her animals since then and currently has 16 alpacas, including three new babies. The animals are sheared once a year in the spring. The fiber is processed by Georgia Mountain Fiber, which spins it into yarn and sends it back to her. She sends some of the fiber to the New England Fiber co-op, which combines it with other clients' fibers and makes products out of it. Brown purchases the products from the co-op and

from Sol Alpaca in Peru.
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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 57, Low: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 55, Low: 32
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 57, Low: 45
MOSTLY SUNNY