

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Students debate gun control

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

While lawmakers debate the future of guns in American, 125 Perquimans County students voiced their views last week.

Social studies students under teacher Mike Castle, and math students taught by Robert Spruill, formed teams to make arguments

for or against gun control. "I think they got a deeper understanding of how big an issue gun control is," Castle said.

"You had some who were against it and some were in favor of it, but for the people who were on the fence, I think it really was an eye-opening experience."

The students ranged from freshman to seniors. They

were grouped in teams of four with two students coming from the math side and two students from the social studies side. It was the second such cross discipline effort. Last fall students studied the federal deficit.

Castle estimates the largest segment was made up of students who really didn't have a firm stance

on the gun issue. The remainder were pretty much equally divided between those who were in favor of or opposed to gun control.

Members of the community, including Sheriff Eric Tilley and staff from the central school office came in to judge the presentations. Students themselves also judged their peers and were encouraged to ask

questions. "One of the more unusual things I heard was there a place in Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, where there is a requirement that you have to have a gun in the home," Castle said. "After they did that, they had a 89 percent decrease in crime. Another group argued that the leading cause of death in the U.S. is obesity. They

made the argument that gun death made up only a small percentage."

A team with Grant Walker, Scotty Collins, Jessie Howard and Sam Teranova looked at among other things the cases of gun violence in Canada. The neighbor to the north in many ways has gun

See DEBATE, 2

Tourney to benefit research for ALS

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A batch of sugar cookies isn't a batch of sugar cookies to Joan Hunter. Neither is a bottle of catsup.

Hunter sees much more. She sees them as a way to a cure Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

She's the niece of baseball great Jimmy Hunter and brother of Gary Hunter. The two men share two things. They both died of ALS and they both loved to play ball.

Gary Hunter died at age 42 in 2006. He'd worked for United Parcel Service for about 20 years and was a native of Perquimans County and graduate of Perquimans County High School. He later went on to play baseball at Chowan College. He left behind his wife Sherry and two sons, Ryan and Wayne.

Joan Hunter can't change their fate, but she is working on a men's softball tournament later this month that she hopes will raise money to find a cure for the disease known to many as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

The event April 27-28 is a one-pitch men's softball tournament at the Jimmy Catfish Hunter Complex in Winfall.

There has been a tournament each fall for the past 14 years to honor Jimmy Hunter, but the one this month is named for Gary. One fundraiser associated with the fall tournament is a golf ball drop. It's being moved to event this month.

Joan Hunter has no illusions that the new event will ever come close to the success of the September event. But she's hopeful.

"This September for the Catfish ALS tournament will be our 15th. This one for Gary, my brother, isn't going to be as large. We know that. Last year we raised \$21,000 at Jimmy's tournament. If we raise \$5,000 or \$6,000 or \$10,000 we'd be very happy for Gary's tournament."

And that's where the sugar cookies and catsup

See TOURNAMENT, 2



Pastor Larry Bowden reads the passage for the first station of the cross Friday during a ceremony near Hertford United Methodist Church.



Mark Rossnagel carries the cross during a Stations of the Cross event down King Street in Hertford, Friday.

Stations of the Cross

Higher prices may bolster cotton crop

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County farmers may be planting more cotton than the projections show because prices are rising, according to Lewis Smith.

Statewide the USDA is projecting there will be 23 percent fewer acres of cotton planted in the state this year. Smith, the extension agent serving Perquimans County, had heard the figure would be lower. But he said the local farmers he's been talking to are more bullish now on cotton.

"A month ago cotton prices started climbing

back. I'd heard that cotton was going to be down as much as 35 percent, but the latest figure I've heard is 20 percent."

Across the U.S., cotton acreage is projected to be down 19 percent from 12.3 million acres to 10 million.

Soybeans, the top crop in Perquimans, is expected to be stable nationally and down only slightly in North Carolina. Soybeans represent about 30,000 to 32,000 acres in Perquimans.

Corn, the number two local crop, is thought to be stable in the U.S. and

See COTTON, 2

BROWSING FOR EGGS



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Aniya Lyons, Luke Smith and Alex Engnell race to find eggs Saturday during an Easter Egg hunt at The Brian Center in Hertford. About 25 children participated in the hunt.



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