

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Coach Worrell looking ahead following loss to NHS, P. 7

"News from Next Door"

AUGUST 24, 2011 - AUGUST 30, 2011

FAKED

50 cents

DON JUAN BUILDING PUT TO EXTREME USE



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Using air-sof weapons that shoot plastic BB's, participants in a recent Extreme Seal Experience learn close-quarter combat skills at the former Don Juan building.

Building is site of Extreme SEAL Experience

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A small black helicopter travels into Hertford in the middle of the night, swoops down and lands on top of an empty building situated on the outskirts of town.

Several heavily-clad men wearing green camo with their faces concealed and carrying what appear to be automatic weapons jump out of the helicopter and make entry into a local vacant building that once housed a shirt factory.

At first glance, it looks like tactical police teams or clandestine military operations surrounding the former Don Juan building that hasn't seen any kind of action for at least 20 years.

But, relax. It's actually a team of civilians paying money to experience what it's like to be trained as the elite of the most elite



Participants train much like SEALs do at the old Don Juan building in Hertford.

military teams known as the U.S. Navy SEALs and the local former factory building is part of the experience.

Sort of like a military-themed vacation complete with all the trimmings like experiencing the first 24-hours of strenuous punishment known as Hell Night, participating in a rigorous physical

fitness program, taking part in training and mission operations, lack of sleep, and enjoying plenty of good food along the way. The owners of Extreme Seal Experience, a Chesapeake, VA. mom and pop business featured recently on a Discovery Channel documentary on SEALs, have leased the building for space to

hold close quarter combat training for their participants. Former veteran SEAL and SEAL instructor Don Shipley began the business to give young and old alike the chance to experience what SEAL team training is all about.

For two weeks every month, participants pay

See EXTREME, 8

High speed chase nets drugs, cash

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A 25-year-old Hertford man led law officers from three different agencies on a high speed chase through the streets of Hertford and into Perquimans County Sunday afternoon before eventually stopping in Chowan County.

Police say no one was injured in the chase that reached speeds of 85-90 miles per hour through town streets and over 100 miles per hour on county roadways. The driver eventually stopped on Highway 32 in Chowan County and now faces three felonies and two misdemeanor charges, police say.

Driver Steven Matrez Tillet, of the 600-block of Woodland Church Road, faces felony charges of fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute drugs, and maintaining a vehicle as a place to sell drugs. He is also charged with no operator's license and a vehicle window tint violation.

Following his arrest, Tillet was taken to Albemarle District Jail under a \$4,500 secured bond.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said Patrolman Allen Peterson first stopped

"I think it was a good outcome to an unfortunate situation. Anytime anyone runs from police creates a potential for someone to get hurt. We were fortunate no one wrecked or no one was injured."

Joe Amos
Hertford police chief

the 1999 Ford Escort driven by Tillet around 2:30 p.m. on U.S. 17 South near the high rise bridge for a window tint violation and no identification. As the officer sat in his police cruiser checking vehicle registration information, Tillet drove off, turned on Church Street and sped through downtown

See CHASE, 8

Crash kills Texas man



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A 23-year-old Texas man died Friday morning when he flipped his vehicle eight times on Muddy Creek Road. The North Carolina Highway Patrol says Alvin R. Wilkins lived on Muddy Creek Road and was returning home from work when the accident occurred.

Wilkins was coming home from work

From staff reports

A 23-year-old Texas man was killed when the vehicle he was driving at a high rate of speed ran off Muddy Creek Road early Friday morning and flipped eight times.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper J.F. Bray said the body of Alvin R. Wilkins, Jr. was found by a nurse traveling to work around 6 a.m. on the rural Perquimans County road.

Wilkins was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident and was thrown from the vehicle.

Police said Wilkins moved to the area about eight months ago, lived on Muddy Creek Road, and worked for a contractor on

the Coast Guard Base in Elizabeth City.

Wilkins apparently got off work at midnight and was traveling home when the accident occurred.

Trooper Bray said the 2005 Kia SUV was traveling at a high rate of speed when Wilkins lost control and rolled the vehicle eight times before coming to rest in the front yard of a residence. Police say they also suspect alcohol was a contributing factor in the fatal crash.

Wilkins was alone at the time of the crash.

Members of the Perquimans EMS, Durants Neck Fire Department, and Perquimans County Sheriff's Department also responded.

Watch on Irene

From staff reports

As of press time, Hurricane Irene is still five days away and moving on a yet undetermined course.

The latest predictions, however, include possible landfall on the North Carolina coast.

Local emergency management officials encourage county residents to keep an eye on the hurricane's tract and strength.

In the meantime, take precautions and prepare just in case bad weather hits Perquimans County

See IRENE, 4

'Mr. G' is Teacher of Year



PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS PHOTO

Perquimans' Teachers of the Year are (l-r) Jason Griffin, Perquimans Central; Alta Allen, Hertford Grammar; Cynthia M. Swinney, Perquimans Middle; and Robert Lowney, Perquimans High.

Griffin never imagined being a teacher

From staff reports

Jason Griffin is the new Teacher of the Year for Perquimans County Schools.

Chosen earlier as the Teacher of the Year for

Perquimans Central University as well as his master's in middle grades math from the same institution.

Griffin says he never imagined becoming a

See GRIFFIN, 8



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30th Anniversary
Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford
 CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT
Free Street Dance Friday Night
 Sept. 9th, 6 to 10 p.m.
 Sept. 10th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.