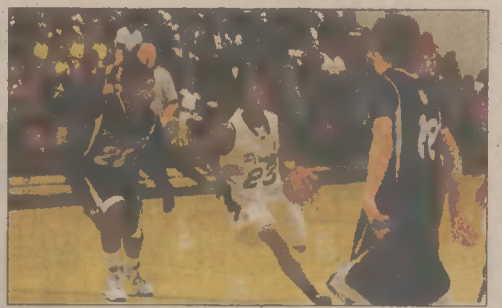


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Harvey picks up where he left off, 9

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50 cents

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 8, 2010 - DECEMBER 14, 2010

Hobbs to lead commissioners board

Cole is elected as new vice-chair

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners have chosen new leadership to guide the county into 2011. Ben Hobbs and Jan-

ice Cole were elected as chairman and vice-chairman respectively Monday night and assumed their new roles immediately.

Actually, the role of commissioner chairman is not new to Hobbs, who is beginning his 13th year on the board. Hobbs has served as both chairman and vice chairman in



Cole Hobbs
years past.

Cole, however, is a newcomer in county leadership. She was appointed to replace the late Shirley Wiggins on the board earlier this year.

The former leadership team of Mack Nixon (chairman) and Tammy Miller-White (vice-chairman) both indicated their desires not to serve in the

leadership capacity before the election.

"I let it be known beforehand I was not interested in serving as chairman for another year," said Nixon, who led the county for three years.

"I did as well," added Miller-White. "I just felt it was time for a change." Hobbs was nominated

by new commissioner Ed Muzzulin and chosen to lead by votes cast by Nixon, Muzzulin, and himself. Cole was nominated to serve as chairman by Miller-White and received votes from Miller-White and herself.

Commissioner Sue Wei-

See BOARD, 4

Man dies after a fight with trooper

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Both the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the North Carolina Highway Patrol are looking into the death of a Woodville man who died last week after fighting with a state trooper during which the officer's Taser was used several times.

Sgt. Jeff Gordon with the Highway Patrol said Clayton Earl James, of 1138 Woodville Road, was pronounced dead at Albemarle Hospital following the 10:30 p.m. chain of events that started Thursday night in Pasquotank County and ended in Perquimans.

The Highway Patrol is conducting an internal investigation into the matter while the SBI probes the incident at the request of both the Highway Patrol and District Attorney Frank Parrish. Following agency protocol, Trooper W.A. Hardison has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

According to Gordon, Trooper Hardison tried to stop James' vehicle on Old U.S. Highway 17 in Pasquotank County about 10:30 p.m. Dec. 2 after seeing the vehicle cross the center line several times. Hardison finally stopped James' vehicle on Nursing Home Road just over the county line in Perquimans on suspicion of impaired driving.

The law enforcement officer asked James to get out of the vehicle, then told the driver to take his hands out of his pockets after exiting the vehicle, but James would not follow commands, Gordon said.

When Hardison attempted to place James under arrest, a fight broke

See TASER, 5

Christmas season arrives



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

All aboard the Christmas Blessings choo-choo, compliments of the Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center, during Saturday's parade.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Mandy and Chris Whitehurst give applause with their 18-month-old son Gavin during the downtown illumination event in Hertford, Thursday.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Local children having fun at the Christmas parade in downtown Hertford, Saturday.

Hertford rings in the holiday spirit

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The comments heard from the audience were nearly the same during Thursday night's Grand Illumination and Saturday's Christmas Parade as cold temperatures ushered in the Christmas season.

"This is great!" and "My toes

are cold!" were echoed as the town of Hertford came alive with the Christmas spirit last week.

On Thursday evening, the Grand Illumination lit up the historic courthouse square, light poles, buildings, and the River Trees located on the Perquimans River on Front and Church streets. Luminar-

ies, lit in honor, memory, or in celebration of loved ones, lined the sidewalk to the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Special music ranging from the high school band to a mass gospel choir rang out the sounds of Christmas as shoppers took advantage of the extended hours offered by many of the town merchants.

"This marks the beginning of the Christmas season for me," said Susan Layden as she basked in the glow of the illuminated Christmas tree on the courthouse square. "It gives such a sense of community."

The Perquimans Senior Citizens Center Bell Choir received

See PARADE, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 56 LOW: 32
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 42
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 60 LOW: 36
SHOWERS

Local family loses home to flames Sunday

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

While the Earl Ward family were not able to salvage any of their belongings, the local community is working to help salvage Christmas for a family who lost their 70-year-old

Belvidere home to flames Sunday evening.

No one was home when fire destroyed the home of Earl and Amy Ward located at 1748 Belvidere Road around 6 p.m.

Chief Bernie Winslow, with the Belvidere-Chapel Hill Volunteer Fire De-

partment, said a passerby saw the flames shooting out of the roof, checked to make sure no one was inside the home, and called 9-1-1.

"When we got there, it was fully involved, and the back roof of the house had already caved in," said

Winslow.

Help from Winfall and Hertford fire departments arrived on the scene soon afterwards. About 30 firefighters fought the blaze and protected surrounding buildings from damage.

While most of their neighbors were not home,

one neighbor three doors down saw the blaze and called Ward on his cell phone to tell him the news.

"I was in Sunbury, and my wife and children were Christmas shopping in Walmart," said Ward

See FIRE, 4

