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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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Two students detained over school threats

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A 15-year-old student at Perquimans County Middle School and an 8-year-old student from Hertford Grammar School were placed in juvenile custody after making threats last week.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office took the

older student into custody on Thursday. Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said the student had made a threat in class about gun violence.

The second student was taken into custody Friday after making similar threats on the playground.

In both cases, a judge ruled to keep the students

in juvenile custody. The older student was taken to Greenville and the younger student was taken to Butler, a state facility near Raleigh. A hearing on both cases was scheduled for Tuesday morning in Currituck County.

White said the schools were not locked down because of the incidents, but

the school system sent out an automated phone message to all parents. No weapons were found.

"We're not going to take it lightly and we're going to go ahead," White said after Thursday's incident. "Maybe this will deter anybody else from doing it."

After Thursday's incident, law enforcement had

a show of force when students came back to school on Friday.

White was at PCMS along with the school resource officer, the chief deputy and two NC Wildlife agents. At Hertford Grammar there were two police officers and at Central there was an SRO. At the high school there was a school resource

officer, another deputy and a wildlife officer.

The charge of "false report of mass violence on educational property" is a Class H felony.

Lisa Lane, a spokeswoman for the school system, said the PCMS student was in class and for a period of

See THREATS, 2

Camp Cale plans new bunkhouse

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Camp Cale hopes to break ground soon on a new bunkhouse that will sleep 48 people and feature creature comforts like heating and air conditioning. That will open up the possibility of making the facility a year-round venue instead of a rustic venue for children.

The Perquimans County Planning Board signed off on a conditional use permit for the project Monday night. The county commission will also have to approve the plan.

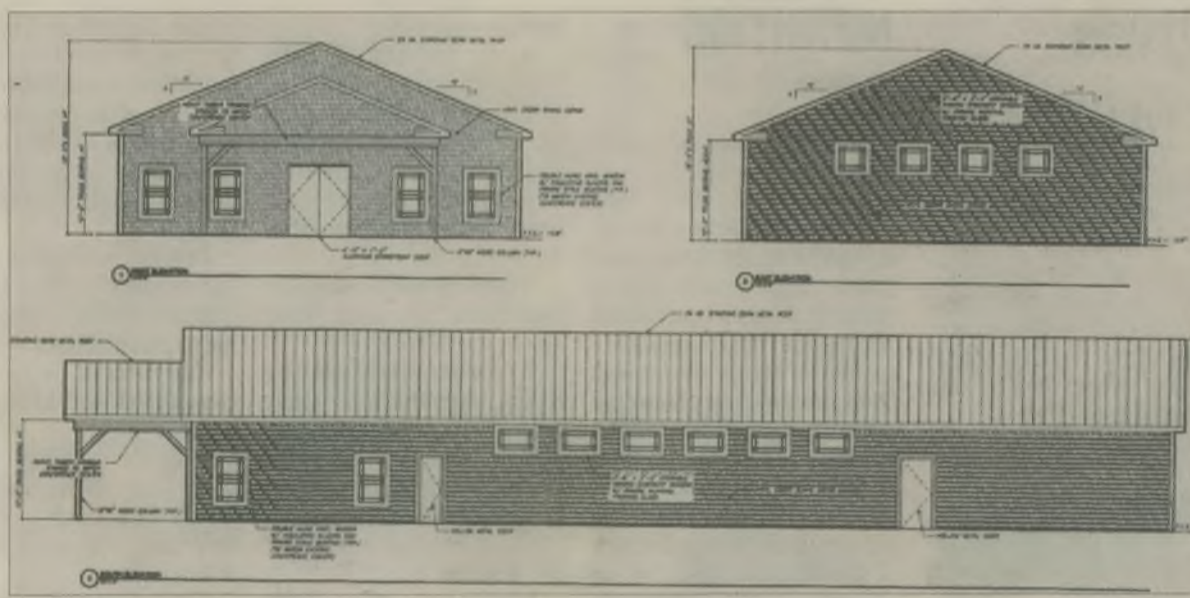
Camp Cale was developed on the shores of the Perquimans River in the early 1960s when the Chowan Baptist Association identified a need for an outdoor camping facility. The Cale family heard about the need and donated 50 acres along the river. They added another 26 acres later.

The first campers began arriving in 1963. Through the years Cale has expanded both in land, buildings, and the number of campers it can serve.

Cale gained 24 more acres from a donation from the McNair-Carl Estate, bringing the total size to 100 acres.

The rectangular-shaped bunkhouse is divided by a wall down the middle so 24 boys can be housed on one side and 24 girls on the other. Eventually the camp plans two such structures.

