

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Toy drive to benefit hundreds, 8

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016 DEC 07 REC'D

50 cents

Cole honored as board makes changes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Commissioners said farewell to two members Monday night, and elected a new chair and vice chair.

Stepping down were Chair Janice Cole and Commissioner Matt Peeler. Neither sought re-election. Replacing them will be Joseph Hoffer and Charles Woodard. Woodard did not attend Monday's meeting, but Hoffer and Commissioner Kyle Jones were sworn in.

Jones, who served as vice chair under Cole, was elected to the position of chair.

Serving as vice chair for the next year will be Fondella Leigh.

Thenight belonged to Cole however and the surprise of the night was the announcement that an annual scholarship has been created in Cole's name for a female Perquimans County High School student.

Jones created the scholarship with input from Cole's husband, Judge J.C. Cole to honor a woman he called his "mentor"



HOFFLER



WOODARD

Jones called Cole "the wisest person I know" and "while everybody else was playing checkers, Janice was playing chess."

Cole who has been a commissioner for six years and held the position as chair for the past four.

The scholarship will be administered through the Perquimans County Schools Foundation and will be

See BOARD, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Commissioner Kyle Jones (left) shakes the hand of Todd Tilley, Clerk of Superior Court Monday night after being sworn in. Holding the Bible for Jones during the ceremony was Janice Cole, the outgoing chair of the board.

HOLIDAY EVENTS HELD IN COUNTY



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Santa waves to the crowd from the top of the new Hertford Fire Department ladder truck Saturday during the annual Perquimans County Christmas Parade in Hertford.



PHOTO BY JULIE PHELPS

A Christmas tree on the lawn in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse is illuminated Friday night during an event sponsored by Historic Hertford, Inc.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Children ride a 4-H float Saturday during the Christmas parade in Hertford.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Perquimans County High School band perform during the annual Christmas parade in Winfall Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A parade of classic cars head down Edenton Road Street on Saturday.



PHOTO BY JULIE PHELPS

Dance students perform Friday night during Grand Illumination in Hertford.

Boat ramp funded

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first part of a two-part series.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After months of delays, the federal government has released funds needed to build an extra large new boat ramp in Hertford.

Construction should start this month and should be complete by spring, perhaps as early as April 8.

"I'm very happy that we are finally able to move forward," said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath.

The project has been in the works for more than five years. It started with plans to build a regular boat ramp next to the Perquimans County Recreation Center. That proved to be too shallow said Perquimans County Economic Development Director Dave Goss. So

See RAMP, 2

Future unclear for wind project

BY PETER WILLIAMS
AND REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writers

The company developing the proposed Timberrill Wind Project has not yet decided how to proceed in the wake of Perquimans County officials' denial of the conditional use permit for the portion of the project slated for Perquimans.

Chowan County officials approved the conditional use permit for the part of the project proposed to be built in Chowan. The project as proposed was a 300-megawatt

See WIND, 2

Help sought for needy kids

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An effort to make sure needy children get something at Christmas is winding down.

Since the mid 1990s, the Parkville Ruritan Club has

erected "Santa Trees" in Hertford. On the branches there are notes listing a child's name, age, and a suggestion of things they need or want for Christmas.

Michael Hurdle, a member of the Ruritan Club, said 109 children were represented this year, down from about 125 last year. As of earlier this week, only about a dozen unfilled requests remained on the trees at Woodard's Pharmacy and Family Care Pharmacy.

"Some of them list

clothes, like underwear, jackets or socks," Hurdle said. "The child is also able to list a toy."

Some of the toy wishes include Barbies, race cars, Legos, Batman, dinosaurs, footballs, basket balls, chocolate pins, "Frozen" toys, Hatchimals and bicycles.

The families have been screened through the Perquimans County Department of Social Services and cards have been created for

See SANTA TREES, 2

Jobless rate inches higher

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

While the national unemployment rate fell to the lowest level since 2007 in October, the Perquimans County number inched higher.

According to the N.C. Department of Commerce, the local rate rose from 5.8 percent in September to 6.0 percent in October. Statewide the rate rose from 4.8 percent to 4.9 percent.

Nationally the Bureau of

Labor Statistics reported the U.S. rate in October was 4.6 percent, down from 4.9 percent the month before.

David Rhodes, a spokesman for the N.C. Department of Commerce, the agency that released the state figures, cautioned about reading too much into month-to-month fluctuations. Instead he suggested looking at Perquimans County's October figure as a snapshot. "What you really need to look for is trends over a

longer period," Rhodes said.

In that case Perquimans County 2016 rate in October was seven tenths of a percentage point lower than the year before.

There are other reasons not to look too closely at an individual month. Perquimans is a relatively small county and even some small numbers can reflect in a big way. The October jobless rate was based on

See JOBLESS RATE, 2



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