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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Accident claims life of county man

ERIN RICKERT

Clifton Robinson Jr. was an individual with a real talent for taking things apart and putting them back together.

As a youth he was always constructing model cars, and later he would spend hours fine tuning a 1984 Oldsmobile — his other baby.

"People could not believe the stuff he could do," said Cherie Robinson Monday as she remembered her 25 year-old son, who died after he was involved in a collision last week. "He was a good, fun person with a great heart."

A longtime Perquimans

County resident, Robinson was driving a 2003 Dodge pickup truck, delivering furniture while at his job with Furniture Lion Discount Warehouse, when the accident occurred in Dare County last Tuesday.

Sgt. C.D. Gould with the North Carolina Highway Patrol said Robinson and his boss, 53 year-old Micheal Edmundson of Edenton, were traveling south on N.C. 12, 20 miles south of Nags Head, just shortly after noon when the Dodge pickup crossed the center lane.

Gould said the two were only traveling about 35 m.p.h., the speed limit on the road, when the front of

the pickup struck a 2005 GMC truck driven by Joel Kent Cutchin, 41, of Virginia Beach, almost head on.

Gould said Cutchin, who was also traveling 35 m.p.h., swerved and braked to miss the two, but Robinson and Edmundson ended up hitting the left side of the GMC with the front of their Dodge pickup — sending both vehicles into the left shoulder of N.C. 12.

Cutchin was not injured in the accident and Edmundson sustained minor injuries.

Gould said Robinson was airlifted to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where he

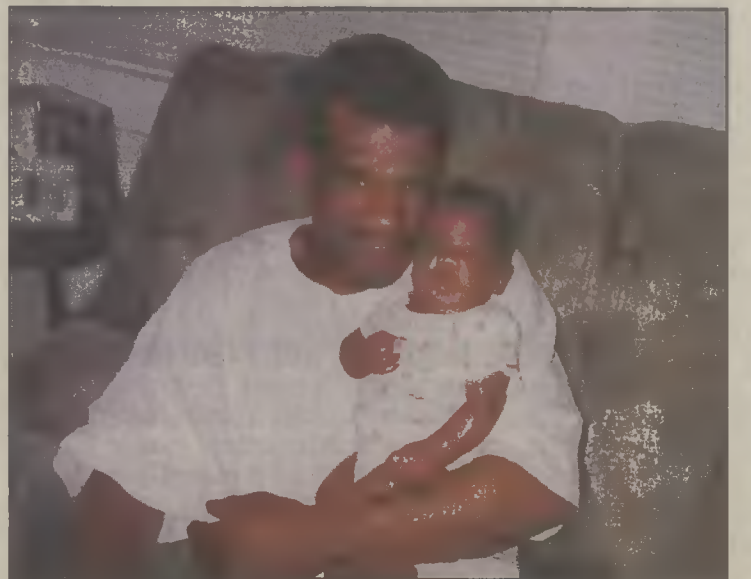
remained in a coma for two days before he died Thursday.

The vehicle Robinson was driving showed no signs of skid marks before impact, Gould said, but highway patrol is still investigating the cause of the accident.

No citations are expected to be given, Gould said.

A Perquimans County High School graduate, Robinson had played football for Perquimans and later went on to pursue a criminal justice degree at the College of the Albemarle.

After years spent putting his mechanical know-how to use at Auto Zone, Cherie



One of the delights of Clif Robinson's life was his son, 16-month-old Clifton Robinson III. Robinson died of injuries sustained in a car accident last week.

Winfall short on filers

ERIN RICKERT

Though the filing deadline for Hertford and Winfall municipal elections has passed, there is still no candidate for one seat in Winfall and all candidates are running unopposed in November.

Mayor Fred Yates and Donna Hassell Mummert both filed on Aug. 3 to keep their respective offices, mayor and council person, respectively.