Construction will be handled by A.R. Chesson and the cost of the first bunkhouse is estimated at \$700,000. About \$500,000 has been raised so far, and camp director Matt Thomas said financing has been arranged to cover



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A drawing shows the proposed new bunkhouse at Camp Cale from the both directions.

the rest,

The bunkhouse will be the first major improvement since 2013 when a new conference center was completed.

Thomas said the bunkhouse isn't expected to be complete for the start of this year's camping season, but should be finished this summer. Camping season starts in early June. Usually between 360 and 500 children participate each summer.

The bunkhouse will mean Cale can be marketed as a year-round meeting location, Thomas said. Groups and businesses can rent both the bunkhouse and the conference center for meetings and retreats.

The original bunkhouses built in the 1960s and 1970s will remain after the new bunkhouse is complete. They are smaller, sleeping between 20 and 16 campers.



An aerial photo looking down on Camp Cale shows the area where the new bunkhouse will be built. It will be on the other side of the parking lot from where the conference center is located.

Judge: Jackson violated probation

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Hertford town councilman already facing a 10-day jail sentence for resisting a police officer during a traffic stop has been sentenced to more than a year of supervised probation for having a handgun while on probation for an earlier conviction.



JACKSON

Quentin Jackson was found guilty of violating his probation and sentenced to 18 months of supervised probation by Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillet during a hearing in Dare County on Feb. 19.

Jackson was initially sentenced to probation following his conviction in Dare County in 2016 on a charge of accessing a computer without proper authority.

As a condition of that probation, Jackson is not supposed to have a handgun in his possession.

However, during Jackson's trial in Perquimans

See JACKSON, 2

School nutrition program honored

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Schools have been honored for efforts to provide a healthy breakfast to students.

This month HGS was one of nine North Carolina schools recognized for the largest growth in breakfast participation based on data

for the period from October 2016 through October 2017.

The award came from No Kid Hungry North Carolina.

The school system started offering free breakfast to every HGS student last year. In December, the offer was rolled out to the other three schools in the district.

Shirley Pelletier, the director of child nutrition for the district, admits it was a

gamble. The USDA will reimburse the cost of breakfast to schools system if they can get 70 to 75 percent of students to take it.

"Since we started we have trended steadily higher," Pelletier said.

Participation is still only about 30 percent at the high school, but Pelletier said by the time students get there if they aren't used to eating

school food, they are less inclined to do so.

Pelletier is encouraged because the younger students are embracing not only school breakfast, but school lunch.

"We're pleased because we're raising a generation where eating in the cafeteria is a normal thing. By high

See NUTRITION, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hertford Grammar School principal Jason Griffin (right) and nutrition director Shirley Pelletier, attend an awards ceremony in February.

Three file for commission

From Staff Reports

Three candidates had signed up as of Tuesday morning for the three open seats on the Perquimans County Commission.

The deadline to file is noon today.

Chairman Wallace Nelson

and Vice Chairman Fondella Leigh have announced plans to run. Also in the race is Alan Lennon. He filed Friday as a libertarian candidate. Lennon ran unsuccessfully two years ago as a Republican.

Incumbent Ed Muzzulin, 74, announced this week he will not seek another term for health reasons. He's served for two four-year terms.

"I'm little sad about it because I feel I made a differ-

See COMMISSION, 2

PAL planning art-related bus trip

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans Arts League is sponsoring an art-related bus trip on March 13.

The participants this year will attend Kinston, which bills itself as the "art-happening capital of Eastern, NC."

This year PAL has arranged for two pickup sites. Those who live closer to Elizabeth City can board the bus there in the Walmart parking lot at 7:30 a.m. The Hertford group will board in the Perquimans County Recreation Center's parking lot at 8 a.m.

Upon arrival in Kinston the group will first visit the Community Council for the Arts Gallery, which is currently hosting a national, exhibition of juried and judged paintings. Following a tour of this Historic Register building, the participants will have a lunch catered by the Queen Street Deli. After lunch there will be time to go next door to view an entire building refocused to house 25 individual artist studios. Many of the artists will be present to display their work. The group will then re-board the bus to have a docent-led tour of other art installations within the town as well as other commer-

cial shops, restaurants, and historic buildings.

Additional information and applications are available from the Council of the Arts building in Elizabeth City, the PAL Gallery in the Hall of Fame building on Church Street in Hertford or the Chowan Arts Council, South Broad Street in Edenton. Reservations are \$30 for PAL members and \$35 for non-members.

The catered lunch will be an additional fee of \$13, but participants may bring their own brown-bagged lunch and beverage, if they want.

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