

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door" NOV 24 2010 NOVEMBER 24, 2010 - NOVEMBER 30, 2010



See the latest edition of Our Life Magazine, inside today's edition.

50 cents

Hranko: Well unknown to restaurant

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Shirley Hranko, owner of the former Nickalena's Restaurant, says no one associated with the restaurant had anything to do with the private well pump found in the Hall of Fame building that was illegally linked to Hertford's municipal water supply back in September. Hranko said she only

helped town employees locate the problem.

"When they were looking for the problem, I told them I could hear something running back behind my freezer room," Hranko said. "I had never heard that noise before during the five years we were there. The noise started about the same time the building starting having problems with the water."

When they followed the sound, town public works officials discovered the noise came from a room with a closed door that had no handle, she said. Inside, they found a pump and pressure tank inside the structure connected to a well underneath the building located on Church Street. Further investigation showed that untreated water was pumped from



Christensen

a private well cross-connected to the municipal water supply. The discovery was made after tenants in the building complained to town officials that the water tasted "like well water", said

Town Manager John Christensen. Public works employees were also trying to find out why chlorine levels in the water in that area of town were lower than should be, he added.

Town officials immediately contacted the building's owner, Randy Lassiter of Belvidere, who shut down the pump and disconnected the well from the town's water supply.

Town officials believe that when the well's pump was operating, it back fed untreated well water into the town's treated municipal water system, killing the chlorine levels in the town's water supply in that general vicinity.

Public Works Director Chris Wharton said water samples were taken and

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County is hit by burglaries

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Area burglaries around the county and in the town are keeping law enforcement officials busy.

Sheriff Eric Tilley is concerned about a rash of residential break-ins that have occurred in the county over the past year, including one that occurred last week on Great Hope Church Road.

The break-ins have several factors in common causing law enforcement officials to believe the same thieves are targeting local homes.

Tilley said the five break-ins in Perquimans County are similar to numerous burglaries reported in the Weeksville area of Pasquotank County as well.

Thieves are apparently picking houses that are surrounded by trees, or that have carports located in the back of the home that allow the thieves to park vehicles behind the home, out of sight.

They then kick in the back door, ransack the house, and steal items, mostly cash, guns, jewelry and, surprisingly enough, cleaning supplies.

"It's the cleaning supplies that shock me," said Tilley. "They are not items that are used in the dope trade."

The thieves throw clothes out of closets, flip mattresses, and pull chair cushions out of chairs and sofas in their effort to search the house for cash.

Last Wednesday, a home on Great Hope Church Road was burglarized with the thieves taking \$800 in cash found in a pickle jar containing change.

They also stole a

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A Thanksgiving Moment



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK

Volunteer Sue Hivner gives out Thanksgiving meals at the Open Door Food Pantry in Winfall, Monday.

'Tis the season for giving thanks

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

From turkey dinners to moving to another area of the state, local residents are giving thanks during this season of Thanksgiving.

At least 250 families in the county are giving thanks for the Open Door Food Pantry which on Monday distributed turkey baskets that will feed a Thanksgiving holiday dinner to 479 individuals.

The food, money, and volunteers who prepared the baskets were provided by local churches, individuals, and organizations.

"We give thanks for all of our blessings and sincerely appreciate all that is given to us,"

said Rosemary Smith, director of Open Door.

The baskets were based on family size and included a turkey, mashed potatoes, fresh sweet potatoes, green beans, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, muffin mix, and pumpkin pie.

Smith said volunteers packaged the food, cut the pies, and set up for the distribution site over the weekend. The Food Bank of the Albemarle delivered the Thanksgiving turkeys early Monday morning.

"This year the Thanksgiving food was all distributed on one day rather than two days as in previous years," said Smith.

"The distribution was



Volunteers Sandy Bluteau (left) and Joan Lofhjelm are all smiles giving out Thanksgiving meals at the Open Door Food Pantry in Winfall, Monday.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 61 LOW: 35
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 37
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 59 LOW: 39
SUNNY



With the holidays, remember needs of the hungry

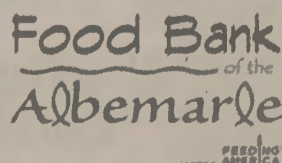
This week brings the celebration of Thanksgiving, a day centered on sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends, a day to be thankful for our good fortune.

As we prepare to celebrate the holiday, we should be especially mindful of those for whom good fortune has been replaced by misfortune — loss of jobs, loss of homes. Though unemployment and foreclosures have inched downward in some of the counties in the Albemarle region, many families and individuals continue to struggle, and face the grim reality of not knowing where their next

meal will come from.

You can help bring food to their tables by participating in the third annual Albemarle Food Relief, Hunger Hurts, Giving Heals fund-raising campaign for the Food Bank of the Albemarle.

Today you will find an envelope in your Perquimans Weekly addressed to the Food Bank. This year, these envelopes were provided by our campaign partner, Farm Fresh. You can mail your contribution, or drop the envelopes at any of the First Citizen bank locations are at the Daily Advance office in Elizabeth City, Perquimans Weekly office in Hertford



or Chowan Herald office in Edenton. For every dollar you donate, the Food Bank can buy 5 pounds of food or enough for four meals.

What does hunger look like in the Albemarle area? Data from the Food Bank provides a paint-by-the-numbers picture:

- 20 percent of the recipients are working poor;
- 80 percent are not working;
- 16 percent are senior citizens;

• 15 percent more new families sought assistance this year than in 2009;

• 40 percent of the households served also receive food stamps.

Many of those in need are on fixed incomes or disabled.

Liz Reasoner, executive director of the Food Bank, said that overall there has not been a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking food at the Food Bank and other pantries. The number of households seeking assistance grew by 2 percent from 2009 to 2010, totaling 88,095. Some people visit the Food Bank or its partners only once, oth-

ers might come monthly based on their circumstances. Over time, people develop coping skills to try to stretch their resources, Reasoner said.

Statewide unemployment rates declined by .1 percent in October, from 9.7 to 9.6 percent. County unemployment rates from September in the Albemarle region ranged from 11.4 percent in Northampton County to 4.1 percent in Currituck County. Most counties fell in the 8 percent to 9 percent range, including Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan. New county figures will be

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