

## Local vets in WWII

Page 2

## Pirates get a gridiron win

Page 7

## Rogers honored

Page 9

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Sheriff's deputies, ALE raid houses selling alcohol

SUSAN HARRIS

Law enforcement agencies charged two local men for selling alcohol illegally last Thursday after months of investigation.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the pair were charged with possession of alcohol for sale without a permit and selling alcohol without a permit after suspected "shot houses" in the Hertford and Bethel Townships were searched by law enforcement officers. A "shot house" is a place where people buy drinks or "shots" of alcohol.

Wallace Simon Jones Jr. of 430 Burnt Mill Road, and Charlie Ferebee of 107 N. Main Street, Winfall were both charged with the misdemeanors and placed under \$5,000 secured bonds. Both are out on bail.

The arrests came after an investigation spanning over six months, Tilley said. Both the sheriff's department and District ALE office in Elizabeth City had received complaints from county residents about activity in both locations.

"We had had numerous complaints at the (Burnt Mill Road) residence, including shots fired, fights and that kind of thing," Tilley said. There were also accusations of drug activity, although Tilley said no drugs were found during the raid.

There were several people at the Burnt Mill property, including Jones, when the search warrant was served, Tilley said, although no one was arrested except Jones.

At the Hertford house, officers arrived to find no people on site, but a large amount of alcohol. Tilley said officers also found piles of ice in the front yard. As that property was being searched, officers arrested Ferebee at his Winfall home.

In addition to the sale of alcohol, complaints there included suspected drug activity and a great deal of people on the property.

"We had people tell us that the line to get in there and buy shots wrapped around the house," Tilley said.

Tilley said customers paid \$2 per shot for the alcohol.

In response to complaints, ALE District Officer Rodney Parker and the sheriff's department launched Operation Citizen Complaint and sent an undercover agent to both locations. The agent purchased alcohol at both.

In addition to ALE and the sheriff's office, and SBI agent with a drug dog and the N.C. Highway Patrol assisted with the raids.

Tilley said shutting down the shot houses marks the fourth case his department has been involved in.

Continued on page 12

## Trick or treat!



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Downtown Hertford was filled with all manner of costumed characters last Tuesday when the downtown businesses hosted trick-or-treating on Halloween in the business district. From super heroes to witches to animals to princesses and more, a variety of visitors made their way down Church and Market streets.



## Schools take buses off S-bridge

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Kenneth Wells announced that school buses are no longer trekking across the causeway and S-bridge as of Nov. 1.

Instead, they will take the long way to and from home traversing the high-

rise bridge.

"Recently, county and town officials have discussed our sincere concern for the safety of the causeway," Wells wrote. "Personal observations and comments by those who use the causeway and S-bridge frequently led to this decision."

Town, county and

school officials met last month and discussed top priorities such as the safety of the causeway, said Dwayne Stallings, assistant superintendent. The matter was also discussed at a previous meeting with state legislators.

"With the causeway seeming to continue to sink, it became a matter of

the safe passage of buses," Stallings said.

Concerns were addressed about the patching of the road that's been done over the years and how the road conditions may lay the groundwork for a bus loaded with children to hit something or get hit and end up in the ditch.

Continued on page 12

## County water rates to rise in March

MARGARET FISHER

Most Perquimans County residents can expect their water rates to go up beginning March 1.

County commissioners approved a rate change that will increase most water users, although residents using less than 1,000 gallons a month will see a decrease.

"We're selling water for less than it costs to produce it," said County Manager Bobby Darden about the current rates.

The rate will be a flat \$6 per 1,000 gallons for using more than 1,000 gallons a month. For people who use 1,000 gallons or less, the rate will be \$10 - a savings of \$2.50.

High water consumption users, such as irrigated farms, will see the biggest increases, Darden said. That's because under the current rates, large water consumers pay less. The rates are \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons, but they decline as the use increases until they level out at \$2.50 for 20,000 or more gallons.

Average consumers that use about 4,000 to 5,000 gallons a month will see about a 29 percent increase.

"It'll increase conserva-

tion," said Commissioner Sue Weimar.

This March, the water rates won't have changed for 11 years. At the last increase in 1996, the average user experienced about a 60 percent increase, but the dollar amount of increase will be about the same as it was then, Darden said.

About 40 percent of customers use less than 2,000 gallons a month. Users of 2,000 gallons a month will see an increase of 28 percent.

Continued on page 12

## Postal worker charged in two-car wreck

MARGARET FISHER

A two-car wreck on Woodville Road last Wednesday caused injuries to and involved charges against a mail carrier, said Trooper K.R. Briggs of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

At about 2.20 p.m., a rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, Judy Overton, 49, was traveling north on Woodville Road in a 1975 AMC Jeep. She began slowing down as she neared mailboxes to the right and a group of houses - called Stockton - on a lane on the left.

Abe Godfrey Jr., 17, was driving a 2001 Ford pickup and following behind her.

Overton told Briggs that she was planning to turn



A postal worker was airlifted to a Norfolk hospital after being involved in a two-car collision on Woodville Road last Wednesday.

left to deliver a package too large to fit in a mailbox. Godfrey was preparing to pass Overton in the passing zone when she began turning. Overton told the

officer she had her turn signal on, while Godfrey said that he didn't see the signal on. Neither was confirmed, Briggs said.

Godfrey's truck hit the

side of the Jeep and both ended up on the left side of the road past the lane at a ditch.

LuAnn Cobbs, who lives in Stockton, said that she was just beginning to walk down the lane to get her mail from the box across the road.

"I was walking out to pick up my mail, and I didn't see (the accident) happen. But I heard this horrendous crash," Cobbs said.

Overton was charged with a safe moving violation, for not making sure it was safe to turn, and having an expired license plate.

Both said they were wearing restraints. Because the Jeep was a former Postal Service vehicle,

Continued on page 12

## WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 73, LOW: 51  
AM SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 71, LOW: 53  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 74, LOW: 56  
PARTLY CLOUDY