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NOV 24 2004

Force amaryllis for holiday blooms

Page 4

Class of '59 enjoys reunion

Page 7

Groups aid needy

Page 9

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Former New Hope resident dies in Iraq

A man who spent much of his youth in Perquimans County will be laid to rest near his childhood home Saturday.

S/Sgt. Marshall Hugh Caddy, 27, died last Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Khaladiyah, Iraq while serving in the Iraq Freedom Operation.

Caddy was riding in a Humvee which collided with a tank, his father told the Associated Press. Marshall E. Caddy of Kitty Hawk said military officials told him his son was wearing special goggles and the Humvee had limited or no lights.

Caddy was a platoon leader in the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division stationed at Camp Greaves, Korea. He had been in Iraq about three months, duty for which he volunteered, according to his father.

Caddy e-mailed his father that he had been involved in the recent assault on Fallujah and took part in the capture of a

Continued on page 10

Neighbors united to improve roadway

ERIN RICKERT

After thousands of dollars in gravel filler, residents on East Camp Perry Road are finally getting the roadway they have dreamed of for nearly three decades.

Home to 13 households, 21 lots sit on the half-mile stretch of dirt and gravel — soon to be paved by Barnhill Construction out of Elizabeth City.

Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden said residents petitioned county commissioners to help pave the road in their subdivision last summer under the Special Assessment Procedure.

Darden said this is the first time the county has implemented the Special Assessment Procedure, adopted by the state in 1987, to help repair water and sewer problems, beach erosion, drainage and road projects like East Camp Perry Road.

This procedure allows the county to loan money for the repairs and one year after the project is complete, residents start to pay back the loan over a specified time period.

Continued on page 11

Bundy home for Thanksgiving

Soldier returns from Iraq for holiday

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Carla Bundy touches her husband often, as if to make sure he is really there.

After all, less than a year after her marriage, her groom was halfway around the world in a war zone, while she was left at home with a blended family that includes four children on the premises full-time, in

addition to the couple's new business, New Hope Stables.

"Yesterday was the 15th of May, 2004," Carroll wrote in an e-mail to family and friends several months ago. "One year ago on that day Carla and I were married. Her two kids (Carson is five and Samantha is seven) and my two kids (Becky is 11 and Billy is 16) became one big family. Two sets of bunk beds, three bedrooms, and two baths. Our home became kinda small in a hurry. We had started on the stables about a month or so before we got married and actually had two boarders and a pony of our own



Carroll Bundy of Hertford takes time for a photograph with some young friends while on patrol in Iraq. Bundy is enjoying a few days of leave with his family.

by then.

"Ten months later, I

leave her with four kids,

Continued on page 14

Jennings' green thumb helps needy

ERIN RICKERT

Giving to the needy is something many people do during the holiday season, but for 76-year-old Melvin Jennings, giving is something done year round.

"I just love doing it [giving]," Jennings said. "That's what makes me feel good."

Jennings, now retired after nearly 24 years with the Coast Guard, is known by many in his Winfall neighborhood and the community as a savior.

With the vegetables he grows and meat he raises on his land, Jennings not only provides for his family, but many others in the area.

Widows, the elderly and the sick often wake in the morning to Jennings signature — a bag of fresh meat and vegetables on their doorstep. This is a tradition he has kept up for almost 25 years.

"I just love people," Jennings said. "Everywhere I go I try to make people's day."



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Melvin Jennings (left) gets help from his friends Matthew N. White and Edward C. Jennings Jr. to kill hogs. Not only does Jennings provide for his family, but for those who could use a helping hand.

Those in need as close as Winfall and as far away as Elizabeth City wake up to Jennings caring heart. Though Jennings said

he does not have everything himself, vegetables he and his wife Flora do not grow in their one-acre garden and meat he does

not raise, he said is substituted with goods he finds on sale at local grocery stores.

Continued on page 9

Washlesky opens Belinda's of Hertford downtown

ERIN RICKERT

Close to 50 people gathered for the ribbon cutting to celebrate the Belinda's of Hertford opening last week.

The shop, formerly Smith's Jewelry, reopened three months ago not only with a new owner but new jewelry lines and building improvements.

With hours from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, the store offers a wide variety of jewelry and other fine gifts, free deluxe gift wrapping, bridal shower gift delivery, engraving and watch and clock repair.

Currently, owner Belinda Washlesky carries items by companies such as Wilton Armetele, Galatea, Jere Wright Global LTD and Bulova.

"Between now and Christmas a lot of new merchandise will be coming in," Washlesky said.

Washlesky said she plans on adding additional lines of leather goods, jewelry and other items as



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Belinda and Paul Washlesky are joined by employees, Chamber members and friends at the ribbon cutting for Belinda's of Hertford in downtown Hertford.

often as once a month.

Washlesky said since the store opened Aug. 19 it has done quite well. Five brides have already registered at the store and she has practically sold out of a few new jewelry lines.

Yet fresh merchandise is not the only thing Washlesky has added to the store.

Since the opening,

Washlesky has already replaced the ceiling tiles in the building, painted and added a stereo with a little background music for atmosphere.

Washlesky said she plans to add new fabric to all the jewelry cases and replace the carpeting in the building soon.

"I just can't believe all the overwhelming support

I have gotten," Washlesky said. "I love it."

As the former director of Hertford's Main Street Program, Washlesky helped numerous individuals find buildings in town where they could open their businesses.

"Every time, in the back of my mind, I wished I would get a business," Washlesky said. "Now I have one."

Washlesky said she had already registered at East Carolina University and purchased the books she would need to enter the MBA program when she received a call from Hertford Mayor Sid Eley.

Eley had called to inform Washlesky the owners of Smith's Jewelry were closing their doors.

Washlesky said she took this as a sign and rethought her path — less than a month later Washlesky opened Belinda's of Hertford.

Board picks HVAC design firm

Four firms present bids

ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans County Middle and Hertford Grammar schools will soon say goodbye to their outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning units following the Board of Education's recent HVAC design firm selection.

Progressive Design Collaborative, LTD out of Raleigh, was awarded the bid after board members spent four hours reviewing design presentations by four North Carolina engineering firms.

"The board could not make a bad decision," said Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Wells. "They all came highly recommended."

Progressive Design along with two other firms were out of Raleigh while the last firm traveled from Waynesville to present.

"The board chose Progressive Design because they had done work in the East," Wells said. "It was very easy for us to check references."

While Progressive Design's work with more than 400 public schools around the state was impressive, board members were also taken with the firm's bid.

Wells said design firms can bid to take between 6 and 10 percent of the total cost of repairs for their work, but Progressive Design was the lowest with a bid range of 6 to 8 percent.

Now Progressive Design will oversee the installation of the system for the school district.

The \$1.8 million to install not only the HVAC system, but a new roof on Perquimans County Middle School will begin once project details are reviewed.

Continued on page 9

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 70
LOW: 38
AM CLOUDS/PM SUN

FRIDAY
HIGH: 56
LOW: 36
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 62
LOW: 47
PARTLY CLOUDY