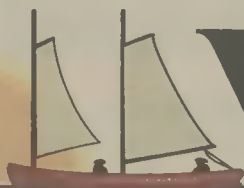


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

OCTOBER 10, 2012 - OCTOBER 16, 2012



Schools foundation holds golf tourney, 8

OCT 10 2012 5:00 PM

## Former PCHS teacher faces rape charge

### Thach cited for statutory rape of 14-year-old in '96

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff writer

A former teacher, coach and athletic director at Perquimans County High School was arrested Monday in Carteret County on a charge of statutory rape.

The charge stems from an al-

leged incident that occurred in Perquimans County 16 years ago.

Harrell Garrett Thach, 57, of the 100-block of East Inlet Court in Emerald Isle, faces a felony charge of first degree statutory rape of a 14-year-old child in 1996, an arrest warrant states.

Thach was taken into custody

Monday night and held under a \$100,000 secured bond.

The investigation of the alleged incident was conducted by members of the State Bureau of Investigation.

Noelle Talley, public information officer with the North Carolina Department of Justice, said

Thach was a teacher at New Bern High School at the time of his arrest. Attempts to confirm Thach's status at the school Tuesday were unsuccessful.

On Tuesday, Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said his department planned to travel to Carteret County Tuesday afternoon

to pick up Thach and bring him back to Perquimans for a Wednesday morning court appearance.

Brenda Lassiter, public information officer with Perquimans County Schools, confirmed that Thach was employed by the local school system from August 1983 until June 2004 in various capacities including teacher, athletic director and coach of both the football and track teams.

## Arts and Crafts Show: The Jury Is In

The Perquimans Arts League sponsored a juried arts and crafts show in the county recreation center Saturday with more than 35 vendors displaying their talents.



Hard-carved wooden Christmas Santas were among the items found at the show on Saturday.

## Change protects water supply

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Members of Hertford Town Council have adopted an amendment to the town's ordinances that will protect water customers from someone else contaminating the town's water supply.

Monday night, council members approved the proposed ordinance amendment that requires a back flow prevention device on water connections for residences and commercial businesses that may be considered hazardous risk. Residences with personal water supplies like water softening or purification systems are affected as well.

High on the list of commercial buildings considered hazardous are funeral homes, medical offices, dentists offices, car washes with recycling/reclamation system, fire sprinkler or standpipe systems with chemical additives, nursing homes, commercial laundry (except self-service laundry), power plant, swimming pools, sewage treatment plant, veterinary hospital or clinics, restaurants, exterminators and lawn care companies, stores that store chemical-related products, etc.

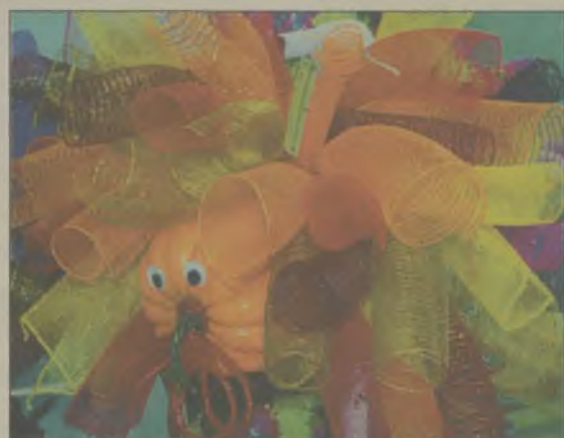
"Most of the commercial buildings already have a back flow prevention device installed," explained Brandon Shoaf, town manager. "We've been working on this ordinance for quite some time. We're about 10

See WATER, 4



STAFF PHOTOS  
BY CATHY WILSON

Arts and crafts ranging from hand-carved walking sticks to braided rugs to homemade soap were available during the show, sponsored by the Perquimans Arts League for the second year.



Colorful handmade fall wreaths were a popular item.

Beautifully hand-crafted jewelry drew a large crowd during Arts on the Perquimans.

## Voting power lies in Bethel and New Hope communities

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

While Hertford's strength may lie in its designation as the county seat supported by local government offices and commercial development, the local political power, however,

appears to be exercised in another part of the county.

The Bethel voting precinct has more registered voters than all other districts in the county following the influx of retirees and families settling in Albemarle Plantation, Holiday Island, and Snug Harbor over the past few years.

And those registered voters are apparently taking to the polls.

Election figures from the party primary run-off elec-

tion held in Perquimans County this past spring show that just over 40 percent of all votes cast in the county were actually cast in the Bethel precinct.

And, according to records at the North Carolina State Board of Elections, nearly a third of all votes cast in the county in the last three major elections came from the Bethel precinct alone.

It's a pattern that's not

See POWER, 2

## Haste receives Long Leaf Pine

From staff reports

T. Erie Haste, Jr., of Hertford, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award on Saturday evening during a reception held in his honor at his Hertford home.

Several generations of North Carolinians have benefited from his efforts and his years of service to his community and state.

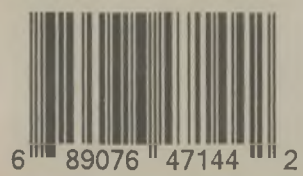
Born and reared in Edenton, Haste is the son of the late T. Erie Haste, Sr. and the late Nezzie



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Daughter Patti Chiacchiero pins the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award on her father Erie Haste, as Rev. John Bonner (center) watches. Haste received the award Saturday evening at his home. Haste is owner of Hertford Hardware and longtime community servant.

See HASTE, 2



The Rotary Club of Hertford Proudly Presents  
**THE EMBERS**

**Saturday, October 20, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.**

Perquimans County High School Auditorium  
305 S. Edenton Road Street, Hertford NC  
General Admission \$14 - Tickets are available at  
HERTFORD HARDWARE • CAROLINA TROPHY  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Reserved tickets \$20, call 252 426 5246

The Princess Margaret Primary College and Vocational Services Scholarship

[www.hertfordrotary.org](http://www.hertfordrotary.org)