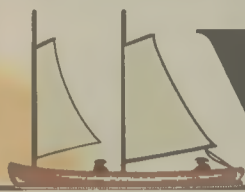


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



BROTHERS
LAND
'MONSTER'
STRIPER
WHILE
FISHING IN
VIRGINIA,
PAGE 4



"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 4, 2012 - JANUARY 10, 2012

50 cents

Truck plunges into river at S-bridge Vehicle crashes into bridge tender's house

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The driver of a pick-up truck managed to escape underwater with no apparent injuries after he drove his truck off Church Street, crashed into the S-bridge tender's house, and into the Perquimans River early Saturday morning.

According to the Hertford Police Department, driver John Rodney Griffin, II of Williamston managed to climb out of a window in the 2009 F-250 Super D pick-up truck completely submerged in the cold river water underneath the bridge tender's house around 2:30 a.m. Sgt. Kevin Worster, who responded to the crash, found Griffin at a nearby residence with blankets wrapped around him provided by a neighbor who heard the crash occur.

Police said Griffin's truck was traveling on Church Street towards the historic S-bridge when it ran off the roadway knocking down several street signs and striking a pipe adjacent to the sewage pumping station. The vehicle travelled through a fence and hit a bridge abutment before going airborne, taking out two large Magnolia tree limbs 15 feet above ground before crashing into the bottom of the bridge tender's house and into the river. The force of the impact took out several feet of wooden underpinning on the structure and damaged at least one piling, police said.

"He was lucky," said Sgt. Worster. "Very lucky."

Worster said he had difficulty finding the truck when he first arrived on the scene. He saw where a vehicle had crashed through the pumping station's fence, but didn't see a vehicle anywhere.

See S-BRIDGE, 2



PHOTOS COURTESY MICHAEL HURDLE

Diver Chris Wharton assists a tow crew pulling a pickup truck from the Perquimans River Saturday morning after it crashed into the S-bridge tender's house.



N.C. Department of Transportation workers inspect the S-bridge after a pickup truck ran off Church Street, crashed through a fence, struck the bridge and hit the bridge tender's house, before plunging into the Perquimans River early Saturday.



A boom truck blocks the S-bridge while workers raise the pickup truck from the river.



PHOTO COURTESY PAM HADDEN

Band boosters provide much of the funding for local school bands, including the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates shown here during the Hertford Christmas Parade.

Boosters help fund music program

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

There is a sense of pride that ripples through the audience when the local school bands perform.

The performances may include marching in a Christmas parade, playing

for local festivals on the courthouse square, performing a half-time show in the school football field, or competing in band competitions across the area. The performances seem to always cause a lump to form in the throats of those who stand-by and watch.

The youth spend countless hours rehearsing music, marching, learning routines, and practicing playing together. It is work that necessitates effort not

only during class time in school, but after school and at home as well.

The Perquimans County Band Boosters is made up of hard-working parents of band students at both Perquimans High and Perquimans Middle schools. Both schools have their own individual band director who works with the students teaching how to play the instruments, musicality, and how to play in one accord.

Behind the performanc-

es is that dedicated group of band parents who work all year long to raise funds to keep the local schools' band programs alive and growing in both of the county's secondary schools. It's a school course that requires the support and hard work of students and parents alike.

According to self-described "band geek" Jennifer Bunch whose

See BOOSTERS, 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Heart Institute at ECU gave Perquimans County High School students the opportunity recently to view a robotic mitral valve prolapsed repair, demonstrating how surgeons are able to offer a minimally invasive option for complex surgical procedures.

Lab gives students hands-on training

17 visit ECU's Brody School of Medicine

From staff reports

Seventeen students from Perquimans High School interested in medical profession careers recently traveled to The Brody School of Medicine located at East Carolina Univer-

sity. In a simulation lab, students had the opportunity to assess pulse sites, pupils, skin tone and monitor respirations with an \$80,000 human-like manikin. Students also visited the obstetrics and gynecology lab to witness a simulated birth with the help

See TRAINING, 5

