

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

December 24, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 52 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Officers make holiday brighter for kids

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

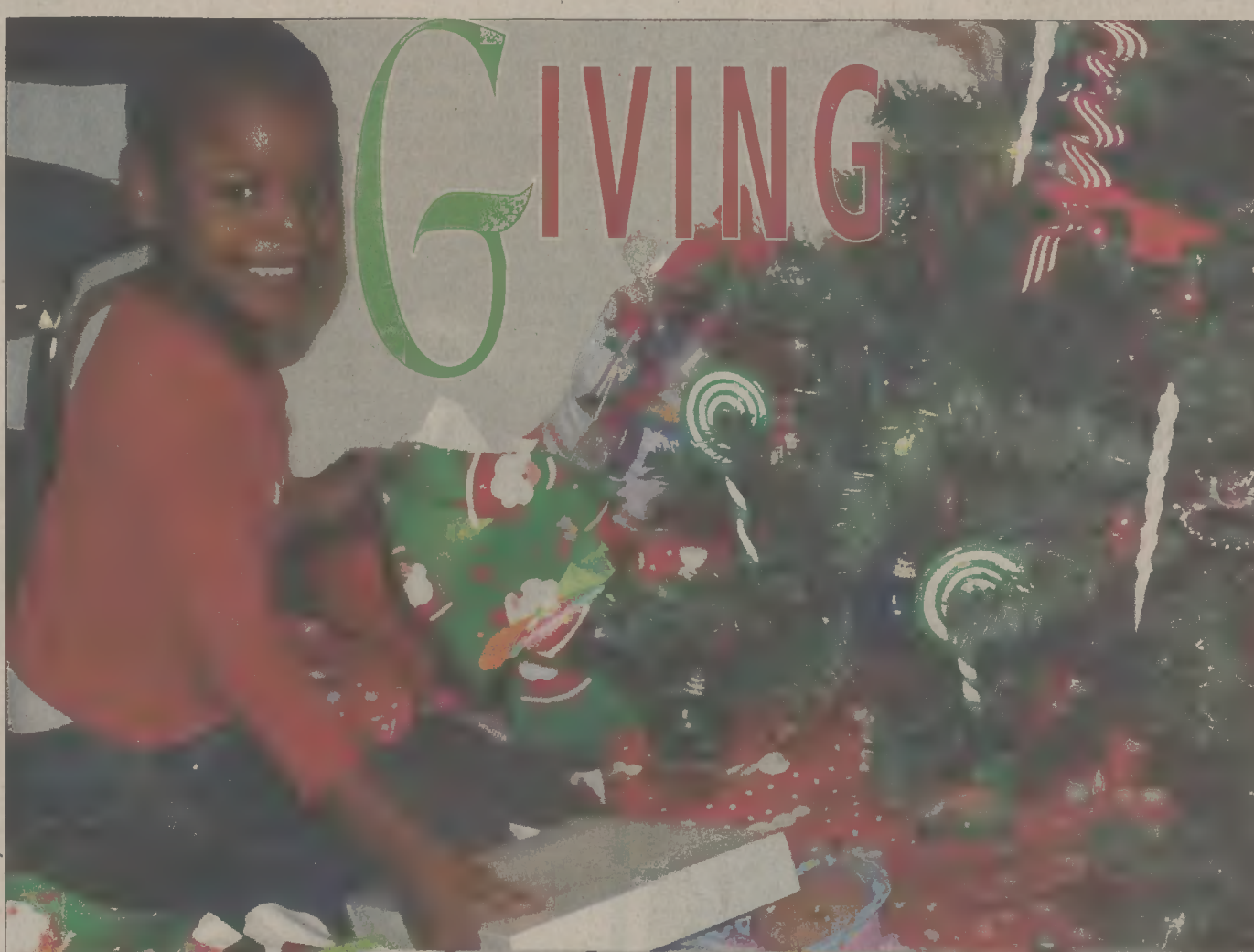
Usually, a trip to the police station isn't much fun for most folks.

But for two local children Monday night, time spent with local law enforcement officials was not only fun, but also helped make Christmas a happier holiday for them.

The Perquimans Sheriff's Department and Hertford Police Department joined forces this holiday season to bring Christmas joy to two very special children. Rayyimah Jordan, a pre-k student at Central School, and Larry Gutmann, a sixth grader at Perquimans County Middle School, were treated to Christmas cookies, drinks, and lots of goodies underneath the Christmas tree at the Hertford Police station just two days before Santa arrives. Gifts for the two children underneath the Christmas tree included everything from undergarments to baby strollers to toolboxes.

Jordan, of Hertford, squealed with delight as she opened one of her gifts to reveal a simple tube of toothpaste, something on the bathroom cabinet that most people take for granted. But for the little girl with the big grin who has four brothers and sisters, an individual tube makes her feel even more special.

