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PCMS RUSSIAN FESTIVAL

Sixth graders culminate Russia study

Sixth graders at Perquimans County Middle School ended a study of Russia with a Russian Festival Friday.

Art teacher and Cultural Arts Club advisor Brenda Hollowell put together the program which enhanced the study with lessons on Russian language, music, dance and art.

Students were introduced to the Russian language by Jeri Oltman, Perquimans County librarian. Prior to her career in library science, Oltman taught Russian.

Using an overhead projector, Oltman taught students Russian letters and their sounds. Before her talk with over, students were able to read the Russian words Oltman had projected on the screen in the auditorium.

Director of Choral Music Lynwood Winslow led the group in singing Russian songs. Selected students played bells in rhythm with the music as they might have in a Russian music class.

Hollowell shared a lesson on Russian icons. Students who had already had the opportunity to study, draw and paint icons displayed their work.

Perquimans County High School sophomore Brandy Hollowell talked to the group about ballet, a popular form of dance in Russia, before performing a free-style dance. Hollowell chose the dance she performed in the Miss Indian Summer Festival pageant, during which she earned the crown.

Hollowell has taken dance for 12 years. She has performed with noted professional dance companies and earned numerous awards.

The festival concluded with a reception featuring Russian foods.

The event was part of the schools' efforts to integrate studies across the curriculum. Russia was the topic in social studies classes. The festival was an enrichment opportunity that allowed students to experience first-hand the language, cultural arts and foods of the Russian people.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Brandy Hollowell, a Perquimans County High School sophomore, performed ballet at Perquimans County Middle School Friday during the sixth grade Russian Festival. The festival culminated the study of Russia.

School board hires architect

Boney Architects to design new Winfall school

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

There's an old saying that things come full circle. That adage was given credence last Thursday when the Perquimans County Board of Education hired Boney Architects, a Wilmington firm, to design and oversee construction of a new elementary school in Winfall. Company founder, the late Leslie N. Boney, designed the original structure that still serves at Perquimans County High School.

Boney Architects was hired after the board interviewed representatives of four firms, including HBA Architects, the Virginia Beach firm that designed the renovations at Perquimans Middle School and Perquimans High School.

According to schools superintendent Randall L. Henion, board members were impressed with all four architectural presentations, and discussed which firm to hire for many hours before coming to a decision. The meeting lasted for eight hours.

"The board...worked hard to look at everything," Henion said. "I feel good with the selection the board made."

"They (Boney) know how to stretch dollars and save dollars."

Saving dollars will be crucial to the school district's facilities needs. Replacing Central School is critical, and there are also significant renovations needed at Hertford Grammar School.

Like HBA, Henion said Boney believes in seeking input from the community, students, parents and faculty in the design process. The firm has a good reputation across the state for building, solid, functional, conservative buildings, Henion said.

At both locations, Henion said, the board and administrators will be working to provide for the needs of children with no frills added.

"What's best for children is our baseline," Henion said.

The firm is expected to have a design for the new school ready for final approval by the summer. If all goes well, students could occupy the building in the fall of 1998, Henion said.

The estimated cost of the new school exceeds \$6 million. Henion said Perquimans County's share of the state school bond referendum passed in November is \$4.133 million. There is an additional \$606,000 in land transfer tax which is earmarked for capital improvements. The county

Boards work to keep local taxes down

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County may not have unlimited resources, but according to schools superintendent Randall L. Henion, what the county does have is elected officials and administrators who want to work together to provide for the needs of children.

"The county has been good to the school system," Henion said. "Our commissioners have been so supportive. The county commissioners believe in education and are willing to invest in the future (of our children)."

Both Henion and county manager Paul Gregory said the school board and commissioners had a very positive joint meeting earlier this month to discuss schools capital needs and financing. Members of both bodies were willing to listen and compromise, the administrators said.

The two boards agreed to work closely to secure funding for both Central and Hertford Grammar School projects to allow both to move forward without raising county property taxes.

still needs approximately \$2 million to complete the Central project.

The Hertford Grammar School project is expected to cost around \$2 million.

