

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

DEC 19 2012



Students' Christmas Card art, pages 10-11

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 19, 2012 - DECEMBER 25, 2012

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Board appeals judge's ruling on Joyner

From staff reports

The Perquimans County Board of Education has filed an appeal against a judge's earlier ruling reversing the board's decision to fire former teacher Vanessa Joyner after deny-

ing her tenure.

According to court records, the appeal was filed Dec. 12 and sent to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in Raleigh.

Members of the BOE conferred with attorney John Leidy in closed ses-

sion Monday night. Afterwards, no vote was taken in open session.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said Tuesday morning that the BOE never voted in open session to file the appeal.

"According to what our

attorney told us, the board does not have to vote," Stallings explained. "They only have to authorize the attorney to move forward, which they did."

When asked how the board gave that authorization (verbally, show

of hands, etc.) Stallings would only say it was the consensus of the board to move forward.

According to the North Carolina Open Meetings law, state statute allows public bodies to consider and give instructions to

an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure in closed session.

However, the state press

See RULING, 8

MOM, SOLDIER, SURPRISES DAUGHTER AT SCHOOL

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Teacher Assistant Kionna Griffin nervously tapped her finger on the library desk while glancing first at the students sitting around small library tables and then through the large glass windows into the school lobby.

She hummed Christmas songs and called children up to her desk to check out books one by one - all while keeping an eye on the library door...waiting for someone to enter the doors at Perquimans Central School.

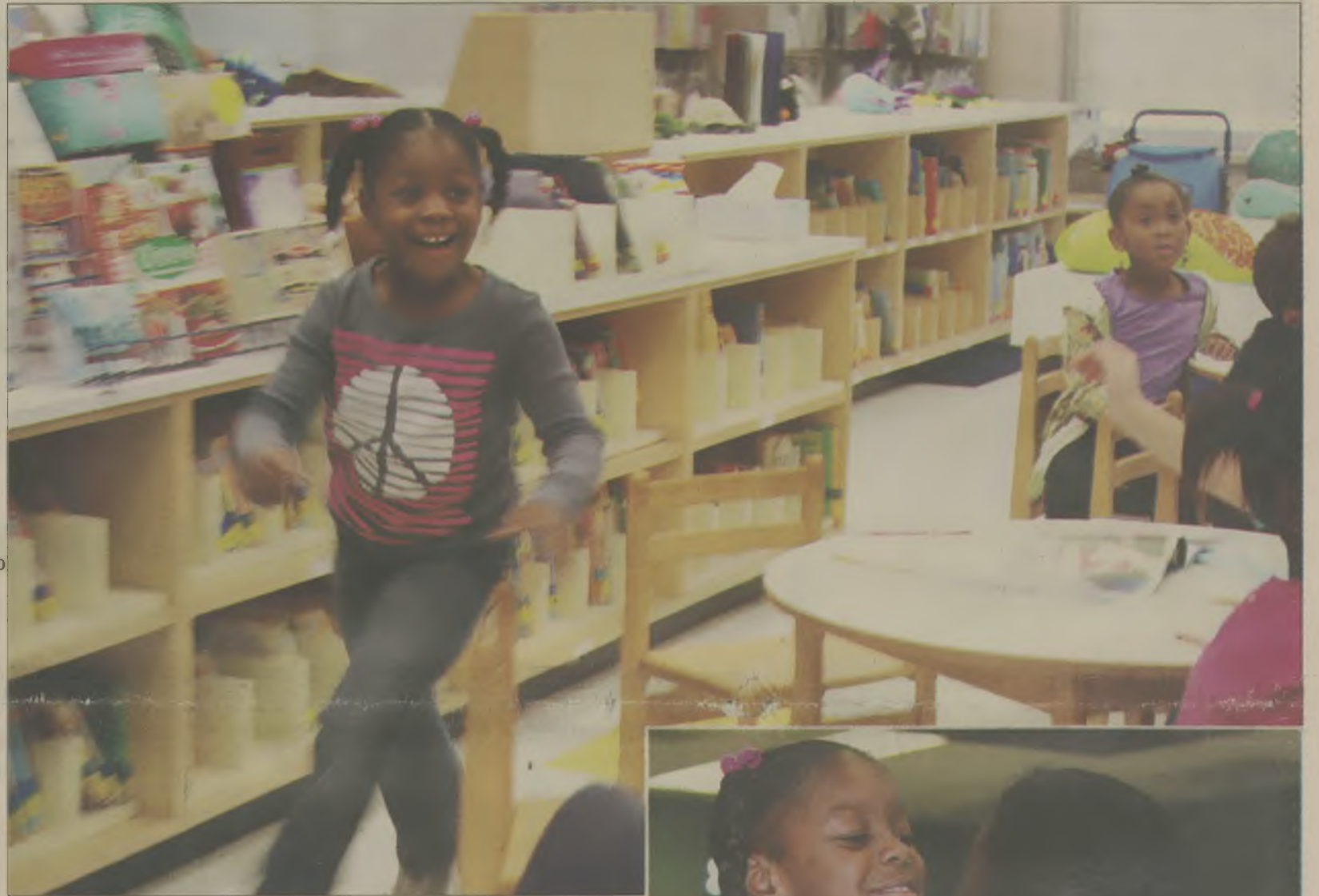
The anticipation in her eyes almost mimicked expressions seen on Christmas Eve waiting for Santa to arrive.

