

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Perquimans High assistant coach shipping off to Iraq. Page 7

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 3, 2010 - FEBRUARY 9, 2010

35 cents

Unemployment rate falls in Perquimans

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Perquimans County is one of only nine counties in the state that saw a decrease in its unemployment rate in December. According to figures released recently by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC), Perqui-

mans County's rate for the last month of 2009 was 9.9 percent, down a half percent from the 10.4 November rate.

Statewide, unemployment rates increased in 86 of North Carolina's 100 counties in December and remained the same in five.

"This recession continues to affect North Carolina's

economy," said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. "Virtually every major job sector has been impacted. The ESC continues to work hard in providing many services to the citizens of North Carolina. Whether it be job search assistance or the issuing of unemployment benefits to those who are eligible, the ESC remains committed to

the citizens of our state."

In December, statistics show 517 people in Perquimans were out of work while 4,696 were employed.

Around the area, unemployment rates also dropped in Chowan and Gates counties, but increased in Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties.

Chowan's rate decreased from 11.7 percent in November to 11.5 percent in December. The rate for Gates decreased by .1 percent.

Camden and Pasquotank counties' individual unemployment rates increased by .4 percent while the number of people seeking work in Currituck increased 1.8 percent.

Chamber auction a fun evening

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The dentist flicked his finger up and down silently a few times from the back of the room signaling he'd go higher. The ophthalmologist sitting up front nodded slightly in agreement as he increased his bid even more.

The bidding war between the two continued for several more rounds before Dr. William Blakemore of Edenton finally won the NASCAR hat signed by four-time national Champion Jimmy Johnson. Topping the bidding off at \$200, Blakemore won the battle over local dentist Dr. Douglas Perry during the annual dinner and auction sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce Friday evening.

"He (Johnson) is a four time national champion and it's a signed hat," grinned a victorious Blakemore, a self professed NASCAR junkie. "You don't see that every day. Two years ago I was outbid on a Jeff Gordon hat and I've regretted it ever since. I wasn't going to let that happen again tonight!"

Everything from homemade chocolate cakes to mountain or beach vacations were auctioned off either silently or loudly during the special evening held at The Onley Place near Belvidere.

Chamber Director Sid Eley said the annual event raised over \$5,000 for the Chamber.

"This will help run the Chamber for a year, help keep membership dues down, and help us do more projects for the community," he said.

Belvidere auctioneer Doug Layden worked the full house,

See AUCTION on Page 8

Winter fun



PHOTOS BY PATRICK WHITEHURST

Drew Whitehurst, age 2, learns the best part of snow is taking a sleigh ride with his mom Brandi. About five inches of snow fell over the weekend, causing numerous cancellations and postponements. Icy roadways also closed schools on Monday. Drew and parents Patrick and Brandi Whitehurst enjoyed playing in the snow in Woodville.



Drew Whitehurst gets hit by a snowball while playing in Woodville over the weekend.



Pattie and Tildon Whitehurst of Woodville romp playfully in the snow during the winter storm that dumped about five inches of snow on the area.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 52 LOW: 35
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 35
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY



Area 2010 Census will begin soon

10-question form to be delivered to home

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Area residents can expect U.S. Census questionnaires to start arriving sometime later this month as the nation's once-a-decade head count gets under way.

In February and March, the 10-question form will be delivered to households either by hand or in the mail. Once received, the questionnaire should be filled out and sent back in, officials say.

That's because Census counts determine everything from how many seats a state has in the U.S.

House of Representatives to allocations of federal funds to local governments for school lunches and senior citizens centers. Population counts arrived at during the Census also determine how much federal money is spent building facilities like new highways and hospitals.

The questionnaire does not seek information about a citizen's finances or social security number. It does ask questions about the citizen's address; whether he rents or owns his residence; the names of residents who live at the address well as their genders, ages and races. A phone number is requested in case the respondent's handwriting is not legible.

See CENSUS on Page 8



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Brenda Las-siter (left) and Donna Godfrey, members of the local complete count committee, are urging participation in the upcoming 2010 Census to be conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Swindell Funeral and Cremation Services
509 Dobbs St, Hertford
426-7311

Traditional • Cremation
Green Funerals • Biker Funerals
Veterans Funerals • Pre-Arrangements
www.swindellfuneralhome.com

Over 57 Years of
Service to the
Community

