

Merry Christmas!

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Giving to OTHERS



VOLUNTEERS ETHELYN SIMPSON (LEFT) Brenda Lassiter, Willie Koonce, Heather Hunter and Carolyn Modlin fill backpacks with food collected for needy families at the Hertford Housing Authority recently.

Groups hold food drive

ZAC GOLDSTEIN
The Daily Advance

Fifty-three needy families will receive book bags packed with non-perishable foods this holiday season, courtesy of Communities in Schools of Perquimans County.

Originally, Communities in Schools received 80 book bags from Office Depot that the group planned to fill with school supplies and give to needy students.

Because the bags arrived well after the start of the school year and the holiday season was approaching, the group decided instead to hold a food drive. Over a four-week

period, the group collected donations of canned vegetables, pasta and noodles, breakfast foods, juice, soda, snacks and more. RBC Centura Bank, Up River Friends Meeting, Perquimans County Library and Emmanuel Pentecostal Church served as drop-off points and the group's 30-member board spread the word.

About 10 board members and staff met at the Hertford Housing Authority recently to pack the bags, frequently going back to add additional items as more food came in.

"We knew the community would come through, but it's still very exciting the amount we got," said

Chirleen Lupton, executive director of Communities in Schools.

She said the group would probably do a food drive again next year, albeit possibly further away from Christmas.

Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for Perquimans County Schools, said school counselors were able to identify families in need. She said many of the families who are expected to receive book bags were also slated to benefit from Albemarle Electric Membership Corp.'s toy drive.

(Contact Zac Goldstein at zgoldstein@coxnc.com)

Wild and scenic

Federal bill introduced to study river could result in national designation

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The 30-mile-long Perquimans River is one step closer to becoming federally protected, thanks to legislation introduced in the United States Senate recently.

Both U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole co-sponsored the bill that would create the Perquimans River Wild and Scenic Study Act of 2007, authorizing the National Park Service (NPS) to study

the river and its tributaries for possible qualification under the Wild and Scenic designation.

If the bill passes, the NPS would study the river and report its results back to Congress.

Then additional legislation would be needed before the designation process is completed.

Congressman G.K. Butterfield introduced companion legislation for this study in the House earlier this year.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association (PCRA) spearheaded efforts to obtain this special designation for the local waterway back in 2003.

"This is an area where we have wonderful natural resources and history," said Chris Lane, president of the PCRA. "It is the most important thing we have. Obtaining the Wild and Scenic designation is a way of preserving and protecting what we have here. It will also help boost tourism. We hope and pray it will pass. It would be a wonderful opportunity for this community and an important part of our economy."

Being designated as a Wild and Scenic river would neither prohibit local development nor give the federal government control over private property, according to American Rivers, a national organization that lobbies for protecting and maintaining healthy rivers.

American Rivers worked with the locals in getting this legislation introduced.

"From paddling to fishing to camping, the Perquimans River is a regional hub for recreational activity," said Peter Raabe, director of the North Carolina field office for American Rivers in a recent press release. "By taking the steps to protect it forever, Senators Burr and Dole are giving a wonderful gift to the people of North Carolina just in time for the holiday season."

The waterway that starts near Gates County and winds through Perquimans County until it dumps into the Albemarle Sound is home to bald eagles and numerous other wild birds. Its waters hold everything from striped bass to blue crabs, offering exceptional outdoor adventures and opportunities for locals and tourists alike.

"Americans have been enjoying the Perquimans River long before there was a United States," said Sarah Weeks, heritage tourism director for Newbold-White House. "PCRA's Newbold-White House and the town of Hertford along the river were some of the first European settlements in North Carolina. The Perquimans River has a rich Native American history and was used as an essential trade route up to the Civil War. Thanks to many northern North Carolina rivers like ours, it defines who we are today. Our entire region is a 'land of firsts' because of waterways like the Perquimans. It is imperative that all of us understand and strive to maintain this."

Lane stressed that once the designation is obtained, the local community will decide what needs to be done to protect their local waterway.

"The decisions will be made locally, not federally," she added.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act protects rivers by prohibiting federally licensed dams, ensures water quality is maintained, prohibits assistance for water resource projects by federal agencies if such projects have a direct or adverse effect or would diminish values present at the time of designation, and mandates the creation of a cooperative river management plan locally that addresses water quality, recreation, public facilities, responsible authorities, and land use changes.

This is an area where we have wonderful natural resources and history. It is the most important thing we have.

Chris Lane
president, PCRA

Ramble, open house enjoyed

Susan Harris
Editor & Publisher

The elves had obviously been hard at work decorating the featured stops on the annual Perquimans County Extension Ramble and at the Newbold-White House annual holiday open house Friday night.

From the enchantment of J.J.'s Miniatures' winter wonderland to the family-friendly home of Ralph and Lisa Hollowell to the elegant riverfront dwelling of Julian and Betty Lane Winslow to the handmade items at the Senior Center to the simple celebration at Newbold-White, there was something for every taste and age during Friday



Perquimans Weekly Photo by PHIL HARRIS

J.J.'s MINIATURES WAS ONE of the stops on the annual Perquimans County Extension Ramble Friday night. Jeanine Phelps has spent years creating a winter wonderland in an outbuilding on her property. More photos from the ramble and the open house at the Newbold-White House appear on the next page and on page 2 of the Christmas section.

night's holiday offerings.

The homes tour featured beautiful decorations in the homes of gracious hosts that were not only beautiful, but were adaptable to the homes of those who en-

joyed the annual holiday tour.

Phelp's hand-crafted village is huge and features trains, a waterfall and much more.

Newbold-White remind-

ed visitors of the beauty in the simplicity of Christmas past, with the sweet sounds of instruments and traditional carols, the yule log and firelight flickering in the state's oldest home.

WEEKEND
WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 55 LOW: 44
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 58 LOW: 45
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 50
PARTLY CLOUDY