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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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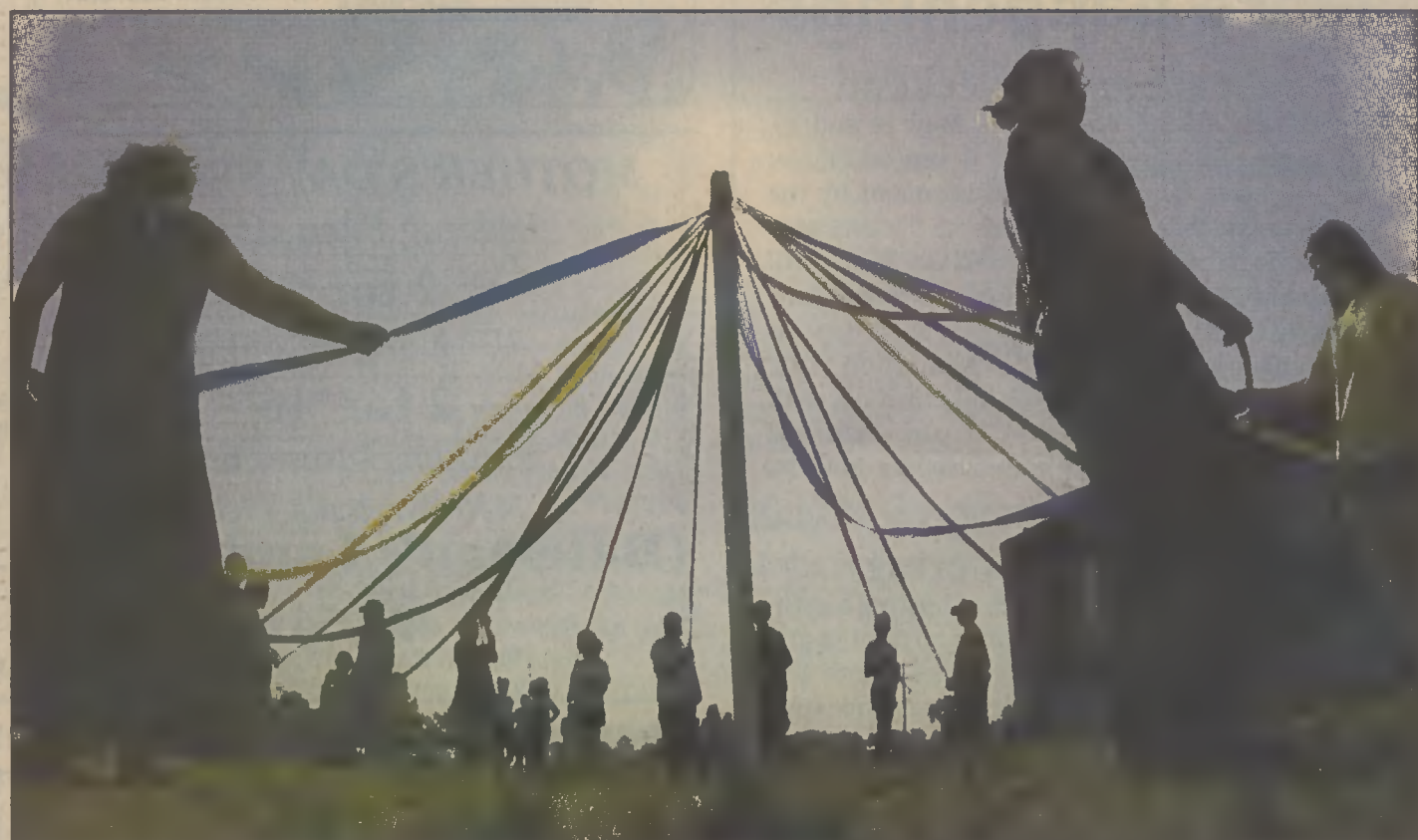
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WRAPPING THE MAY POLE



Sixth graders at Perquimans Middle School weave the bright colored strips that wrap the May pole at the school's annual May Day celebration Saturday. The day featured entertainment, food, games and bargains, all to benefit the school's extended programs to enhance student performance. The event was organized by the school's exploratory teachers.

Volunteers clean up Food Lion parking lot

After four months of trying various avenues to get the litter problem around the Hertford Food Lion shopping center solved, Albemarle Plantation residents Mr. and Mrs. Reg Criffield decided that they would just organize a cleanup campaign themselves. Proper permission was obtained, Hertford Main Street Program Manager was contacted for support, and a date was set.

In the spirit of community improvement and pride 30 volunteers from Albemarle Plantation and the Hertford Main Street Program gathered on Saturday, April 28 to pick up trash around the shopping center on Highway 17. After 2 back-aching hours and lots of good laughs, they had gathered enough debris to fill 64, 55-gallon bags. The outcome was over three full size pick-up truckloads of trash. The group hopes that their efforts set an example and



Volunteers picked up 64 55-gallon bags of trash from the Perquimans Centre parking lot on a recent Saturday morning.

will encourage more trash receptacles and their use in their area.

