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BILLY CHAPMAN, HICKORY DAILY RECORD

Kevin Killian and Katera at Broyhill Walking Park in Lenoir on Nov. 3.

‘LIFE CHANGING’

Army veteran struggled after his service; a dog helped

BILLY CHAPMAN
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When a military vehicle broke down in the Middle East during the war on terrorism, the U.S. Army depended on soldiers like Kevin Killian.

Whether the vehicle was under fire or in transit in a convoy, Killian, who served as a

diesel mechanic, had to get the vehicle operational, tow it away or destroy it on-site.

After seven years in the Army, Killian left the service and returned to civilian life.

Though the days of avoiding gunfire and explosions were behind him, Killian, like many veterans who served in combat zones, struggled with anxiety after coming home to

Catawba County.

Killian said going out was difficult. He said he felt a “heightened sense of awareness” when out in public.

“When you’re over there, things kind of gradually take place,” Killian said. “When

Please see **VETERAN**, Page A3

West Iredell JROTC celebrates Veterans Day

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West Iredell High School’s Junior ROTC welcomed more than 300 veterans to the school on Friday to celebrate their service to the United States.

Jason Bryant, a cadet from the West Iredell JROTC, was sworn into the U.S. Army by Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Klein during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Bryant will be joining the Army as a combat engineer and will depart for basic

training after graduation.

West Iredell High School JROTC was joined by JROTCs classes from Mooresville, Statesville, North Iredell and South Iredell high schools. The JROTC classes represented the U.S. Marine Corps, the

U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. West Iredell High School has hosted this annual celebration for 41 years.

The West Iredell High School

Please see **JROTC**, Page A3

West Iredell secures historic football playoff win **SPORTS, B1**

Inside			
360°	C1	Lively	D1
Business	C4	Opinion	A4
Classifieds	B7-8	Sports	B1
Comics	D3, D5	What to Watch	D4

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