

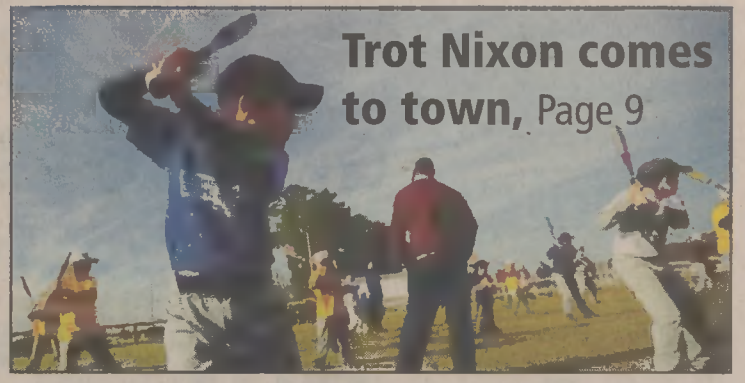
# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

NOV 25 2009

NOVEMBER 25, 2009 - DECEMBER 2, 2009

35 cents



Trot Nixon comes to town, Page 9

## Woman reports being raped by two men

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

A woman staying in an abandoned house on King Street told police she was raped by two men early Monday morning.

Chief Joe Amos with the Hertford Police Department said the victim, in her late 20's, waited until the two

men left the house located at 221 King Street, then walked to the back of the Sheriff's Department where she called police using the emergency call box. The victim was taken by Perquimans EMS to Albemarle Healthcenter with non life-threatening injuries, police said.

Police said the woman apparently ran away from her

boyfriend about four days ago, and had been staying in the abandoned house since then.

"During the early morning hours, the victim was awakened by a man attacking her," said Amos. "The victim was assaulted by two unknown black males and at least one other suspect was in the house as well."

Police said one suspect was described as wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and black jeans. No other description was provided other than wearing a ball cap.

The alleged assault is being investigated by the Hertford Police Department and members of the State Bureau of Investigation.

Anyone with any informa-

tion or was may have been in the King Street area between 4-6 a.m. Monday, please call 426-5587.

Information provided will be kept confidential.

The house where the attack was reported is one of four houses currently in the legal pipeline of being condemned by the town because of reported criminal activity and

for violating the town's minimum housing standards.

Other properties include houses located at: 320 King Street, owned by Olivia Sanchez; 315 W. Market Street, owned by Gladys Thompson Hill; and 319 W. Market Street, owned by Thomas E. White heirs.

Contact Cathy Wilson at cwilson@ncweeklies.com



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Twelve illuminated Christmas trees soon will light up the river shoreline along Front Street, sending warm holiday greetings to visitors traveling over the high rise bridge on U.S. Highway 17. Above, Brandon Shoaf, Ed Ritzmann and Skip Matthews construct one of the trees out of lumber and a string of large, multi-colored lights.

## Grand Illumination includes river trees

Lit Christmas trees to line the riverfront

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

The Christmas season in Hertford this year will offer new illumination on the riverfront in addition to the downtown area.

Historic Hertford, Inc. (HHI) is adding lighted river-front trees along Front Street to their holiday illumination of the historic downtown area. Twelve large illuminated Christmas trees will light up

the river shoreline along Front Street, sending warm holiday greetings to visitors traveling over the high rise bridge on U.S. Highway 17.

"Our main objective with the river trees on the Perquimans is to send a happy, positive message to those traveling by that Hertford is celebrating Christmas," said Murielle Harmon with HHI. "Over the years, we have added lights in phases throughout our downtown area. Now, it's time to focus on our riverfront."

The river trees project was

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## Sturdy Beggar opens in Winfall

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Joe Towe has returned home to his native county and has opened an antique consignment shop in Winfall.

The owner of the Sturdy Beggar, Towe enjoys the love of antiques. He specializes in primitive American furnishings.

"My mother instilled in me

an appreciation of antiques and I still enjoy the business of buying, selling and collecting antiques," he said.

His shop, located at 370 Winfall Boulevard across from Larry's Drive-In, features a variety of antiques including furniture, glassware, and decorative items. The Perquimans Chamber of Commerce

See BEGGAR on Page 8

## Helping the hungry



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Rosemary Smith is the program director of The Open Door of Perquimans County, a food pantry that provides food and assistance to those who need a helping hand.

## Smith receives top volunteer award

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Rosemary Smith's name is synonymous with food in Perquimans County.

While she may like to eat or cook food herself, she is best known for making sure others have enough food to eat.

Smith is the volunteer program director of The Open Door of Perquimans County, a food pantry that provides food and assistance to those who need a helping hand. She is also one of 20 volunteers statewide who recently received the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service from Gov. Bev Perdue.

"These volunteers deserve our congratulations for servicing their communities," said Perdue. "We should be especially grateful because when times are tough, volunteers are even more important to those in need."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rosemary Smith (left) is one of 20 volunteers statewide who recently received the Governor's Medallion Award for Volunteer Service from Gov. Beverly Perdue.

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## Help Food Bank remain beacon of hope for hunger relief

Thanksgiving symbolizes America as the land of plenty and the willingness to share the bounty with others.

On the heels of a year in which so many in our country have endured profound financial struggles, it's time for those of us more fortunate to live up to that heritage. We're here to help you do it.

The Perquimans Weekly is pleased to partner with the Food Bank of the Albemarle for our second annual fundraising campaign, Albemarle Food Relief: Hunger Hurts, Giving Heals, to help feed the hungry in northeast North Carolina.

While quarterly economic indicators may show the recession is officially ending,

other figures tell a different story. Here's a glimpse of life in the 15 counties served by the Food Bank:

- Unemployment hovers around 10 percent, meaning about one of every 10 workers is without a job. Last year, that figure was one in every 15.

- About 57 percent of the children are eligible for free or reduced school meals.

- Approximately 1 of every 6 individuals lives at or below the poverty level - almost 53,000 people.

- As of Friday, the Food Bank had only 30 turkeys left out of 300 to give to families for Thanksgiving

Taking these numbers into consideration, it's no surprise that the Food Bank has seen

an 18 percent increase in demand in the last year. Many of the households are "first-time" clients, according to Executive Director Liz Reasoner. Over the last fiscal year, the Food Bank provided more than 3,598,000 pounds of food to its more than 100 agencies, compared to 3,205,759 in the previous fiscal year.

The real story is the men, women, and children who would otherwise go hungry without the help of the food pantries, day care centers, soup kitchens and senior citizen, youth and after-school programs that receive food from the Food Bank. More than 8,085 households and 23,400 individuals were helped each month.

Such an effort requires strong commitment and teamwork and the generosity of businesses, governments, non-profit agencies and individuals.

We respectfully ask you to join them.

No donation is too small to make a difference. For each dollar, the Food Bank is able to provide about 5 pounds of food, the equivalent of approximately four meals.

You'll find a self-addressed envelope in today's edition of The Perquimans Weekly to make it easy for you to contribute. Envelopes will be inserted in The Daily Advance on Sunday, Dec. 13, and in the Perquimans Weekly again on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

You can stamp and mail your donation or drop it off at your nearest First Citizens Bank branch or at the newspaper offices.

Donations can also be made online. Go to DailyAdvance.com and click on Albemarle Food Relief.

Hunger hurts. Giving heals. Embrace our nation's heritage and the spirit of Thanksgiving and give hope to others.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Ann A. Hoffman  
Publisher

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 62 LOW: 43  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 58 LOW: 41  
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 57 LOW: 41  
SUNNY

