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Library, Rotary teams for taxes

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Club donates books to PCMS

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Propane truck wreck forces evacuations

Traffic rerouted for nine hours

ERIN RICKERT

Traffic near US 17 was rerouted for close to nine hours and residents were evacuated from their

homes last Wednesday after a Hollowell Oil truck carrying 9,000 gallons of propane gas overturned into a ditch on Wiggins Road.

The accident occurred just after 3:30 p.m. as the driver, 31 year-old Pasquotank County resident Stephan M. Parsons, attempted to make a left turn off US 17 onto Wiggins

Road. Propane in the truck's tank shifted, causing him to lose control.

Harry Winslow, emergency management coordinator for Perquimans County, said while no leakage occurred, he was still forced to reroute traffic and evacuate the area due to the potential danger posed by the combustible material.

Winslow said traffic on

US 17 at the New Hope Road, Old Neck Road and Bembury Road intersections was diverted until close to 1 a.m. Thursday as officials worked together to secure the area.

During that time, Winslow said nearly 25 homes and the Perquimans County Juvenile Detention Center were evacuated.

Winslow said Red Cross

responded to the scene — providing hotels for at least three residents and food both for responders and evacuated residents.

A command post was also set up at the scene where responders, which included the Winfall and Hertford Fire Departments, Hertford and Winfall Police Departments, State Highway Patrol,

Perquimans County Sheriff, North Carolina Department of Transportation, EMS and Regional Haz Mat officials, met at least four times for briefings before carrying out plans.

Three wreckers from Elizabeth City and two more from Ahoskie were called in to assist with

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PCHS student hits PCMS bus

CHRIS WHIPPLE
The Daily Advance

A school bus en route to Perquimans Middle School was rear-ended at a stop early last Wednesday, causing bumps and bruises but no serious injuries, a school official said.

The accident happened at about 7:20 a.m. on New Hope Road, near the intersections with U.S. Highway 17, according to Brenda Lassiter, a spokeswoman for Perquimans County Schools.

The bus was struck from behind by another student who was on his way to Perquimans County High

School, Lassiter said. The student, whom she declined to identify because he is a minor, was rounding a curve in his pickup truck and apparently didn't see the bus idling at the stop, Lassiter said.

Lassiter said the student was driving with a limited permit.

The bus was finishing its final pickup before the reaching the school when it was struck. Of the 23 students on board at the time, 11 were transported to Albemarle Hospital for observation.

The substitute bus driver, Diana Eagle, and the student driving the truck

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PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Winfall firefighter Kelvin Roberson assists with the clean-up after a pickup truck rear-ended a Perquimans County Schools bus last Wednesday on New Hope Road.

Youth arrested for thefts

ERIN RICKERT

Two Perquimans County High School students were recently arrested after Hertford Police were able to connect them to a string of break ins dating back as late as last year.

Jamie Dwayne Walker, 16, of 112 Brace Ave. and his classmate Justin Lee, 17, of 550 White Hat Road were arrested just days apart after police linked them to break ins at the Perquimans County Library, Perquimans County High School and two homes.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said police were able to connect the boys to the crimes after an officer discovered Walker stuck in a ditch on Ballahack Road behind the wheel of a Perquimans County Schools truck in the early hours of Jan. 17.

Vanscoy said Walker and Lee had taken the vehicle from the school bus garage, but Walker had dropped Lee off before he was discovered with the vehicle.

Later that day at about 10:45 a.m. police received a call from the school reporting a break in at their portable classrooms that left four doors damaged, four 25-inch televisions stolen and a few broken windows — tipping officers off to the boys' connection to the crime.

"Through the incident with the truck and the

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Two quartets from the Albemarle Sounds Barbershop vocal group will deliver singing valentines across Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank counties. Proceeds benefit choral music programs in schools in all three counties.

Singing Valentines benefit school music programs

ERIN RICKERT

For years, quartets from the Albemarle Sounds have exercised their vocal cords serenading husbands, teachers, mothers, girlfriends and others with love songs during the Valentine's holiday.

This year, they will continue their tradition, as they deliver, in four-part harmony, two love songs and a rose to valentines in Perquimans, Pasquotank and Chowan counties.

Though the Edenton-based barbershop chorus does charge \$25 for their service, proceeds from the singing valentines go toward improving vocal music programs in schools across the three counties.

Gil Burroughs, director of the Albemarle Sounds, said the idea for the program was spurred several years ago from concern about the decrease in singing among today's

youth.

Burroughs said while this nationwide program has been in place for many years through the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, the Albemarle Sounds will complete their seventh year with the program this season.

"Sometimes the arts get the short end of the stick," Burroughs said. "The national organization is about singing and we are trying to encourage singing for everybody."

Last year, Burroughs said the quartets delivered close to 70 singing valentines, raising nearly \$1,400 for area music programs.

This season The Echoes and Two by Day and Two by Night, are the two quartets that will perform the singing valentines in homes, restaurants, schools

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Sweetheart of a weekend set

ERIN RICKERT

Already popular in the past for Hertfordshire Antiques' silent auction, Valentine's weekend recently gained momentum in Hertford with the addition of three events.

The weekend now features the traditional silent auction, tea and crumpets, an appraisal fair and the presentation and showing of the second art installation by Public Artist Maura Bordes Cronin.

"We [Historic Hertford Inc.] built on the silent auction because multiple events bring more to downtown," said Wendy Jewett, Historic Hertford, Inc.

Program manager.

Proceeds raised during these events fund projects designed to help improve the community.

While there is no cost to attend the public art showing or the silent auction, tickets for tea and crumpets are \$5 and \$10 per item for the appraisal fair.

Jewett said those interested may purchase tickets in advance at the Perquimans County Visitors Center on Market Street or at the events.

Jane McMahon, owner of Hertfordshire Antiques, who started the weekend with the St. Valentine's Day Silent Auction five years ago, said even after just a

few years the auction has grown.

McMahon said now the size of the event and the community interest is much larger than in the past — bringing in nearly \$500 to help support the Hertford Downtown Beautification project last year alone.

McMahon, who expects the auction to match last year's donation, said close to 200 antiques and collectibles will be up for bidding from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 12 and noon-3 p.m. Feb. 13.

A large turn of the century oak chest with mirror will be one of the largest items among things like

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Art to highlights trailheads, history

ERIN RICKERT

The beginning stages of the second art installation by Public Artist Maura Bordes Cronin is underway and expected to be complete near the end of March.

Cronin, a public artist from Massachusetts, came to Hertford after she was chosen for the Art and Community Landscapes Residency Program last summer.

The project, called Risers, is the second phase of a three-phase proposal by Cronin designed to highlight the importance of area history and natural conservation as it relates to the Perquimans County Blueway/Greenway Plan.

Over the course of the next two months, Cronin

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PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Public artist Maura Bordes Cronin works on the risers component of the Blueway-Greenway project.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 49
LOW: 34
SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 50
LOW: 31
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 52
LOW: 33
PARTLY CLOUDY