Eula Forbes, Perquimans County Board of Elections director, said now the Winfall must submit a write-in candidate to

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FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The PCHS Marching Pirates began a long, hot week of intense learning Monday when band camp got underway. The students will share the show with the public for the first time Friday at 2 p.m. on the band practice field to end band camp.

Smoke-free campaign begun

ERIN RICKERT

The unveiling of a campaign designed to make residents visibly aware of businesses and public places declared "smoke-free" began in Perquimans County Thursday.

The fine jewelry and gift store, Belinda's of Hertford, was the first to participate, as onlookers watched owner Belinda Washlesky affix a yellow sticker to her store window.

"It is with a sense of pride that Belinda's of Hertford offers to our

patrons clean, healthy, smoke-free air while shopping our store for fine jewelry and gifts," Washlesky said Thursday morning during a press conference introducing the campaign. "I feel that I made the right decision by not allowing smoking."

Citing her choice was the result of concerns over the health issues related to smoking — a habit responsible for one out of five deaths or 450,000 American deaths each year.

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PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Belinda Washlesky, owner of Belinda's of Hertford, places a sticker in her store window letting people know she offers a smoke-free environment.

State releases ABC scores

Three of the four county schools meet goals

ERIN RICKERT

For the second year in a row, Perquimans County Middle School failed to meet ABC goals by only a fraction of a point, even after the State Board of Education opted to omit sixth grade reading results on the day before the scores were released Thursday.

The state's decision to remove the reading scores from composite calcu-

tions came after a flaw was discovered and 2004 results indicated only two of the 300 middle schools in the state achieved minimal gains, Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth W. Wells said.

"They [the state] recognized there was a problem," Wells said. "The board voted to drop reading scores from the total composite."

However, even after the omission and the recalculation of composite scores the middle school still missed this year's goal by .07 percent, Perquimans County Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter said.

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Hertford denied housing grant

ERIN RICKERT

Hertford Town Council voted unanimously Monday evening to start the condemnation process on four properties after council was denied a Community Development Block Grant they applied for late last year.

Owners of the properties at 319 Dobbs Street, 411 W. Market Street, 324 King Street and 501 S. Church Street, as well as the town's building inspector, are expected to be notified in the next few weeks of each property's selection — beginning the first step in the condemnation process.

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen said council chose the four after being notified the town did not receive a \$700,000 CDBG grant that would have allowed the repair of 10-15 unsafe homes in Hertford.

Monday the four homes were selected from a list of nearly 18 properties believed not to meet the town's minimum housing ordinance.

"It [the minimum hous-

ing ordinance] says the property must meet a minimum standard for occupancy or it must be removed," Christensen said. "It must be a functional, livable structure."

The four properties chosen Monday were some of the worst, afflicted with everything from collapsing

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Satellite viewers here to get UNC public TV soon

ERIN RICKERT

Satellite viewers in Perquimans County as well as eight other northeastern North Carolina counties will soon have access to local public television, a report released last week indicated.

This would offer Perquimans, Pasquotank, Northampton, Hertford, Gates, Chowan, Camden, Currituck and Dare coun-

ties access to "PBS" style programming and emergency information for the area available through the N.C.-based television service UNC-TV.

The change was made possible, Steve Volstad, director of marketing and communications for UNC-TV, said when the Federal Communications Commission approved UNC-TV's request to transfer the community of

license for the digital and analog transmitters for the current public access station, WUND-TV, from Columbia to Edenton.

"Nothing goes away," Volstad said. "It [UNC-TV] is just added to the mix. It's paper shuffling, that's it."

Satellite viewers would continue to be able to view the Virginia-based public television station WJND-TV, Volstad said, once the change is effective Sept. 6;

however, this is subject to adjustment.

Volstad said because both WHRO, a television station in Hampton Roads, Va., and the satellite provider Echostar oppose the recent request to change the community of license, there is a possibility they could appeal the ruling.

"It's probable," Volstad said of the appeal. "It

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 93
Low: 76
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 92
Low: 75
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 93
Low: 76
MOSTLY SUNNY