

Fire damages Belvidere house

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Local couple makes music

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PAL gala a success

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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Hertford teen killed in Saturday wreck

ERIN RICKERT

A single-car accident proved tragic early Saturday morning, claiming the life of one county teen and seriously injuring another after the pickup they were traveling in crashed into a bridge rail and burst into flames.

The passenger, James "Jim" Garland Baccus, 19, of 366 Beech Springs Road, was declared dead from the

injuries he suffered as a result of the accident en route to Albemarle Hospital, according to Sgt. C.T. Griffin with the N.C. Highway Patrol.

The driver, Dylan Joseph Nowell, 19, of 1080 Belvidere Road, Belvidere, was released from the hospital Sunday and is now using a walker after being treated for several serious injuries. Nowell was later charged with driving while

impaired and exceeding a safe speed.

Authorities are now waiting on test results to determine whether both boys consumed any impairing substances before the accident and if so, how much was in their systems.

Griffin said these results would help them determine if Nowell will receive any additional charges.

"We've got to get some blood results back first

before we do anything else," Griffin said.

In Baccus's case, Griffin said the department does not expect test results from the medical examiner for close to 45 days. It will be another three months at least, Griffin said, before the State Bureau of Investigation's crime lab will produce results for Nowell.

Griffin said Nowell and Baccus were traveling west

on Foreman-Bundy Road in Pasquotank County, just miles from the Perquimans County line, near Cherry Glade Road when the accident occurred around 3 a.m. Saturday.

Griffin said Nowell turned the wheel of his 1994 Chevrolet Pickup right to miss a deer when the front passenger side of the vehicle hit a reflective sign then the concrete bridge



Jim Baccus

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## Hertford ups tax, utilities rates

ERIN RICKERT

Residents of Hertford should expect to see increases not only in their property taxes, but utility rates when the 2005-06 fiscal year begins July 1.

Monday evening Hertford Town Council voted to adopt this year's fiscal budget with a 1-cent property tax increase — raising the current rate set at 48-cents per \$100 valuation to 49-cents per \$100 valuation. Only Councilwoman Anne White cast a dissenting vote.

This means a resident owning a \$100,000 home would pay the town an additional \$10 in property taxes.

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen said the property tax increase would generate close to \$7,500 in additional revenue needed in the town's approximately \$1.26 million budget.

Christensen said water and sewer rates also increased to obtain the additional \$308,000 in revenue needed to help the town handle recent growth demands and complete infrastructure improvements.

Now the approximately one-third of residents whose water and sewer use is 3,000 gallons or less a

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## PARK OVERHAUL



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Crew members from Harrell's Concrete smooth freshly laid sidewalks in Missing Mill Park Thursday afternoon. Nearly 375-feet of concrete is expected to be installed in the park in time for the Independence Day events Sunday as part of the first of two phases designed to improve the park. Over the course of the next year more than \$86,000 will finish work to phase one. Trash receptacles, six benches, new playground equipment, a drinking fountain and street-lights were already added earlier this year. Horseshoe pits, doggy pooper scooper stations, six grills, bike racks and new park signs will complete the construction.

## Fireworks moved to Sunday night

ERIN RICKERT

License problems have forced the fireworks planned to celebrate Independence Day in Hertford's Missing Mill Park to be rescheduled for Sunday.

The American Legion Post 125, who handle the fireworks each year, originally scheduled launch of the fireworks for the evening of July 4, but were forced to reschedule to dusk on July 3. Legion Post Commander Ken Rominger said the event change came when they were unable to find a licensed person to shoot off the nearly \$7,000 in fireworks planned for this year's event.

"We submitted the paperwork," Rominger said. "There was a problem getting the fingerprint cards ... there was a backlog of about six weeks."

Rominger said added requirements caused a delay in the application process for those attempting to obtain licensing this year.

"It came up Monday night," Rominger said. "It really boiled down to whether we would have to reschedule or cancel it."

Rominger said after discovering the delay he searched all over the area for someone with up-to-date licensing to no avail.

"It's been a problem all over," Rominger said. "We

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## Local writing test scores up

ERIN RICKERT

Qualifying grade levels in the Perquimans County School system who took this year's statewide Writing Assessment have met the state's proficiency requirement — testing at or above grade level — preliminary reports released by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction revealed recently.

While testing scores for several other schools and

the overall state proficiency rating for tenth grade students was down, in Perquimans County the students in the school system's fourth, seventh and tenth grades showed improvement on this year's tests.

"I think our superintendent [Dr. Kenneth W. Wells] realizes writing is a valuable tool for success," said Perquimans County Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

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## Board names new assistant principals

ERIN RICKERT

The School Board on Monday night announced the two new assistant principals who will help lead both the middle and high schools with the start of the 2005-06 school year in August.

This comes after former PCHS Principal Hans Lassiter announced his resignation and plans to take a principal position in Sanford earlier this year.

Now Lisa Frost, an edu-

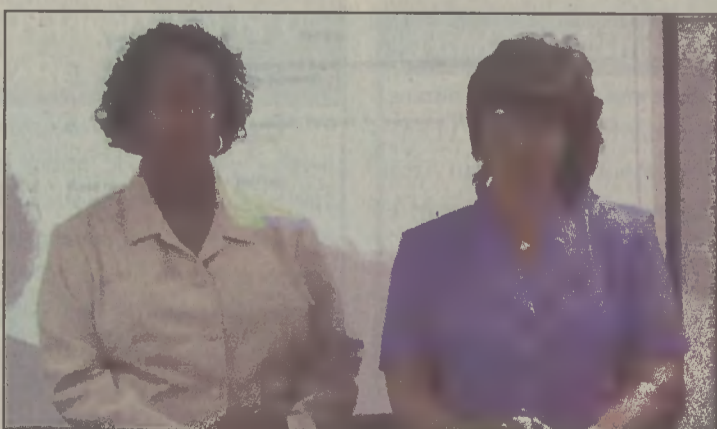


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Melissa Morales (left) and Lisa Frost speak with school board members after their assistant principal appointments were approved Monday night.

cator from Camden, will join Jamie Liverman, the newly-tapped principal of PCMS, and Melissa Morales of Gates joins Melvin Hawkins, the principal of PCHS, effective

July 1. Frost is currently a fourth grade teacher at Moyock Elementary School and the coordinator of the Math Club at the school. Continued on page 12

## County again on OLF list

ERIN RICKERT

Perquimans is one of four counties in northeast North Carolina being reconsidered as a possible site for an Outlying Landing Field that would allow the Navy to practice aircraft carrier landings using Super Hornet F/A-18s from Virginia Beach, Va. and Cherry Point, N.C.

Bertie, Hyde, Perquimans and Craven counties are all being reconsidered because the Navy's need for a new OLF is "so urgent and critical," a letter dated Wednesday from the Department of the Navy reads.

Now over the course of the next 18 months and possibly as long as two years,

Perquimans County Manager Bobby Darden said the Navy intends to conduct a supplemental environmental impact study in all four counties.

Darden said this would provide additional critique of the environmental consequences associated with the construction and operation of an OLF in the area.

This comes after a record of decision was made in September 2003 to construct and operate an OLF in Washington County.

Yet, in February the District Court ruled the Navy did not sufficiently probe the environmental impact on the acreage planned for the OLF at that location.

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 85  
LOW: 73  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 92  
LOW: 73  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 91  
LOW: 66  
ISOLATED T'STORMS