Henion is looking for additional grant monies, perhaps from small schools funds or other state allocations, to help pay for the projects. He said he will seek every possible dollar to allow the school board to move ahead with projects in both Winfall and Hertford.

The state board will meet in January, and additional capital allocations may be announced at that time, Henion said.

"We're praying and keeping our fingers crossed, hoping to receive additional funds," Henion said.

The new school and renovations at Hertford Grammar will be designed with cost-effectiveness in mind, Henion said. With new and renovated buildings, maintenance costs will drop.

Farm-City banquet set for Jan. 9

The annual Perquimans Farm-City Banquet will be held Thursday, Jan. 9 at Perquimans County High School.

Historically, Farm-City Week and associated events have been held to promote understanding between rural and nonrural citizens across North Carolina.

"In Perquimans County, we take this time to celebrate the accomplishments of our farmers, enjoy the fellowship, and learn more about the world in which we live," said Perquimans County Cooperative Extension Director Lewis Smith.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be Ray Jones Jr. Jones is a humorist from Elizabeth City with many years of business experience in the community.

County corn, soybean and wheat yield awards will be presented during the evening.

The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. with a meal sponsored by various agribusinesses in the county.

To receive your complimentary ticket, stop by the Perquimans County Extension Center on Edenton Road Street. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Make the new year healthy financially

To help consumers know what to expect economically in 1997, some North Carolina State University faculty members have put together this list of tips:

1. Save, save, save, Americans! The economy is so healthy that it's not likely to get better, so you should consistently be squirreling away money that will be harder to save when the economic picture isn't so rosy, says Dr. John S. Lapp, associate professor economics.

"This is the kind of time when the average person should be taking advantage of the opportunity to save," Lapp says. "A consistent savings plan is important."

2. Lapp says that nothing dramatic is likely to happen to inflation and interest rates over the next few months, and that mortgage rates have been dropping recently.

"People who've been delaying getting a mortgage have no reason to delay any longer," Lapp says. "There's nothing happening in the economy to make me think that mortgage rates are going to keep getting lower."

3. Investors should not expect the spectacular returns from stock investments in 1997 that they may have had in the previous two years, cautions Dr. Charles P. Jones, Gill Professor Finance.

"Although a correction is warranted, I don't expect a major downturn in the market," Jones says, "but I think that '97 will be more like an average year." In an average year, Jones adds, there is about a 10 percent rate of

return on stock market investments. 1995's rate was 37 percent, and through early December 1996's rate was about 26 percent - two extraordinary years.

Economic tips for making 1997 a healthy financial year

- Save while the economy's hot
- Don't put off getting a mortgage
- Expect more realistic returns on stock investments
- Look for an increase in income and plan accordingly
- Don't count on a tax break
- Wait for capital gains tax reform

4. Many Americans will be seeing more money in their pay checks in the coming year. "On average, wages will be going up about 3 percent in 1997," says Dr. Michael L. Walden, professor of economics. "Make your plans for borrowing or any major increase in spending based on that fig-

ure."

5. Despite all the campaign talk about a "middle-class tax break," economics professor Dr. David N. Hyman doesn't think there's much chance of Congress enacting a tax cut in 1997.

"With all the pressure to reduce the deficit, I doubt that will be a substantial decrease. But I don't anticipate an increase, either, with all the political pressure they're feeling in Washington," he says.




Unfortunately for taxpayers, Hyman adds, the transfer of fiscal responsibilities from the federal to the state and local levels may mean increases in those taxes.

6. People who are thinking about selling their family homes and moving into something less expensive, or perhaps into rental property, may want to wait a few months to find out if Congress and President Clinton agree to reduce capital gains taxes, advises Dr. Carl J. Messere, professor and department head of accounting.

"Both political parties have talked about reducing the burden of capital gains taxes on people selling their homes," Messere says. "President Clinton has said he wants to eliminate the age limit and to substantially increase the amount of profit that would be excluded from capital gains taxation."

Currently, in order to avoid paying substantial capital gains taxes, someone selling his or her home must be 55 or older, and then only \$125,000 of the capital gains are not taxable.

Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		
High: 50 Low: 30s DRY	High: 50s Low: 30s DRY	High: 40s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY