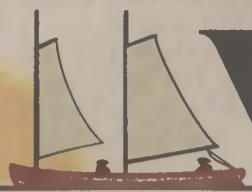


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

NOVEMBER 17, 2010 - NOVEMBER 23, 2010



Pirate season memorable to Worrell, 7

Man faces 911 abuse charge, 8

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## Officials probe well tied to town's supply

Well is under Hall of Fame building

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford town officials discovered in September that a downtown building housing a restaurant and other businesses was using untreated water pumped from a private well.

Also, the well, which was connected to the municipal water system, resulted in untreated water mixing with the town water supply.

Town Manager John Christensen said town employees found a pump and pressure tank inside the building connected to a well underneath the Hall of Fame building located on Church Street. The discovery was made after tenants in the building complained of the water tasting "like well water", Christensen said.

Public works employees were also trying to find out why chlorine levels in the water in that area of town were lower than normal.



Christensen

he added. Chris Wharton, public works director for the town, and Harry Sanchez, chief water plant operator, said they contacted the building's owner, Randy Lassiter, and immediately shut down the operation. They also watched as Lassiter disconnected the well from the town's water supply.



Wharton

Town officials said that when the well's pump was operating, it back-fed untreated well water into the town's treated municipal water system, reducing the chlorine levels in the town's water supply in that general vicinity.

Wharton said water samples were taken and tested to make sure no harmful

bacteria had entered the system.

Town officials made no public notification about the breach in the water supply.

"Test results showed the water was not harmful for human consumption," said Christensen. "We were not required to notify the public."

Wharton contacted the owner of Nickalena's Restaurant, which up until three weeks ago, operated in that building. The water lines in the restaurant were flushed for two to

three hours to make sure any remaining untreated water in the system was deleted. In addition, ice and tea machines were dumped.

Christensen said the restaurant owner was not aware that untreated well water was being used in the restaurant. Wharton said there was no immediate health danger to the public.

Lassiter said the well was installed 10 years ago when he planned to install

See WELL, 5

## Human remains found in Winfall

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Two hunters backtracking a deer Friday morning found human skeletal remains instead in a wooded area behind Miller Street in Winfall.

Chief David Shaffer with the Winfall Police Department said the remains were discovered 300 feet inside a wood line adjacent to a cell phone tower about 500 ft. from U.S. Highway 17.

A Bible, driver's license, passport, wallet containing money and a military duffel bag were also found.

"I sure didn't expect to find that," said Jared Stanton of Hertford, one of the two hunters who found the remains.

"I was looking for the big buck I shot yesterday, and nearly stepped over the bones on my way out."

Chief Shaffer said the identification cards found with the remains were that of a 39-year-old white Currituck County man.

Chief Shaffer would not release any names until next of kin is notified.

"The preliminary evidence doesn't appear to be foul play," said Shaffer, "but, that is still being investigated."

No vehicle was found in the area, he added.

Shaffer said he believed the remains may have been there for several months.

The remains were taken to Greenville for examination by the state medical examiner.

## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Veterans across the country celebrated Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Local veterans (top photo) salute the colors during last week's Veterans Day observance held on the historic courthouse green. Mack Nixon (bottom photo), a Vietnam War veteran and chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, was the keynote speaker during the Veterans Day observance last week.

## Residents remember veterans, then and now

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

With colorful American flags fluttering in the cool fall breeze overhead, local residents paid tribute on Veterans Day to those who fought for freedom.

During the annual Veterans Day observance, Mack Nixon, chairman of the Perquimans Board of Commissioners and himself a veteran, said freedom obtained by the sacrifices of veterans applies not only to those who support this nation's causes, but those who op-

pose as well.

"I returned home from Vietnam 44 years ago this month," he told the crowd who gathered on the historic county courthouse lawn. "We were confronted with war protesters in front of Oakland Army terminal in California. The way we were treated stuck with me for many years."

"Today, our young men and women get the homecoming they truly deserve," he added. "The true greatness of our nation is shown when we defend and protect the protesters as well as the supporters of our armed

forces."

Nixon reminded the audience that veterans return home, find jobs, and blend back into the community.

"We volunteer as firemen, rescue squad members, civic club members, church members, and even elected officials," he said. "...God bless veterans and their families, past and present, for all they have given to make this such a great country to live in."

The observance, which was sponsored by American Legion Post

See VETERANS, 2



### WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 58 LOW: 37  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 62 LOW: 43  
SUNNY

SUNDAY  
HIGH: 65 LOW: 46  
MOSTLY SUNNY

## Many animal-caused wrecks reported

From staff reports

Perquimans and Chowan counties lead the area in animal-related car crashes last year, according to the figures released by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Seventy-four crashes were recorded in Perqui-

mans County in 2009 while Chowan County showed 77 crashes occurred during the same time span. The largest number of crashes involved deer and occurred during the fall months.

Pasquotank County reported 49 crashes, Currituck 56, and Camden showed only 18 crashes involving animals last year.

To help reduce the number of wildlife-related automobile crashes this year, the NCDOT officials remind motorists to be aware of the increased presence of deer on state roads-especially during fall months.

"People need to also understand that often a worse crash occurs when a

driver swerves to avoid the deer in the roadway," said NCDOT Director of Mobility and Safety Kevin Lacy. "This reaction can cause the driver to hit another car head-on or run off the road. It is better to hit the deer than to lose control of your vehicle and hit a tree or someone else head on."

While a crash involving

a deer can happen at any time, the majority of deer-vehicle collisions occur between the months of October and December, when deer activity increases due to mating and hunting seasons.

Last year, nearly half of the crashes that occurred

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