

# **PCHS** prepares for future early graduates

courses, STEM program

**By CATHY WILSON** Staff Writer

STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) classes, school officials predict some advanced James Bunch presented the early said Bunch. "It is possible in the a student must show satisfac-

Focus on more advanced be ready to graduate from high bers of the Perquimans County meet requirements for gradua- demic skills and concepts, must school as early as their sopho- Board of Education Monday tion after three years. But, we complete at least six semesters more year.

Because of the future possibilities, Perquimans County High early, the new procedures basi- through our school which would last semester of enrollment as a School is developing procedures cally allows school administranow to help guide students who With the change in advanced may choose to graduate earlier age the student to remain in high courses and more focus on than normal to either begin their college study or career choice.

Assistant Superintendent

night. While students may meet the graduation requirements tors the opportunity to encourschool and take college courses instead.

"We are excited about this," students in future years may graduation procedures to mem- year 2015-16 for some students to tory mastery of high school aca-

to eventually have a two-year college degree when they graduate from high school."

According to the procedures, tered ninth grade.

want them to stay in school at in a high school course of study PCHS and take college courses in grades 9-12, must complete the save them money on tuition and full-time student at PCHS, must books. Our vision is for students show a need for early graduation, and meet graduation course and testing requirements that were in effect the time the student en-

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## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



Perquimans Central School Principal Melissa Fields greets students on opening day of school, Monday.

## Traffic only problem

STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

## Detective suspended after DWI

Firkel has been with police department since July 2009

**By CATHY WILSON** Staff Writer

A Hertford Police detective has been suspended from his duties without pay after being charged with driving while impaired early Sunday morning following an automobile accident.

Town Manager Brandon Shoaf confirmed that Christopher Firkel, age 30, was suspended without pay on Monday. He would not comment on the duration of the suspension, saying only that "is it an ongoing personnel matter."

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Firkel was driving a 1997 Jeep Sunday morning around 2 a.m. in the 700-block of Forest Park Road in Elizabeth City when the vehicle ran off the road on the right side, overcorrected, crossed the center line, ran off the roadway and struck a concrete driveway. The accident was investigated by Trooper C. Allison.

According to court records, Firkel was charged with driving while impaired following the accident. He was released in the custody of a responsible party, court officials said, and faces a Nov. 8 court date in Pasquotank County.

### on first day of classes

**By CATHY WILSON** Staff Writer

ittle five-year-old Ca- as long as she is tall. den Munden walked ing holding her daddy's hand.

her hair pulled back in a year-old Hannah Bergman. single braid, she wore a Ralph was Bergman's colorful peace-sign shirt, ruffled skirt and leggings,

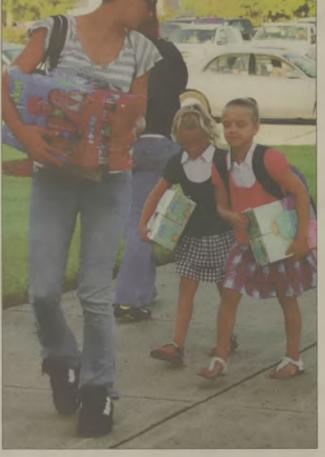
and carried a huge pink Hello Kitty book bag on her back that was nearly

After entering her kininto Perquimans Cen- dergarten classroom on tral School Monday motin- the first day of school, she watched as her teacher Nicole Ralph hug one of Petite and blonde with her former students, six-

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Happy students arrived bright and early Monday for their first day of school at Perquimans Central School.



Check out the new shoes! Two girls returning to school at Perquimans Central on Monday compare new shoes as they carry in a good supply of tissues for the upcoming school year.

#### Firkel has been a Hertford Police officer since July 2009.

## Shots are fired around Wynne **Fork complex**

Bullets strike trailer, car on April 21

#### From staff reports

Gunfire erupted around the Wynne Fork Apartments Aug. 21 with several bullets striking a nearby mobile home and a vehicle parked near the apartment complex.

No one was reported injured in the gunfire.

According to the Hertford Police Department, officers responded to the Hertford Housing Authority complex around 10 p.m. after receiving reports of shots fired in the area.

Police discovered that two bullets had entered a mobile home in the Dogwood Mobile Home Park. Further investigation determined that a vehicle had also been struck twice by bullets.

Police later found seven 9-mm shell casings in the grass scattered from the back to the front of the apartment building.

Investigation into the gunfire is continuing.

### **Downtown streets to close** Sept. 7 for Indian Summer

Grubb to Dobbs streets) must be removed by 4 and Market Street (from p.m. Church Street to the Baptist church parking lot) may be made from their will be closed to traffic Front Street entrance. beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7, for the 2012 access to park in the Indian Summer Festival. All vehicles parked on



Church Street (from either of those streets

Access to PNC Bank

Individuals will have Hertford Baptist Church parking lot on Friday, Sept. 7, for access to the merchants on both Market and Church streets.

The closing on Market Street will be extended to Covent Garden on Saturday morning, Sept. 8, to accommodate the kids venue and additional features such as the fire trucks and EMS vehicles.

### **Original Rhondels to open festival**

**Band will perform** from 7 to 10 p.m.

#### By CATHY B. WILSON Staff Writer

Mark the date now! Back by popular demand, the Original Rhondels will open this year's Indian Summer Festival by performing during the free street dance on Friday, cordings in Sept. 7 from 7-10 p.m. on almost evthe main stage located on ery major Green on Church Street.

There'll be a "whole lot- Rhondels began a record-

of Food Do You Think I ship. Am?"

ord, North Vir-From ginia Beach, the Original Rhondels have performed their hit re-

In 1969, Bill Deal and the

plays their hit recordings, country. They delight their keys and vocals, Steve Amincluding their three top audiences with outstand-10 hits "May I", "I've Been ing vocals, powerful brass Dean Englert on trombone Hurt", and "What Kind and exciting showman- and vocals, Gary Hardy

> unexpected The passing of Bill Deal in 2003 was a great loss to the music industry; Original

that earned them a star on the Legends Wall of Fame. Friday evening festivities ta shagging" going on in ing career that would take The band features Brian at 6 p.m. downtown Hertford as the them to Madison Square Bleakley on vocals and popular beach music band Garden and across the trumpet, Peter Pope on

brose on sax and vocals, and Rollie Ligart on trumpet and vocals, Bruce Harlow on guitar and vocals, Wayne Kessinger on baritone sax and vocals, and Sonny Morris on drums and vocals.

A beer and wine garhowever, the den will be open during the dance at the corner Rhondels of Church and Market continue streets. Food and craft venthe historic Courthouse city in the United States. to perform the great music dors, along with music by DJ Cowboy will open the

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