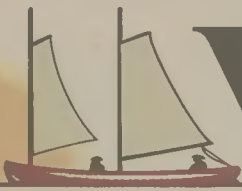


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Winning entries from the Christmas Card contest, Page 7

"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 26, 2012 - JANUARY 1, 2012

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Video-conferences with inmates saves money

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON
Perquimans Superior Court Clerk Todd Tilley prepares to hold a bond hearing with an inmate at Albemarle District Jail via video-conference in the clerk's office.



By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A new program that is now in effect in both the Perquimans Superior Court Clerk and county magistrate offices should save time and money for local governments.

State-of-the-art video conferencing is now being used to offer bond hearings to some inmates without actually trans-

porting those inmates to local courtrooms. Instead, inmates incarcerated in Albemarle District Jail located in Pasquotank County can now participate in bond hearings over a voice-over-internet program that allows the inmate to be seen and heard over a telephone system located in the Hertford-based clerk and magistrate offices without leaving the jail.

For the technology-savvy, it's kinda like Skyping, but using the phone system rather than computer.

Before the program began locally, county deputies would drive the 20 miles from Hertford to Elizabeth City to pick up the inmate and transport the inmate back to Hertford for a 10-minute bond hearing. Once the hearing was over, the deputy

would transport the inmate back to Elizabeth City and then return to Hertford to continue with his law enforcement duties. The two round trips needed to conduct that face-to-face bond hearing totaled about 80 miles.

This new program requires little, if any, mileage at all.

"The big thing is the

See VIDEO, 2

BREWIN STILL HAS PRECIOUS MEMORIES

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Margaret Brewin smiles as she playfully fingers her collection of colorful Christmas Santas and unfilled holiday stockings hung by her chimney with care.

When asked, she tells you stories on each miniature Santa, on Christmas cards dating back to 1914, and on each doll that stands among her cherished prized collection. She smiles because of the memories she still shares - memories that have not escaped her despite her ongoing battle with brain cancer since this past summer.

The popular downtown merchant who owns Gregory's on Church Street was often seen decorating her shop windows with lots of memorable items stored both in the store and in her home. In fact, she routinely wins the Curb Appeal window decorating contest each season, or at least places in that competition.

It was outside those attractive windows one day last August that she stood talking with friends on the downtown sidewalk. They noticed she was not talking quite right.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Margaret Brewin is all smiles in front of her antique Santa collection in her home. The Hertford merchant was diagnosed with a brain tumor this past summer and is still undergoing treatment.

She had felt overly tired the week before, so her friend called the doctor. From that call, she eventually had an MRI that showed a small malignant tumor just behind her left eye.

She underwent brain

surgery the next day in a Norfolk hospital to remove the tumor.

"I had no headaches, no symptoms whatsoever," she remembers. "It just came up so quickly. When I came to after the surgery I overheard people say-

ing I wouldn't be able to talk, or I wouldn't be able to remember anything.

When the doctor came in a couple of days later and asked how I was doing, I spoke and told him I remember people saying I wouldn't remember!"

That fighting, positive spirit has helped Brewin through her brain surgery and ongoing treatments for cancer.

She stays positive, tries to eat healthy to keep up

See BREWIN, 2

Williams named PW news editor

From staff reports

Peter Williams, who began his newspaper career in Elizabeth City almost 40 years ago, has been named news editor at the Perquimans Weekly, effective Jan. 1.

He will fill the position being vacated by Cathy Wilson, who has taken another job.

Williams, 55, began his career in journalism at The Daily Advance in 1975, the year he graduated from Northeastern High School. He left The Daily Advance in 1980 and has since worked for several newspapers in North Carolina, Florida and Mississippi. He served stints as editor at the New Bern Sun Journal, the Mount Airy News, the Washington Daily News and the Richmond County Daily Journal.



Williams

In 2011, he returned to The Daily Advance, where he has been responsible for education coverage.

"Peter is a seasoned journalist with roots in the area. He will make a good fit for the Hertford, Perquimans County community," said Ann Hoffman, publisher of The Perquimans Weekly.

Williams takes over from Wilson who has been reporting for The Perquimans Weekly since 2007. Last month, she accepted a position with Womack Publishing Company as regional manager for several community newspapers in Virginia and North Carolina. She begins her new duties in January.

Hoffman praised Wilson for her hard work and for the dedication she has shown at The Perquimans Weekly.

"Cathy demonstrated an unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive, fair and balanced coverage of Hertford and Perquimans County for readers. She was passionate about her community and her work and it showed.

"She will be missed. I wish her much success in the future," Hoffman said.

The Perquimans Weekly is owned by Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC., of Greenville, which also owns The Daily Advance.

SECU honors Copeland

From staff reports

Elwood Copeland recently retired from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Winfall equipment office, after 30 years of service. He was also honored by the State Employees' Credit Union for contributions as a long-term volunteer-member.

He served as an advisory board member of SECU for the past 17 years and, as a loyal advocate, has played an instrumental role in helping the credit union stay connected to its membership through the distribution of information to member-groups in the Hertford, Edenton and Elizabeth City areas.

"The advisory board is really a vital link between members and the credit union," said Copeland. "Letting people be advised about what the credit union is doing is very important. It provides a better understanding of how



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Elwood Copeland recently retired from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Winfall office, after 30 years of service. He was also honored by the State Employees Credit Union for contributions as a long-term member-volunteer.

the cooperative operates on behalf of its members."

Copeland was one of two men honored during the SECU annual meeting in Greensboro.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



PHOTO COURTESY PAMELA HADDEN

Adilyn Morris reaches for her gift from Santa during the recent Breakfast with Santa in Holiday Island. She is the granddaughter of residents Sherry and Normal Morris. Children were not the only ones asking Santa for gifts that day. One woman asked Santa to deliver a Cadillac.

Mentoring group gives awards

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Da'Quan Armstrong, a junior at Perquimans County High School, received the Ralph Robinson Youth Award presented by the Perquimans County Mentoring Focus Group. The award was pre-

sented Dec. 18 during the group's annual Christmas banquet held at Louise Events' Center in Hertford.

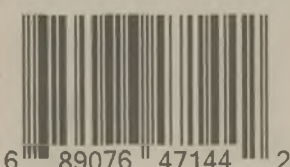
Armstrong, 16, was honored for making tremendous progress not only in school but in his volunteer work for the community as well, said Director

Clayton Griffin.

"He never misses a mentoring session and he speaks out for others who can't speak for themselves," Griffin added.

The award is named after former county sheriff Ralph Robinson who

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