

# Red Cross warns about fires

From staff reports

The Red Cross has some simple steps everyone can follow to prevent home fires around the holidays:

- Holiday Entertaining**
- Test your smoke alarms.
- Check food regularly while cooking and remain at the home while cooking.
- Use a timer as a reminder that the stove or oven is on.

- Enforce a "kid-free zone" in the cooking area and make children stay at least three feet away from the stove.

- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove, oven or any appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.

- Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.

- Purchase a fire extinguisher to keep in the

kitchen. Contact the local fire department to receive training on the proper use of extinguishers.

**Holiday Decorating**

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.

- Keep children, pets and decorations away from lit candles.

- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.

- Replace any string of

lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of LED strands to connect. Some strings of lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

## TURNOVER

Continued from 1

compared to 35 percent who had tenure and left in 2008-09.

Over the past five years, Perquimans County's turnover rate has gone from 13.1 percent in 2008-09 to a low of 8.6 percent in 2010-11 to the current 12.5 percent. That loosely follows the state rate.

Turnover can create problems in some subject areas like science, math and special education. Out of the 115 school districts that responded, 65 said science teachers in grades 9-12 were the top concern. That

was followed by 54 who said special education and 52 who said 9-12th grade math. The year before, upper grade math teachers were the top concern followed by special education and science.

Lassiter said it's sad that the teaching profession isn't getting the respect it deserves.

"I watch teachers in Perquimans County on a daily basis as I am in and out of the school facilities," she said. "They are truly my heroes and have the awesome responsibility and opportunity to change lives. They are amazing. In the words of our State Superintendent in

a recent news release, 'the most effective way to keep teachers in North Carolina classrooms is to give them and their profession the respect they deserve.'"

Rep. Bob Steinburg, the house member that represents Perquimans County, said teacher raises are coming and Republicans shouldn't be blamed for high teacher turnover.

"Republicans gave a small raise to teachers in 2011, the first in a long time, and there was another raise scheduled for this year by Republicans. But thanks to poor planning on the part of Gov. Perdue last year, her Medicaid estimates were way off the mark causing an overrun in spending for the first five months of the year in Medicaid that wiped out the surplus money we had

set aside from our rainy day fund."

Steinburg said he's hoping the General Assembly can approve a 2 percent raise for teachers when it meets in May.

"I fought to keep the masters (degree) pay in the budget along with teaching fellows (program) and am working hard to have both reinstated.

"I am very supportive of education and teachers. Although we may interpret some issues, problems and potential solutions to the education of our children differently, we should be able to agree that there is much we can work together on to help our kids and those who teach them during these very difficult economic times. I am always open to meaningful dialogue.

## TOP PETS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wellman is a young male in need of a new home before Christmas. Wellman is available at the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Tyner.

## EXTENSION

Continued from 1

years.

Among the ideas and suggestions that were presented by farmers, county officials and others during the listening session:

- Maintaining agricultural agents in counties where agriculture is a vital industry, and not necessarily having them in more urban areas;

- Using contract employees and consultants to save money;

- Making effective use of user-friendly technology;

- Increasing volunteer responsibility;

- Having directors serve multiple counties.

In an interview with The Perquimans Weekly earlier this month, Smith pointed out that extension goes far beyond just growing crops. In the past year, the Perquimans County office touched the lives of about 950 local children through its programs. The one most people may recognize is 4-H, but it's not the only one according to Jennifer Perry who heads the 4-H program. One of the programs is called "Bug Out" and is designed to teach students about the life cycle of insects. There is also a nutrition program to teach children on how to eat healthy.

The 4-H program also sponsors two area horse clubs, each with about 20 members, and there are two groups that meet at the Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School.

Heath points out the extension service has also branched out over the past few years to provide help for seniors with questions about Medicare.

The extension service also provides the expertise for people who need to be certified or recertified in the use of industrial chemicals. Smith said those who have a license have to recertify every three years.

