

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

DEC 12 2012



Pirate girls lose first game; Boys drop a pair, Page 7

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 12, 2012 - DECEMBER 18, 2012

50 cents

Town backs economic development analysis

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Monday night, town officials approved hiring a consulting firm to do an economic development analysis for Hertford in

step with strategies already put in place by the town's Small Town Economic Prosperity (STEP) program.

Creative Economic Development Consulting, out of Elkin, is expected to

begin work mid January to determine a full area market analysis noting which types of businesses have the greatest potential for success here and a list of potential companies for solicitation.

The project, in the form of a business development plan that should include hospitals/medical clinics, entertainment companies, assisted living communities, and lodging/hotel facilities, should be com-

pleted by late March, said Town Manager Brandon Shoaf.

Total cost of the analysis is \$20,000 with \$16,000 funded through STEP's state funds and the remaining \$4,000 coming

from a Smart Community Grant funded to the town through ElectriCities.

"Basically, the STEP strategy is to look at the holes we have here in

See ANALYSIS, 7

CHRISTMAS IN WINFALL

Town's first Yule parade a success

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

By all accounts, the first, hopefully annual, Christmas parade in Winfall was a success.

A large crowd lined the streets, sat on truck tailgates, and even played underneath the trees in front of Perquimans Central School as the hour-long parade officially ushered the Christmas season into town.

"I think Winfall's first parade went very well," said Tammy Chappell, chairman of the town's parade committee. "It was amazing to see the community come out and support the town. I am excited to see what can happen next year!"

Five bands participated in the parade including the Elizabeth City State University Marching Vikings (best band award winner), Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates, Perquimans County Middle School band, and two high school bands from neighboring Pasquotank County--Northeastern and Pasquotank high school bands.

Other parade entries included just about everything from dogs to color guards, from four-wheelers doing wheelies to slow-moving vintage cars, from decorated floats to beauty queens.

The Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center took first place in the best float category while the Perquimans County Middle School Steppers captured the best group trophy.

Ava Hurdle, a reporter with Wavy News 10 in Hampton Roads served as grand marshal.

The parade was dedicated to the memory of Durwood Barber and Melvin Jennings, two deceased Winfall residents who always dreamed of seeing a parade in Winfall.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Students and staff adorn Hertford Grammar School's float in the Winfall Christmas Parade on Saturday.

PHOTO COURTESY C. PAGELS

"A Christmas to Remember" was the theme for Winfall's first Christmas parade.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Santa arrives in Winfall on top of a Winfall Fire Department fire truck.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A four-wheeler travels on two wheels to delight the crowd.

MORE PHOTOS

Check out page 8 for more photos from the Winfall Christmas Parade

Mother, son face federal charges

Harrell transport cited for Medicaid billing

From staff reports

A mother and son from Belvidere who operate a medical transport service in the region have been indicted and face 68 counts of allegedly fraudulently billing Medicare and Medicaid.

Phyllis Stallings Harrell, owner, and Paul Lynn Trueblood, operator of Harrell Medical Transport in Hobbsville, Gates County, allegedly billed Medicaid through the business and conspired to defraud Medicare and Medicaid with various billings for non-emergency ambulance transportation services between 2006 and 2009.

U.S. Attorney Thomas G. Walker of the Eastern District of North Carolina said U.S. District Judge Malcolm J. Howard unsealed the indictment last Friday.

If convicted, both could face lengthy prison terms, as well as hefty fines and restitution, according to a press release issued by Walker late Friday afternoon. Included in the indictment filed Nov. 19 in Raleigh is a notice seeking forfeiture of property upon conviction including contents of three financial accounts in the name of Phyllis Harrell valued at over \$550,000, one financial account in the name of Harrell Medical Transport valued at over \$174,000, plus one 2009 Lincoln Navigator 4x4, six ambulances, and one cutaway van—all in the name of Harrell Medical Transport, and one Ford Fusion in the name of Phyllis Harrell.

Reached Saturday evening, Trueblood denied the allegations and said the transport business will continue on.

"We are still in business," he said. "We are still operating. We have not been convicted. We have been charged. Therefore we will get through it."

Harrell could not be reached. According to Walker, the indictment alleges that Trueblood

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Newbern: Fireman of the Year

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A 39-year-veteran of the Hertford Fire Department is the department's Fireman of the Year for 2012.

Parker Newbern, assistant chief, received the award Saturday night from Hertford Mayor Horace Reid during the

department's annual Christmas banquet. The surprise award is voted on and given annually by the department members to a member in recognition for their service to the department the past year.

As assistant chief, Newbern took charge of fundraising this past year and headed up their first annual Sportsman Giveaway—the department's largest fundraiser of the year.

Newbern was quick, however, to give credit to his fellow firefighters.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Mayor Horace Reid presents the Fireman of the Year award to Parker Newbern.

See NEWBERN, 4

Police investigate money order fraud

Fake rental home ad nets \$1,200

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Police are investigating a possible local connection to a reported fraud resulting from an apparent rental home ad appearing on Craigslist.

According to police reports, Hertford Police were

contacted Nov. 27 by a detective with the Burlington Police Department all the way across the nation in Washington state regarding a suspected money order fraud. Apparently a Burlington, WA man responded to a Craigslist posting regarding a house for rent in the Mount Vernon area of Washington. The man inquired about renting the house and

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<p>252-426-1380 • www.forbesuc.com</p>	<p>Forbes</p> <p>Albermarle Plantation Condo</p>	<p>Overlooks Marina & Water</p>	<p>Cathedral Ceilings</p>	<p>Overlooks Golf Course</p>	<p>Listed at \$190,200</p> <p>Featured Property of the Week</p>
	<p>415 Albermarle Blvd. 5B, Hertford</p>	<p>Albermarle Sound Views</p>	<p>On Third Floor w/Elevator</p>	<p>Water Access</p>	<p>2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths</p>