"Is she here yet?" Griffin asked time after time as she tried to keep busy. "I'm so excited. It's like waiting to unwrap presents on Christmas morning!"

Griffin wasn't the only excited grownup at PCS last Thursday morning. A host of school administrators and helpers excitedly paced the lobby floor waiting for a very special arrival.

After what seemed like an eternity, their special guest finally arrived and they excitedly hustled her through the school's hallway to the side door of the library.

Inside the library, seven-year-old Jakayla Caffey and her classmates worked around one of the small tables. With her head down, she intently drew pictures, and began telling her classmates what she had drawn. As she talked, she began



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

A surprised seven-year-old Jakayla Caffey runs from her seat into the waiting arms of her mother, Shanita Bailey, a soldier stationed at Ft. Bliss in Texas. They had not seen each other since May. Bailey is home for a few days before being deployed to Afghanistan in January.

to hear a familiar voice repeating everything she was telling her friends.

Caffey looked up and to her surprise, saw her

See SOLDIER MOM, 9

"You are the best Christmas present ever!" Words spoken by Jakayla Caffey to her mother Shanita Bailey after being surprised at school by Bailey's homecoming from the Army last Thursday.



Elderly woman injured during home invasion

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

An elderly Hertford woman was injured early Sunday morning when three men broke into her Sunset Drive home, threw her out of her bed, tied her up, and demanded money.

Police reports state that the 84-year-old victim re-

siding in the 200-block of Sunset Drive was sleeping when the assailants awoke her by throwing her off the bed and holding her down. They reportedly tied sheets around her hands, choked her, and assaulted her while demanding money, police reports state.

Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman said the

suspects ransacked the entire house around 1:15 a.m. and left with a small amount of property.

The victim managed to free herself, run to a neighbor's house, and called 9-1-1.

Members of the Hertford Police Department and Perquimans County Sheriff's Department re-

sponded and did not find any suspects in the house.

The victim reportedly suffered a severe laceration to the top of a hand, bruises on her arms and face, and a swollen lip. She was transported by Perquimans EMS to Chowan Hospital, police said.

Chief Freeman said the three suspects are de-

scribed as black males wearing ball caps and dark pants. Two of the suspects wore dark-colored t-shirts while the third wore a polo-type shirt, police say. One was described as having a beard with grey hair around the mouth and another was described as wearing dreadlocks.

Freeman said HPD is offering a reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest or apprehension of the suspects involved. Anyone with information is asked to contact Hertford Investigator Alan Peterson at 426-5587 or email police@townofhertfordnc.com

Callers do not have to reveal their identities.

County planning/zoning office to move

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County officials will move its planning and zoning office from upstairs in the county courthouse to the building inspector's office on Dobb's Street.

The move is expected to be com-

pleted around the first few weeks of the new year. Until the new location opens, county Planner Donna Godfrey will continue to serve customers in the current office located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

"Moving the zoning and planning office into the building at 104 Dobb's Street will hopefully improve the customer experience," said County Manager Frank Heath. "People have to get a zoning permit before they get a building permit so this way they can get both permits from the same

place. This will also give Donna a whole lot more room. Right now, she operates out of what used to be a small storage space so this move will really give her more space."

The zoning office will move into space formerly occupied by the county's emergency management office which moved earlier this year into the new emergency services building on Creek Drive in Winfall.

The county-owned Dobb's

See OFFICE MOVE 8

Sen. Jones dies at 62

From staff reports

State Sen. Ed Jones, D-Halifax, died Friday following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 62.

Jones represented Perquimans, Chowan, and Gates counties as part of what was the 4th Senate District prior to redistricting last year. The new district Jones won reelection in last month no longer includes those counties.

Jones' daughter, Alesha Garrett, said Friday her fa-

ther died at 2:20 p.m. at his Halifax County home.

Jones was remembered as a dedicated public servant and tireless advocate for rural communities.

"Senator Jones was a gentle soul devoted to his family, church, and community," U.S.



Jones

See JONES, 8



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