To everyone's delight, Tommy's Pizza treated the volunteer workers to a slice of cheese pizza and a soda when the job was done.

Anyone interested in future Litter Sweep Cleanup Days, please call Reg Criffield at 426-5727 or Belinda Washlesky, Main Street Program Manger, at 426-1425.



Bio-security key in foot-and-mouth fight, experts say

State taking no chances with livestock disease

CHIP ROMANOVICH
Staff Writer

Although North Carolina may never suffer an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, state and local officials feel America's familiarity with the problem will serve livestock farmers well.

"If we don't get this disease, it's taught us one thing," said Dr. Fred Kirkland, director of field forces with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "Bio-security is the word."

Kirkland was one of four panelists who spoke at a meeting on foot-and-mouth and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ("mad cow disease") Tuesday night at the Chowan Agricultural Center.

The discussion included information about the diseases and bio-security measures livestock producers can take. However, most of the 30 people who attended wanted to know how officials would respond if foot-and-mouth disease reached the area.

Kirkland said the state would take no chances with the highly-contagious disease. "We would close the border," he said. "There would be a two-mile radius. Movement of people within the quarantine area would be restricted. This disease would cripple the animal industry in the country and the state of North Carolina... We're not trying to work hardships on anyone. We're just trying to control this disease."

State legislators recently passed a bill giving the state veterinarian, as well as those in the NCDA and law enforcement, nearly total authority to shut down an affected area.

Kirkland outlined several steps authorities might take in case of an outbreak, including stringent restrictions on travel and animal

movement in an area where foot-and-mouth was discovered.

Machinery would be disinfected and animals euthanized and buried. Then the contaminated areas would have to be cleaned and disinfected before sentinel, or test, animals could be introduced to the farm..

"Foot-and-mouth, does not affect one animal," Kirkland said. "Our goal is if there is an infected area, to have the animal destroyed and in the ground within 24 hours."

Dr. Richard Lichtenwalner, a beef cattle specialist at North Carolina State University, said the disease's spread in Europe is slowing.

"It's hard to control, but there is some control occurring," he said. "There are some countries where it is not occurring that are side-by-side to those that have it. It can be controlled."

There were 1,600 cases of foot-and-mouth in the United Kingdom and Ireland as of Monday, Lichtenwalner said. Because the disease falters in warmer temperatures, and there have been tighter restrictions in Europe, he said the outbreak should slow.

Dr. Morgan Morrow, a specialist on swine at NCSU, believes cattle and other livestock farmers are beginning to take bio-security measures, a staple of the swine industry, more seriously.

"Bio-security is the keys," he said. "The pig industry is petty good about bio-security. The cattle and the sheep people...need to look at the swine people. They don't have (all the bio-security measures)."

Lichtenwalner encouraged farmers to examine their own areas and search out possible points of security weaknesses in their operation.

"I tell people, you have to have a before and after plan," he said. "Before you have to look for the holes on your far. Where am I vulnerable?"

Cole steps down as Eastern District US attorney

History-maker now candidate for chair of 3rd District Dems

From staff reports

Hertford resident Janie McKenzie Cole has resigned as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Cole, who was appointed U.S. attorney by former President Clinton in

February 1994, announced her resignation April 27.

Before her tenure as U.S. attorney, Cole had been the first African-American woman to serve as a district court judge in the 1st Judicial District.

During her years as U.S. attorney, Cole served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee, was a member of the Health Care Fraud Subcommittee, and chaired the Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice.

Under her leadership, cooperation and communication among federal, state and local law enforcement

agencies in the Eastern District - which includes 44 counties - was strengthened through use of the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee.

Cooperation among agencies, Cole believes, is crucial to the successful investigation and prosecution of cases.

Among her accomplishments, Cole is credited for five sites in eastern North Carolina being recognized as Weed and Seed communities by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Weed and Seed initiatives help local communi-

ties develop strategies to reduce crime and develop opportunities and investments.

Weed and Seed sites are found in Raleigh, Greenville, New Bern and Lumberton. These sites have received a total of approximately \$2.7 million in grants from the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

No one has yet been named to fill Cole's position as U.S. Attorney, her husband, District Judge J.C. Cole said when her resignation was announced. John Bruce, who has

served under Cole as chief of the Eastern District's Criminal Division will serve as interim U.S. Attorney until a permanent replacement is named, Judge Cole added.

In announcing her resignation, Cole made no mention of what she plans to do in the future. Recently, however, she attended county Democratic conventions in Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties, and announced she will seek the Democratic Party's 3rd District chairmanship. The 3rd District is made up of 18 counties.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 83
LOW: 60
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 87
LOW: 61
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 82
LOW: 59
MOSTLY CLOUDY