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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Navy: NC OLF is need

MARGARET FISHER

U.S. Navy officials say they need an outlying landing field and they need it in North Carolina — ideally halfway between Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va., and Marine Corp Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock.

And the reason why they say they need an OLF — although they have one in Chesapeake, Va. — is because of increased need for training during surge operations. During those times, there could be as many as five carriers with jets vying for practice time at Fentress, as well as at an alternative OLF site.

Just how often does that happen? Ted Brown, U.S. Fleet Forces Command spokesman for the Navy, said that the Navy has had surge operations "a couple of times" since the Department of Homeland Security was set up nearly five years ago.

After the terrorism attack on the twin towers in New York, the Navy had to increase its capabilities in training and readiness, Brown said. More carriers than previously required have to be ready to go within 30 days, and carriers in the Pacific may be relocated to the Atlantic, if necessary, he said.

"The Navy needs to be able to deploy five carriers," Brown said, although he added that it would be unlikely.

The Navy's preferred OLF site C in Washington County is situated halfway between the two bases where F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jets are stationed. Brown said that the location of Site C will allow pilots to fly to the OLF, practice carrier take-offs and landings and return to their bases without having to refuel during the exercise.

The cost? Jeopardizing the lives of pilots and birds, millions of dollars in aircraft equipment and disturbing thousands of waterfowl and the only habitat for rare red wolves.

No problem. The Navy says that all can be managed in the more than 200,000 acres of the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge surrounding Pungo Lake.

At a recent public hearing in Perquimans, a display board stated that the number of bird-aircraft strikes were low on other military bases located near wildlife facilities. While the exact number was not mentioned, one thing is certain — low does not mean none.

The Navy claims to use the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service data in drawing

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## PAL show



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

A gallery filled with unique and varied pieces awaits those who view the PAL Members Show exhibit on display through April 13 at the PAL Gallery in Hall of Fame Square. Read about it on page 2.

## Two men shot

MARGARET FISHER

Two shootings that police believe are unrelated happened over the last week.

On March 27 at about 11:20 p.m., Hertford Police responded to an unidentified call that shots had been fired in Dogwood Mobile Home Park.

Sgt. Brian Riddick and officer Bud Reynolds scouted the area, but didn't find anyone, said Police Chief Dale Vanscoy. Then dispatch notified Riddick that Chowan Hospital had admitted a gunshot victim.

Wadelle Harvey told police he had been driving through the mobile home park when he heard gunshots and some of them hit his vehicle, Vanscoy said.

After Harvey drove away, he felt a pain in his side. Then he realized he had been shot, Vanscoy said.

He drove to a friend's house and the friend took him to the hospital about 15 minutes after the incident.

Police canvassed the neighborhood, including Pineridge Mobile Home Park. A couple of residents reported hearing gunshots, but most said that they did not see or hear anything, Vanscoy said.

The bullet had entered the left side of Harvey's abdomen and stopped on the right side. Hospital officials planned to airlift Harvey to Greenville, but the helicopter broke down, Vanscoy said. Harvey was released the following day.

Police found shell casings and tire tracks in Dogwood. They also found that Harvey's brother's vehicle had been shot at twice while parked in the neighborhood.

Police retrieved the shell casings, bullet fragments and a bullet from the vehicles and area and are sending them to the State Bureau of Investigation in Greenville. The investigation is pending.

In a second incident, Devon Thatch, 21, claims he was shot, although no

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## Mickey's moves to Woodville

MARGARET FISHER

Mickey's Sales & Service moved from Elizabeth City to Woodville in December and is now manufacturing a line of cleaning products.

Bill Summerour and Irving Jones bought the business, which sold janitorial supplies and fishing tackle, in 1987. The two dropped the fishing products and now carry cleaning and office supplies.

Less than a month ago, the two formed WES-J and began producing their own line of products. Their plant is capable of producing up to 3,000 gallons a day.

Mickey's celebrated a grand opening last Wednesday in the former Skills Inc. building.

The company produces a variety of cleaning supplies, about 25 percent of which are earth-friendly. Summerour said that the company plans on producing about 80 percent green products in the near future.

"We'll be doing almost all earth-friendly products," he said.

Mickey's supplies wholesale orders for schools, hos-



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Mickey's Sales & Service moved from Elizabeth City to Woodville, and the cleaning product manufacturer and janitorial supply sales company celebrated the move with a ribbon cutting last week.

pitals, restaurants and other companies, but retail customers can also purchase individual items at the store.

The business sells all-purpose cleaners, floor cleaners and strippers, defoamers, degreasers, disinfectants and other types of janitorial supplies.

They also offer workshops to teach people how to use those products.

In fact, Summerour's vision includes building a training center to teach people such skills as how to strip floors and clean restrooms.

They are currently working on manufacturing a green disinfectant that is

not only earth-friendly, but will not cause harm when accidentally ingested. Yet, this product, created in Russia, will kill germs and can be used to sterilize instruments and food service areas.

They sell or lease high powered hand dryers that reduce paper waste and use 90 percent less energy than standard restroom dryers.

Summerour keeps his phone handy to answer customer questions and fill their orders.

"I think we're the best company of our size for the service," Summerour said. "Customer service is number one and will always be number one."

## Central School wins state award

MARGARET FISHER

Out of more than 50 school districts across the state to compete, Perquimans Central School won the N.C. Association of School Administrators

Trailblazer Award in the elementary school category.

The award, in its second year, recognizes achievements that have forged ahead in the state's accountability program

through innovation and excellence in education. "Our awards program is an annual celebration of the best and brightest in North Carolina's public schools,"

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## Tippy canoe dumps two

MARGARET FISHER

Ronnie Duncan, 18, and his 13-year-old cousin were stranded in Muddy Creek when their canoe capsized during a fishing outing.

The two young men spent about 40 minutes in the swampy water waiting to be rescued on March 26, said Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley.

They had been fishing about two hours, each leaning towards the opposite side of the 16-foot wide-belly canoe. Shortly after 5 p.m., both leaned over the same side and the boat tipped over.

Duncan, who lives at 148 Mill Road in New Hope, and his cousin remained standing in the shallow water for about 10 minutes until someone noticed them from the shore, Tilley said.

The boys' feet were sinking in the sticky mud below the water. Eventually, they turned the canoe over, filled it with water and sunk it so they could stand on top of it, Tilley said.

William Ray Chappell, who owns the adjacent property, retrieved the two from the water. A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter arrived just as they were getting into the rescue boat, Tilley said. Perquimans County Water Rescue and Emergency Management also responded.

No injuries were reported by the two boaters.

## WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 HIGH: 63, LOW: 40  
 SUNNY

FRIDAY  
 HIGH: 59, LOW: 39  
 SUNNY

SATURDAY  
 HIGH: 59, LOW: 38  
 MOSTLY SUNNY