

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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NOV 21 2012 50 cents

Nelson earns highest NC school board honor

BOE member gets Dingman Award

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

For Wallace Nelson, it's all about the children.

As a long-time member of the Perquimans Board of Education, his service is not about seeking glory



Nelson

He is quick to give credit

for him, it's not about receiving accolades or awards for his hours of service, and it's certainly not about seeing his name in newspaper print.

to others and to his Lord, and strongly believes in working to help better educate the youth of Perquimans County. "It is never about us," he told hundreds of other school board members from around the state during the recent North Carolina School Board Association's annual conference. "It is always about the chil-

dren." That dedication and perspective, along with hours of experience and service as a school board member under his belt, catapulted Nelson into the limelight during that conference in Greensboro.

He was chosen by the association as the recipient of the Raleigh Dingman Award, the highest that can

be given to the state school board member. As such, he automatically serves as an ex-officio member of the North Carolina State Board of Education and the North Carolina School Board Association board of directors.

Local school officials say this is the first time anyone from PBOE has received the award and only

the second time someone from the Albemarle region received it.

"Wallace Nelson exemplifies the definition of what a public servant should look like and the impact their life should have in service to others," said Perquimans Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings.

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Event to Illuminate Town

Christmas Parade scheduled Dec. 1

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Local officials are taking care of last minute details in preparation for next week's official kick-off to the Christmas season in Hertford.

The town's Grand Illumination will be held Friday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m., followed the next day by the town's annual Christmas Parade.

This year's theme is "Christmas Memories" and officials hope this year's events will create Christmas memories to cherish for years to come.

The Grand Illumination, sponsored by Historic Hertford, Inc., will be bigger and hopefully better this year featuring more entertainment with a special holiday focus. The Perquimans County High School Band will entertain with holiday music and members of The Dance Company of Hertford will perform special Christmas dance selections.

The Ensemble from Evangelical Methodist Church in Elizabeth City will perform several musical numbers and feature singers from the surrounding Albemarle area — including Perquimans County.

Pictures of Christmas



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Evangelical Methodist Church Ensemble will perform during the Grand Illumination slated for Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. at the historic county courthouse.

Memories from the past will run on a large outdoor screen to help set the mood as visitors enjoy hot dogs, hot chocolate, and Christmas cookies on the historic county courthouse lawn.

Santa Claus will visit the little ones downtown that evening and provide free gifts for the children.



Again this year, luminaries given in honor, in memory, or in celebration of special ones

will line the sidewalks and add meaning to the beauty of the lighting of the town's official Christmas tree, town buildings, and River Trees gracing the town's waterfront.

Luminaries will be available again this year for \$5 each at the Perquimans Chamber office until Nov. 26.

The town's popular Christmas Parade gets

underway on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. featuring marching bands, floats, walking units, vintage cars, horses, and of course, Santa arriving on his colorful Christmas sleigh. Santa will also be available for pictures at Inteliport immediately following the parade. The parade is sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce.

Monsanto gives \$10K for science, math fairs

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

A representative from a leading agricultural chemical manufacturer was at Perquimans County High School last week to present a \$10,000 check to the county schools for hands-on math and science education.

James Marsh, district sales manager with Monsanto, explained that the grant part of a program called "America's Farmers Grow Rural Education" that lets farmers nominate their public school district to apply for a \$10,000 or \$25,000 merit-based grant to enhance math and science education.

In North Carolina, 496 North Carolina farmers supported projects in 45 school districts. Of those nominated, Perquimans and two other school systems in the state received \$10,000 grants.

Marsh attributed Perquimans' success to support from 43 farmers and "a top-notch application."

The way Monsanto's grant program works is that farmers go online and vote for a school project they believe should be funded. Perquimans County chose math and science fairs because of the opportunity they provide students to get hands-on science experience.

"Y'all had way more than anybody else," Marsh said of

See MONSANTO, 4

Peeler joins county 'team'

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Matt Peeler, who cut his political teeth on the battle to keep an outlying landing field out of the area, now has a seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners.

Peeler, 51, who has lived in Perquimans County since 2004, was part of the Perquimans County NO-OLF effort. He said even though he was opposed to the OLF, he always tried to be fair and balanced and give full consideration to the arguments put forward by the Navy.

In the end, though, he concluded

See PEELER, 5



Police K9, DARE return

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

The Hertford Town Council last week approved the resumption of the D.A.R.E. anti-drug program at Hertford Grammar and the acquisition of a drug-sniffing dog.

The council unanimously approved both of the new police programs at its regular meeting Nov. 14.

The programs will not affect the town's own coffers since they are being funded through seized drug assets — what is known as the asset forfeiture program — and a grant through Ventosa Kennel, explained Police Chief Douglas Freeman.

Mayor Horace Reid said that even though Hertford is a small town, it has many of the same problems as other towns and even large cities. Reid said he believes the narcotics-sniffing dog and other initiatives of the police department are a step in the right direction.

"I hope it will help clean up some of our streets," Reid said. Reid praised the work Freeman is doing.

"I think at this point our chief is

See DARE, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Hertford Police Chief Douglas Freeman talks to members of the public attending the Town Council meeting about police initiatives to acquire a drug-sniffing dog and reinstate the D.A.R.E. Program, Nov. 14.

Town financial news is mixed

From staff reports

The Town of Hertford saw its reserves increase in the general fund but decrease in the electric fund and water and sewer fund during the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Jeff Best of Pittard, Perry and Crone presented the 2012 audit report to the Hertford Town Council during the council's regular meeting Nov. 14.

Best said the town's fund balance in the general fund increased by \$139,000. At the same time, there were decreases in fund balance of \$232,000 in the electric fund and \$674,000 in the water and sewer fund, he said.

The decrease in the electric fund balance was partly because of mild conditions last winter, Best said. Depreciation of equipment also was a factor in the fund balance reduction for both the electric fund and the water and sewer fund, he said.

Shoaf said last week that depreciation was an especially significant factor in the water and sewer fund.

Net assets are \$1,011,528 in the electric fund and \$7,986,078 in the water and sewer fund.

The total budgets are \$1,716,894 in the general fund, \$3,609,231 in the electric fund and \$,531,289 in the water and sewer fund.

See FINANCIAL, 7

<p>252-426-1380 • www.forbesuc.com</p>	<p>Heritage Shores</p> <p>129 Johnson Drive, Hertford</p>	<p>On Yeopim Creek</p> <p>Pier & Boat Dock</p>	<p>Vaulted Ceilings</p> <p>Open Great Room</p>	<p>3 Bedrooms 3.5 Baths</p> <p>Spacious FROG</p>	<p>4.8 Acres</p> <p>Listed at \$569,000</p>	<p>Featured Property of the Week</p> <p>www.forbesuc.com</p> <p>252-426-1380</p>
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