

## Perquimans County soldier killed in Iraq

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Student injured in PCHS accident

ERIN RICKERT

A Perquimans County High School student faces a misdemeanor charge after a classmate fell from his vehicle and was seriously injured Thursday.

Seventeen year-old Jesse Roughton was charged with careless and reckless driving Monday after allowing 16 year-old William "Billy" Park to ride outside his vehicle, Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said.

According to Vanscoy, the incident took place Thursday just minutes after school let out at 3 p.m. when Park approached the window of Roughton's 1997 Dodge pickup truck and asked for a ride to the student parking lot.

Vanscoy said Roughton, who was already carrying two passengers, offered Park a seat in the back of his extended cab pickup.

Park refused, jumped onto the truck's step rail and reached for the handrails located inside the passenger window.

After one more request from Roughton and a denial by Park to sit in the vehicle, Vanscoy said Roughton started north on Edenton Road Street toward the parking lot.

Moments later the teens spotted the school resource officer traveling south on Edenton Road Street and planned to stop, but before they could, Vanscoy said Park stepped backward off the step rail of the truck.

Vanscoy said the truck was only traveling between 5-10 mph, but Park lost his balance while stepping off — causing him to hit his head on the curb.

A trainer at the school who witnessed the incident, quickly rushed to where Park lay on the side of the road.

Vanscoy said when medical personal responded Park was in and out of consciousness. Though he

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## PCHS hosts open house

Perquimans County residents will have an opportunity to get up close and personal with high school staff and students Monday, when the school hosts a Visitation Day.

Guest may visit the school from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. after first checking in at the main office using the new LobbyGuard security system.

Those who participate may attend classes, eat lunch and shadow a student. Staff will answer questions throughout the day.

For more information, contact Principal Hans Lassiter, 426-5778 or Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter, 426-5741.

## PREPARING FOR CHANGE



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Jay Taylor and Lance Lucas from Watson Electrical Construction Company fill in dirt around the base of the future site of a metal stoplight pole at the corner of Grubb and Church streets. Earlier in the week, Watson crews removed wooden poles and poured cement at both the Grubb Street and Market and Church street intersections. The two sites are the future home of new stop light arms and street signs expected to be completed by the end of May.

## Hertford Cafe reopens

ERIN RICKERT

A small town café is more than a place to eat, but rather a place for regulars to discuss the town gossip over a mug of freshly brewed coffee and the daily special.

A place where family portraits and community art welcome patrons each day. And the aroma of hand-packed hamburgers and homemade cobbler assault your nose even before you have a chance to step foot through the café doors.

For Leslie Basch and Mark Varney, owners of Basch-N-Varney's Hertford Café on Church Street, a small town atmosphere and the appeal of home cooked meals is exactly what these two strive to provide.

Though the café only opened for business two weeks ago, Saturday morning marked the restaurant's official grand opening with a Perquimans County Chamber of



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Mark Varney and Leslie Basch display a sample of the menu items at Hertford Cafe, which the two now own and operate.

Commerce sponsored ribbon cutting. Saturday also marked another milestone for 53 year-old Basch. The avid

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## Cancer is personal to Growmasters

ERIN RICKERT

*Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of Perquimans County based Relay For Life teams. Throughout the month of April, The Perquimans Weekly will bring our readers the stories of area teams and the driving force behind their efforts to help support the fight to eliminate cancer.*

The Growmasters Relay For Life team has a long history of aiding in the fight against cancer and team member Sherry Harrell has been part of the battle for years.

In the mid '90s the team was started by Great Hope

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PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Mary Ruth Smith (left) and Marie Divers play Bingo at the American Legion Thursday night. The two were among many who came out to support the Growmasters Relay for Life team through playing Bingo, buying concessions and bidding on homemade pies and cakes. The Legion donated the proceeds of the evening to the American Cancer Society.

## Council OKs street move

ERIN RICKERT

Though a few Ainsley Avenue residents voiced concerns over the blueprint in the public hearing portion of the meeting, Hertford Town Council voted unanimously to accept the preliminary plat plans for the relocation of Jimmy Hunter Drive Monday evening.

Council's actions came after a request from Perquimans County Schools officials to build a new \$5 million gymnasium that would be constructed on portions of the existing Jimmy Hunter Drive.

To accommodate the new gymnasium, engineers from Hyman & Robey, PC out of Camden presented their preliminary plat plan that showed Jimmy Hunter Drive shifted more than 20-feet from its current location alongside the Perquimans County High School baseball field.

The plan also called for

the addition of a storm water retention pond, a drop-off drive around the building for parents and an extra 200 paved parking spaces.

The inclusion of a storm water retention pond near Ainsley Avenue was necessary to rid low-lying areas of pooling water due to the varying elevations of the land on the campus.

Engineers said the pond would serve as a collector for excess water, redirecting liquid to the pond via underground pipeline.

Residents of the street, however, viewed the constant 3-feet of water engineers claimed would occupy the pond as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

The plan also calls for the elimination of nearly 20 yards of the band practice field and the removal of nearly half of Ainsley Avenue in order to reroute Jimmy Hunter Drive past the new gymnasium —

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PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Animal Control Officer Thomas Stanton (left) was honored by the SPCA, represented by President Keith Burnett (right) for his efforts to save a chiwawa, who was adopted by James Flowers (center) and his wife, Alana.

## Abandoned pup finds good home

ERIN RICKERT

Thanks to local animal control officer Tom Stanton, the tiny white and black Chihuahua recently abandoned on the front steps of one Perquimans County residence now has a home.

Four weeks ago, the nearly four-year-old Chihuahua moved in with the Flowers family after they received a call from their friend Mary Bass at the Tri-County Animal Shelter, alerting them of the pup's situation.

"We heard about him and what had happened," said Alana Flowers. "We just love dogs, so my husband just went and got him."

Alana, 53, and James, 80, had just lost their dog Buddy, a lab mix, in February.

Alana said she and James had already been considering adopting a new puppy. They had even brought one home for the weekend to see how it

would get along with their two other dogs Jessie, a 2-year-old mini Doxan and Sport, a 9-year-old Chihuahua.

By the end of the week-end, Alana said they both knew a puppy just would

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 HIGH: 58  
 LOW: 45  
 SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
 HIGH: 57  
 LOW: 43  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
 HIGH: 56  
 LOW: 43  
 PARTLY CLOUDY