"I think in the future you'll see more questions handled via e-mail, the Internet or telephone," he said.

Smith admits over the past three years, he's not been as attentive as he'd like because he's been in charge of offices in both Elizabeth City and Hertford plus working as a crop agent.

"What I've found is you may not get me as quickly, but I've got you on my call sheet and I'll get to you as fast as I can."

Yet Smith is convinced the people who remain in the Perquimans County office will soldier on.

"The staff that's left in cooperative extension is so committed to what extension does."

At the listening session last week, Zublena used the horticultural metaphor of pruning an apple tree so it could produce abundant apples. Without pruning, the tree might grow large but not yield a healthy crop of fruit, he said.

"We need to find out what our apples are," Zublena said, explaining that will consist of identifying what it most important.

## Sheriff's Reports

- Perquimans Sheriff**
- 12/11 Devon Thatch, King Street, habitual felon, \$275,000 secured bond.
  - 12/7 Trevon Moore, Harvey Point Road, resist/obstruct/delay, \$500 unsecured bond.
  - 12/11 Kenneth Wells, Teaberry Court, Greensboro, failure to appear, driving while license revoked, speeding, \$500 unsecured bond.
  - 12/8 Megan Overton, Felton Lane, communicating threats, written promise to appear.

## FINANCIAL STRESS?

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## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)

Vol. 81 No. 51

Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC

Established 1934

111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

Mike Goodman..... Publisher  
Peter Williams..... News Editor  
Bev Alexander..... Advertising Representative

Phone 252-426-5728 • Fax 252-426-4625  
Email: perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com

**Subscription Rates**

In Perquimans County.....\$24.20  
N.C. out of County.....\$29.50  
Out of State.....\$33.90

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944

## The Offices of Town of Hertford

will close at Noon on Monday, December 23, 2013

**Offices will be closed:**

- Tuesday, December 24, 2013
- Wednesday, December 25, 2013
- Thursday, December 26, 2013
- Friday, December 27, 2013
- and
- Wednesday, January 1, 2014

In case of an emergency, please call (252) 426-5751.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Hertford Housing Authority (HHA) has received a Commitment to enter into a Housing Assistance Payments Contract (CHAP) in response to HHA's successful application to participate in the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD's) Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD).

Pursuant to the requirements of RAD, HHA must submit to HUD a significant amendment to its Annual/Five-Year Plan.

Therefore, HHA will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 9:00a.m. at HHA's office located at 104 White Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Telephone number - 252-426-5663. Any person wishing to file comment may file his or her comments in writing to Gail White, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, at the address listed above, or may attend the public hearing.

Please contact HHA if you require additional information regarding the public hearing.

**EARLY DEADLINES**  
For Our Christmas Edition  
Wednesday, December 25  
(available December 23)

All News Releases,  
Church Information, Happenings &  
All Advertising (Retail & Classified)  
**MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY:**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BY 12:00 PM.**

**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**  
will be open during regular hours  
Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
until NOON Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
and will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Have a wonderful Christmas &  
thank you for your cooperation.

**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**  
111 W. MARKET ST.  
HERTFORD, NC 27944  
252-426-5728

PERQUIMANS COUNTY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Except for the Sheriff's Department, Dispatch Office and Emergency Medical Services, all County Offices in the Perquimans County Courthouse, Courthouse Annex, Social Services, Agricultural Extension Service, Perquimans County Library and the Perquimans County Recreation Department will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 24, 25, & 26, 2013, for Christmas and Wednesday, January 1, 2014, for New Year's Day. The Water Department will be closed but emergencies may be reported to the Dispatch Office by calling 426-5751.

Frank Heath, County Manager

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**EARLY DEADLINES**  
FOR OUR  
**NEW YEAR'S EDITION**  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

ALL-ADVERTISING  
(Retail & Classified)  
Church Information,  
News Releases, & Happenings  
**MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE BY:**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26**  
**BY 12:00PM.**

**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**  
Will be Closed  
Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Have a Safe and Happy  
New Year!