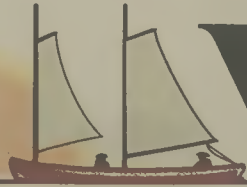


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Letters to Santa, 1B

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016

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## County loses some economic incentives

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

There is one less tool in the Perquimans County economic development toolbox.

The N.C. Department of Commerce has reclassified the county from Tier 1 to Tier 2 for 2017. Tier 1 counties are considered the most economically distressed, and Tier 3 counties are the least distressed. The deci-



GOSS



HEATH

sion means Perquimans won't be eligible for as much economic development assistance as it was as a Tier 1.

Perquimans was the only county in the Albemarle area to see their status change. Currituck remains a Tier 2 and Camden, Pasquotank and Chowan remain Tier 1.

The change won't have any immediate impact, according to Dave Goss, Perquimans County's economic development director. He said the county hasn't seen any new developments come in because of the Tier 1 status and there aren't any

projects he knows of in the pipeline that would depend on the Tier 1 benefits. Also over the years the number of tax credits for Tier 1 counties has declined.

What could have tipped the scales in Perquimans' favor was a tiny increase in the five-year poverty rate. According to the Department of Commerce, the new Perquimans rate is 18.8 percent. If it had been greater than 19 percent that would

have made the difference. "Basically two tenths of one percent kicked us from Tier 1," County Manager Frank Heath said. "I argued with the guys at commerce, that Pitt (County) is Tier 2, Craven (County) is Tier 2 and Perquimans County has no business being Tier 2."

Heath also points out the new Tier numbers are based on older tax assessment data. The new figures show property values in

Perquimans are down. The new data won't be factored in until Commerce looks at the Tier data in the next ranking, at which point Perquimans should once again be Tier 1.

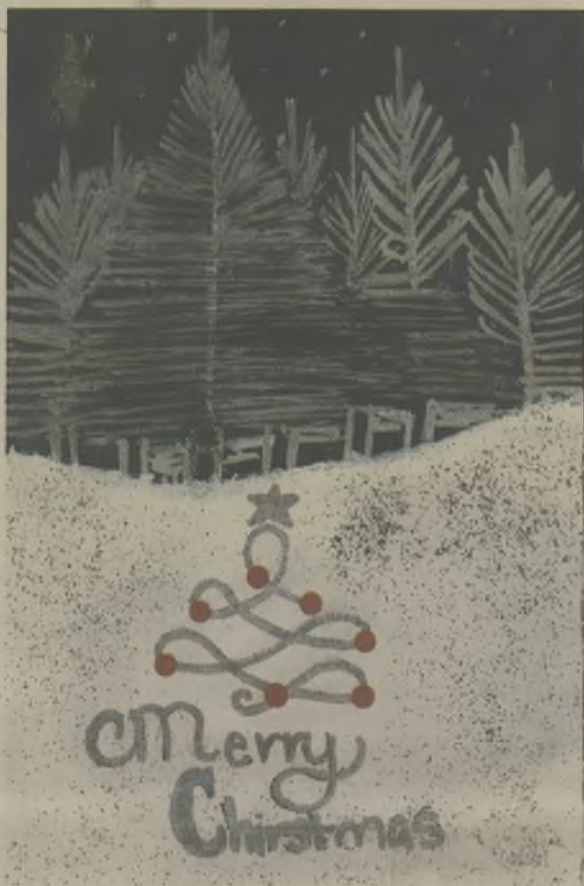
Goss said the economic incentive system is flawed.

"They ought to just do away with the whole Tier system," he said.

There have been calls in

See TIER, 2

## Art Winners



Left, Shimicia Modlin, first place Perquimans County Middle School. Right, Kolton Christian, First Grade, Perquimans Central School.



Litzzy Lara Selvan, fourth grade, Hertford Grammar School



Jessicah Brown, 11th grade, Perquimans County High School.

## Schools buy old engine

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

For the past 22 years, Engine No. 31 has been there to battle fires in Hertford and surrounding areas.

Now it's entering semi-retirement.

The Town of Hertford has agreed to sell the 1994 Freightliner to the Perquimans County school system. The schools have agreed to pay \$45,000 over the next six years.

Engine 31 was declared surplus this summer when the town bought a new ladder truck to replace it. Given its age, Engine 31 was considered too old for use as a front-line piece of equipment by fire rating agencies.

But Engine 31 is just perfect to teach fire fighting students, according to Michael Cartwright, the instructor of the Fire Academy at Perquimans County High School.

"Getting the truck is a huge deal," Cartwright said last week. "It's going to give students the pride of taking ownership of having a truck."

The school has used Engine 31 from time to time for training, but it had to schedule with the Hertford Fire Department and the fire department's needs obviously came first.

See ENGINE, 2

Amy Parker (right) gets a hug after being Regional Teacher of the Year. Parker teaches at Hertford Grammar School. She'll now go on to compete on the statewide level.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Parker named regional teacher of year

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Math teacher Amy Parker isn't quite one in a million.

But she is one of the eight public school teachers in North Carolina to be named Regional Teacher of the Year this year.

Since there are 98,000 public school teachers in the state if you can't figure the math out, Parker can probably help you.

She's helped more than a hundreds of students in her 29 year career as a math teacher.

And she still loves it.

The Hertford Grammar School teacher got the surprise news on the award last week. Sonya Rinehart, the state's regional education facilitator for the northeast region showed up dressed up in the panther suit.

Yes, a panther suit. The grammar school mascot is a pan-

ther. "We always do a surprise announcement and make it fun," Rinehart said.

When HGS Principal Jason Griffin told Rinehart the school had a panther suit, Rinehart she knew that was the perfect stunt.

"When I pulled that head piece off you could tell she knew she'd won. She just hugged me and

See PARKER, 2

## Board hears lighting proposal

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

(Second of two parts) "Friday Night Lights" at Perquimans County High School football games could look very different in the future.

The board may be building a new athletic complex in the future and Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman asked Dina Neeley to give some ideas on how to

illuminate it.

Neeley, a consultant for Musco Lighting, made a presentation to the Perquimans County School Board earlier this fall. Cheeseman worked with Musco when he was Chief Academic Officer with the Washington County Schools and a new lighting system was developed for Plymouth High School.

Neeley mentioned the movie "Friday Night Lights" when she described how athletic fields have been traditionally been lit.

The traditional practice involved putting a spun metal reflector with a metal

halide lights on a wood pole. Driving to a game you could see the glow of lighting in the sky long before you actually got to the stadium, she said.

"Twenty two years ago about 20 percent of the lighting went to the field and about 80 percent went into the sky," Neeley said. "We want to put 75 percent of the light on the field."

While there are only a few homes directly next to the new athletic complex site, reducing the amount of stray light is an issue for both the neighbors and for

See LIGHTS, 2

## WOODARD SWORN IN



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Charles Woodard (left) is sworn in as a Perquimans County Commissioner last week by his son, magistrate Drew Woodard (right). Holding the Bible is Harriett Woodard.



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