

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021

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Goodwin plans to run in new First House District



PAGE A6
Orr: Being thankful for those who brought food into my life



PAGE A6
White sworn in as member of NCSBA board

Grand Illumination returns Dec. 3

Live entertainment, visits with Santa Claus featured

From staff reports

Downtown Hertford's Grand Illumination is back this year.

The event will be held Friday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse.

This marquee Christmas holiday event in Hertford is centered around the illumina-

tion of downtown Hertford and includes Christmas lights, live entertainment and visits with Santa.

For Stacey Layden, Perquimans County's tourism director, the Grand Illumination has a special place in her heart because of what it has meant in her own family.

"When our twin daughters were 6 years old, they began to have doubts about Santa Claus," Layden said in a press release about the event. "That was, until they

met Santa at Hertford's Grand Illumination.

"When they recognized him from a previous Christmas event, they asked, 'Could this be the real Santa?'" she continued. "When it was her turn to present her requests, our boldest child asked straightforwardly, 'If you really are Santa, do you know where I live?' He (Santa) looked her straight in the eyes and said, 'I sure do. You live in Belvidere right next to your Nani and Granddaddy.'

"The mixture of shock and delight on her face was a memory that I will never forget," Layden said.

Layden said memories like that one are a big reason her family continues to be involved in community activities such as the Grand Illumination.

Layden said the event "marks the beginning of the Christmas season with all of our holiday favorites: lights,

See ILLUMINATION, A6

Holiday Shopping Done Right

BLACK FRIDAY 9-6
20% Off Trendz Fashion Plus Doorbuster Savings

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 9-4
Bogo Deal Throughout The Stores Plus Spend \$100 Receive A Free Gift

Huge Savings Throughout The Stores
CITIZEN MONDAY online And App Users Only Save 40%
Maximum Savings Plus Spend \$100 Receive A Free Gift

Small Town Trendz

220 Ocean Hwy S, Ste B
Hertford
252-826-1385

510 Main Street
Elizabeth City
252-621-1812

Nelson, Lennon to seek re-election

Filing period for March 8 primary opens Dec. 6

From staff reports

Two incumbent county commissioners say they plan to file for re-election to new terms when the filing period for the March primary opens Dec. 6.

Both Wallace Nelson, the Republican board chairman, and Alan Lennon, the first registered Libertarian ever elected to county office in Perquimans, say they'll run for new four-year terms.

"I enjoy serving the county and its citizens," Lennon said. "I am excited that we will hopefully have an approved state budget with money earmarked for our county."

Shortly after Lennon was interviewed Gov. Roy Cooper did in fact sign the two-year state budget into law which includes an additional \$4 million to complete the inland basin at the Perquimans County Marine Industrial Park.

Also up for election in the March 8 election is the commission seat held by Democrat Fondella Leigh. She could not be reached for comment for this story.

Three seats on the Perquimans County Board of Education held by Matt Peeler, Amy Spough and Anne White are also up for election in March. They also couldn't be reached for

See FILING, A3

Spreading thankfulness



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volunteer Trip Cofield collects a turkey and other food items from a donor at Hertford United Methodist Church Friday morning as part of the annual Turkey Drop project. Thanks to donors, the Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County was able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 125 local families through the Turkey Drop this year.

Turkey Drop helps feed 125 families

Open Door Food Pantry coordinates Thanksgiving meal

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

This past weekend's annual Turkey Drop allowed the Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County to provide Thanksgiving meals to 125 families in the county this year.

The number is a decrease from previous years. The Turkey Drop effort served 335 families in 2019 and 225 last year.

Rosemary Smith, executive director of the food pantry, attributed most of last year's decline in the number of families to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While COVID continues to be a factor this year, many area families have been able to receive significant increases in federal food stamp benefits.

See TURKEY, A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some of the donated food items used by the Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County to assemble Thanksgiving meal boxes are shown at Hertford

County to get \$4M to finish boat basin

Perquimans officials: Park 'game changer' for county

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County's plan to grow local jobs at a marine-based commerce park is poised to benefit from an additional \$4 million in state funding.

Officials say the infusion

of the additional funding into the Perquimans County Marine Industrial Park, thanks to the newly approved state budget, is expected to get the county across the goal line constructing an inland basin at the site.

"We have worked hard to advocate for this money with the General Assembly and we expect it to be a game-changer for economic development in Perquimans County," said County Manager Frank Heath.

Heath said he appreciates the efforts of state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, and state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, to secure funding for the project.

East Coast Steel Fabricators Inc. already is adding about 50 jobs at the park. The construction of the basin will enable larger companies to locate at the park and the

See PARK, A3

Dominion seeking to raise rate \$6 month

Energy provider cites high fuel costs for \$72 annual increase

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Citing increased fuel costs, Dominion North Carolina Power has



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applied for a rate increase that would add about \$6 a month to the electric bill of an average residential customer in northeastern North Carolina.

If approved by the N.C. Utilities Commission the new rate will take effect Feb. 1, 2022.

The rate hike requested by Dominion would add \$6.09 to the monthly bill of a residential customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. Average residential electric usage in North Carolina is 1,077 kWh per month.

A spokeswoman for Dominion

See RATE, A3

Thach signs to play baseball at UNC-W

Left-hander named MVP of 2021 championship series

From staff reports

A Perquimans County High School baseball player integral to the Pirates' run to the state championship this summer has signed to continue his baseball career at the college level.

Tanner Thach held a signing ceremony Tuesday evening in the PCHS gymnasium commons to announce his commitment to play baseball next fall for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

See THACH, A2



CHRIS DAY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

With his mother Kristie Thach (left) and father Richard Thach (right) looking on, Tanner Thach signed a commitment letter to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington baseball team Tuesday evening at Perquimans County High School.