"My very own tube of toothpaste," she ex-



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

RAYYIMAH JORDAN (ABOVE) IS all grins after opening her pile of presents Monday night at the Hertford Police Department. Larry Gutmann proudly shows off his new toolbox to Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley and Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos. The two local law enforcement agencies joined forces this year to help make Christmas a little brighter for two lucky children.

claimed as she excitedly unwrapped an accompanying gift of two toothbrushes which she immediately said she would share with her older sister.

Her favorite presents she received were a doll baby, doll stroller, and a playpen, she said.

Gutmann, on the other hand, lives out in the county and enjoys working with his hands. He received a professional-looking toolbox along with numerous tools to put in it. He also received games, clothes, and a spe-



cially requested butterfly yo-yo.

"This is so much fun," he grinned as he tore into his stack of gifts.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said his department has tried to help make Christmas brighter for children needing a little help for several

years. This year, Bobbie Amos, one of the sheriff's school resource officers, helped organize the gift-giving, and brought in donations from individual members of the Hertford Police Department as well.

Enlisting help from the

local police chief was easy for Amos...he's her husband. The three law enforcement officers, as well as Town Manager John Christensen and wife, Susan, helped make Christmas one to remember for two very lucky children.

Hunger hurts; giving heals

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A woman has no electricity in her home, so she warms her food in a tiny pan over a kerosene heater.

A family of four including two small children don't have food for a Christmas dinner.

Many more come with some of the same needs: no water, no electricity, no food.

Each week, Rosemary Smith, director of the Open Door Food Pantry in Perquimans County, sees the same type of problems, but with the economic downturn, the faces and circumstances are changing. In fact, this year, she has seen 175 new families walk through the door needing help, bringing the number of families served this year to nearly 500. Last year, they helped 300 families.

"There are a lot of families who are just struggling," said Smith.

This Christmas, however, more donations are coming in to help the Open Door put food on the table. While a dollar amount wasn't available, Smith said more donations than usual are arriving since the onset of the food pantry benefit Hunger Hurts, Giving Heals started in November by The Perquimans Weekly, The Daily Advance, and The Chowan Herald. Monetary donations to the Open Door and the Albemarle Food Bank provide the stock from which food assistance is provided. Open Door also provides emergency assistance for utility bills.

Volunteers picked out food that could be warmed in a pan over a kerosene heater for the woman with no electricity.

Food boxes and frozen turkeys providing Thanksgiving meals were given out to 231 families this year.

And, two Christmas angels arrived just in time with homemade bread and boxes of food to provide that family of four with a special Christmas dinner.

"We are truly blessed. Our churches, schools, and civic groups here in Perquimans County are simply the best. Whenever we have a need, they come through for us," said Smith. "People in this county are really trying to help others."

While Smith is impressed with the generosity of the community, she is also impressed with the honesty of those who need assistance.

"One lady who was signed up to receive food called to say she had received food from a church and she didn't feel right to take food a second time," said Smith. "She wanted it to go to someone else. Another family was helped because of the honesty of that lady. She didn't feel it was right for her to take two boxes of food."

This time of year is when the most donations come into Open Door, Smith said, but the need continues throughout the year.

Please note our news deadline for the Dec. 31 edition is Dec. 29 at noon.

WEEKEND WEATHER

CHRISTMAS DAY
HIGH: 59 Low: 40
FEW SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 58 Low: 50
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 67 Low: 62
CLOUDY



Yule log highlight of Newbold White open house

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A stiff wind blowing in off the Perquimans River made it difficult to ignite the annual yule log ceremony held Friday night at the Newbold-White House (NWH).

It took the Lord Mayor (Sid Eley) a couple of tries to get the log lit as it lay inside a vented metal half barrel. Finally, when the flames illuminated the night sky, those who made the trek along the lantern lit pathway from the Visitor's Center to the historic brick house took part in the traditional ceremony experienced centuries ago by Quaker settlers. Visitors made wishes for the new year as they poured wine over the smoldering log, capping off an evening rich in musical talent, history, and good eats.

Ken Ries, dressed as the colonial property owner, told the story "The Candle

in the Window" inside the candlelit Newbold-White House as Julie Stamper played the harp.

The Visitors Center was packed as members of the Albemarle Chorale performed holiday melodies. Cakes, cookies and warm mulled cider were enjoyed around live Christmas trees decorated with handmade period ornaments. Real lit candles glowed in the windows.

In addition to the singers, the Albemarle Youth Orchestra strings delighted the crowd with their talents.

Volunteers with the Perquimans County Restoration Association helped with the evening including handing out samples of the first batch of the NWH label muscadine grape cider, depleting their stock before the end of the evening. A second batch was scheduled to arrive Dec. 23 and be available for sale after Christmas.



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

HERTFORD MAYOR SID ELEY, serving as Lord Mayor at Newbold-White, lights the yule log Friday night.