

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

NOV 28 2012



Friends, family gather for Bethel VFD turkey shoot — SEE PHOTOS PAGE 6

"News from Next Door"

NOVEMBER 28, 2012 - DECEMBER 4, 2012

50 cents

## Court reverses board's decision on teacher tenure

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A Superior Court judge has reversed an earlier decision by the county board of education to deny tenure to a county teacher and ordered the board to immediately reinstate the teacher with career status and back pay. Judge William R. Pittman supported Vanessa B. Joyner's ap-

peal of the school board's May decisions to deny her tenure even though both the school principal and division superintendent recommended Joyner be given career status.

In his court order of Nov. 16, Pittman wrote that the board's "decision was arbitrary and capricious, made for personal reasons, and infected by the pre-meeting bias of one board mem-

ber." According to court records, Joyner began working as an elementary school teacher in August 2008, first as a first grade teacher for two years followed by two years teaching students with disabilities.

The Perquimans Board of Education considered a list of teachers (including Joyner) eligible for career status on May 14.

Joyner received recommendations for career status from both Principal Melissa Fields and Division Superintendent Dwayne Stallings, court records show. During that meeting, board member Ralph Hollowell, whose wife is a teacher in the same school, spoke against the recommendation that Joyner be given career status, court records show.

The court's findings showed

Hollowell told board members he had "heard from teachers, teacher assistants, parents and grandparents questionable information about this teacher" without individually identifying any person from whom he had heard or providing any other specific details about what "questionable information" he claimed

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## GIVING THANKS: FEEDING OTHERS

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Shalonda Foster and a group of children made several trips out of the church fellowship hall carrying bags and boxes filled with Thanksgiving dinners on Thanksgiving Day.

However, the tasty turkey dinners with all the trimmings weren't for themselves. Instead, they made Thanksgiving Day special for the sick and needy by carrying turkey and ham dinners to help feed neighborhood shut-ins - like the elderly or sick - those who couldn't physically make it to First Baptist Missionary Baptist Church for the holiday meal.

Several volunteers like Foster helped the Hertford church serve nearly 500 free meals last Thursday to shut-ins, the needy, church members, neighborhood folks, lots of children, even visitors who stopped by. It



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Serving up free Thanksgiving dinners Thursday at First Baptist Missionary in Hertford were (l-r) Freda Lyons, Jaylin Mitchell, Annette Brimsly and Nicole Franklin.

lunch-time meal. Others added venison and even bear meat to compliment the dinners. Pans full of mac and cheese, greens, string beans, potato salad, cornbread, and rolls were offered as well.

A table holding slices of homemade pies and cakes and other sweets was a popular spot.

"We've been preparing for this day for three months," added Franklin. "The church is right in the heart of the community and we want to be a community church. We hope to have this become an annual event. We want to help our community, not just at Thanksgiving, but anytime the Lord lays it on our hearts."

was part of a community outreach service, a vision of the church pastor Rev. Johnathan Franklin.

"We want the church to be a helping hand to the community," said Franklin. "We want to help

meet their physical needs as well as their spiritual needs." Volunteers from the

church cooked 14 turkeys, three whole hams and several pieces of ham to provide the basis for the

## Felton is parade's grand marshal

Hertford Christmas Parade is Saturday

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A devoted woman of God, an advocate for area school children, and a lady who continues to work for racial equality will serve as grand marshal of this year's Hertford Christmas Parade.

Estelle Felton, noted for her long-time involvement in Perquimans County, will lead the parade Saturday when it gets underway at 2 p.m.

"Miss Estelle", as she is known to one and all, is the first female chairperson of the Perquimans County Democratic Party, the first African-American female director of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, and the first home and school coordinator for Perquimans County Schools, according to information provided



FILE PHOTO

Santa arrives in Hertford both Friday during the Grand Illumination at 6 p.m. on the courthouse square and again on Saturday during the Hertford Christmas Parade at 2 p.m. in historic downtown Hertford.

Church where she serves as church clerk and deacon.

She is well known for singing and has participated in numerous National Day of Prayer services on the historic courthouse lawn.

One of 12 children, Felton grew up in Hertford and later married her soul mate, the late Louis Henry Felton. She is the mother of seven children, grandmother to

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## County man dies in wreck

By WILLIAM F. WEST  
The Daily Advance

A 65-year-old Perquimans County man died late last week at a Virginia hospital after his motorcycle overturned after striking a deer on N.C. Highway 137 in Gates County, the N.C. Highway Patrol said.

Benjamin Gaither Cullipher was alone on his 2012 Harley-Davidson while driving west on N.C. 137 on Friday morning when the deer came out of a wooded area, from Cullipher's left, Sgt. Rodney Sawyer said. The motorcycle went to the right and off the pavement before going back onto the pavement, Sawyer said. The motorcycle overturned in the roadway and Cullipher was ejected, Sawyer said.

The wreck occurred shortly before 10 a.m. about four miles west of Gatesville and Trooper Marc Cerbone responded. Sawyer said Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance transported Cullipher to Sentara Norfolk General, where he died later in the evening. Sawyer said that speed was not a factor in the accident and that Cullipher had been wearing his helmet, along with protective leather clothing.

The accident became the fourth fatality reported by the patrol in Gates County this year. Cullipher lived in the 100 block of Crystal Lane.

## Downtown Grand Illumination is Friday night

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Dancers from The Dance Company of Hertford will perform during this year's Grand Illumination Friday night at 6 p.m.

Instructor Amy Goudy says her older students are excited about performing in holiday attire for



FILE PHOTO

The Perquimans County High School band will perform Friday night during the Grand Illumination on the courthouse square at 6 p.m.

the crowd. "My high school girls will be dancing a ballet piece to 'The First Noel.' I also have my intermediate class doing a fun jazz piece

to Louis Anderson's 'Zat You, Santa Claus?' The girls are excited for the opportunity to perform. They helped to pick their own costumes and look

forward to the activities coming up on Friday." Members of the Perquimans County High School band will also offer holiday selections as will the

choir Ensemble from Evangelical Methodist Church.

Sponsored by Historic

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