

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

NOVEMBER 2, 2011 - NOVEMBER 8, 2011



Rec center gets new fitness stations, page 7

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50 cents

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## Low income heating funds to be redirected

February check goes to vendors this year

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Drastic state budget cuts that caused changes to the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program may leave some area residents

feeling like they are out in the cold this winter. Local departments of social services are notifying their low income clients that the once a year funding, better known as the heating check that comes in February, will not come to individuals this year. Instead checks will be paid to vendors who provide the households

heat such as electricity, gas, or other types of fuel. "In the past, this program was an 'automatic' for many Food & Nutrition Services clients who were receiving in September of the previous year," explained Susan Chaney, director of Perquimans County Department of Social Services. "Beginning Dec. 1, households

will no longer receive a LIEAP check. There is no automatic eligibility. All energy payments will be paid directly to the household's heating provider." The old method of sending checks to individuals had no way to control where the money was spent, Chaney explained. While she admits the new

method still has kinks in it that need ironing out, the money now will go directly to pay the heating bills. Chaney says there will be an extended application period with a "priority group" applying first. Each fuel type has a set payment amount this year, and income limits for eligibility have been increased to

130 percent of the poverty level. "Household members must meet the reserve limit, funding is limited, and there is less funding this year than last year," Chaney added. "The funding for the state is approximately \$11 million less than

See HEAT FUNDS, 4

## A SCARY NIGHT IN HERTFORD



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

You look just like me! A princess (above) sees her reflection in the glass while trick or treating in Hertford Monday evening.

May the force be with you. Young trick-or-treaters exchange greetings as they make their way downtown in Hertford on Monday.



Beth Flutree hands out candy to trick-or-treaters in front of the Hall of Fame Building in Hertford. Downtown merchants welcomed the Halloween trick-or-treaters with plenty of goodies.



Devils, fairies, witches, princesses and even super heroes were seen in the downtown district.

## Marine dies in training accident

Jacobs's family lives in Belvidere

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

It is a text message that will last a lifetime.

Just hours before he was killed in a training accident, Marine Sgt. Christopher J. Jacobs texted his wife Brittaney that he had enjoyed a good night's sleep the night before. "I love you guys," he typed on the phone and hit the send button, transmitting his last words to his wife and young son waiting in Belvidere. "We love you too, baby," replied his wife.



Jacobs

Later that day, the 29-year-old Marine was killed in an amphibious assault vehicle training exercise at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Ca. According to the Marine Corps Times, Sgt. Jacobs was a crew-member with Delta Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center when the accident occurred Oct. 24 during a training exercise at the Marine Corps' desert warfare training base.

Brittaney received word of his death the following day while planning a trip to California to spend

See MARINE DIES, 4

## Elderly, beware of scams

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley says he is still receiving reports of scams involving the elderly and encourages senior citizens to be alert to phone scams that claim to be family members needing cash.

Some local residents have been scammed out of varying amounts of

cash up to \$6,000, said Tilley.

The callers, he said, are good at drawing out information from the elderly person answering the phone.

"They'll start off by saying 'Grandma?' when the elderly woman answers the phone and when the elderly woman answers saying 'Is this so and so (grandchild)?', the scammer then has the name of the grandchild so the scammer continues to talk with the elderly subject until he convinces her he is in fact the grandchild and to wire him money,"

said Tilley. Often times, the scammer says he or she is out of the country and has been arrested for drunk driving and needs cash wired overseas as bail money. Other times, the scammer says they have been involved in a wreck and needs cash for medical bills. Places involved include Mexico and Florida.

"Whatever you do, don't ever wire money overseas," warned Tilley. "Just ask questions first. If the caller says it

See SCAMS, 4

## Candidates: Hands tied regarding police matter

By PETER WILLIAMS  
The Daily Advance

Candidates for Hertford mayor conceded Friday night that not a lot can be done right now about the town's police chief and an officer who were convicted of assaulting a man but remain on the town's payroll.

Because the town has a manager/mayor form of government, neither the mayor nor the town council can fire a town employee, candidates in the Nov.

### Early voting is slow

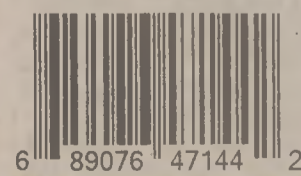
Election day is Nov. 8. So far, early voting numbers have been slow. See story, page 3.

8 mayoral election told an audience during a candidates forum at First Baptist Church of Hertford. Hertford Mayor Sid Eley and his two challengers, Horace Reid and Lloyd

Hodges, attended the forum. Also in attendance were the five candidates seeking two town council seats: incumbents Anne White and Carlton Davenport and challengers Billy Laden, Quentin Jackson and Frank Jaklic.

Much of Friday's forum, moderated by Tony Riddick, dealt with economic issues. But the mayoral candidates also responded to questions about the town's embattled police

See POLICE, 4



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