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Pirates prepare for play

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Rogers honored by state

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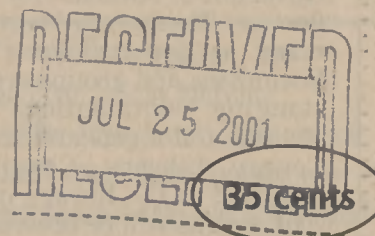
Ft. Bragg hosts youth camp

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Summer Academy closes at PCMS

All students promoted to next grade

SUSAN R. HARRIS

About 50 middle school students just got out of school Friday.

The students each chose to participate in the school's second Summer Academy. Some attended to get extra help so they could pass a course failed during the school year or test high enough to reach promotion standards on end-of-grade tests. Others passed both their classes and the tests, but still realized the need to get a little extra help to be better prepared for the upcoming school year.

Principal Anne White said the Academy followed a two-week remediation period offered by all of the county schools to give students a chance to polish skills and pass state tests. Some students passed their tests after the two-week session and chose not to attend the four-week Summer Academy.

While the summer program was not mandatory, it was open to all students and attendance leading to successful test completion was the only way for students who did not test proficient on the initial state tests to be promoted, White said.

White said that the middle school offers several ways for students who are not performing up to grade level to get extra help during their three years there. The SOS After-School

Program has a remediation component and is open to all students four afternoons most weeks during the school year. There are also Saturday Academies which help students with core subjects on selected weekends. Also, help is available on the remediation days built into the school calendar. Finally, the Summer Academy was begun last year as yet another means to help students perform at grade level.

Seventh grade teacher Pamela Griffin was the Summer Academy coordinator. She was out of town this week, so White said she did not have access to Griffin's final Academy numbers. She speculated, however, that at least three-fourths of the students enrolled in the Summer Academy were there in order to be promoted. All of those who did need the session in order to pass did achieve high enough test scores to earn promotion. Students attended school Monday-Thursday for four weeks.

The Academy focused on reading, math, goal setting and character traits. Each student had two math and three reading sessions before lunch. In the afternoon students participated in band, goal-setting, computers and physical education. Many of the students did not participate in band during the school year, so got an opportunity to appreciate music. They were also taught the fundamentals of volleyball and basketball. The learned to get information using the computer. Goal-setting and



Students experienced a variety of learning opportunities during Summer Academy, including table etiquette which was used during a lunch aboard the Spirit of Norfolk, and music, taught by Director of Instrumental Music David Ziemba.



taking steps to reach those goals was learned through information provided by the Extension Service.

In addition, students learned water safety and got to ride in sail and motor

boats with members of the Osprey Yacht Club of Albemarle Plantation. The visited the planetarium at Elizabeth City State University, and practiced etiquette skills taught by former teacher and county

commissioner Evelyn Stubbins during a luncheon aboard the Spirit of Norfolk.

The Academy culminated with an Exit Program and luncheon last Thursday.

Hertford woman killed in wreck

SEAN JACKSON
 The Daily Advance

A Hertford woman was killed July 18 in Chowan County when her car crossed the center line and collided head-on with an oncoming vehicle.

Judith Sauer Gibson, 63, of 1 Little Circle, died from injuries sustained in the accident that occurred at 1:25 p.m. on N.C. Highway 32 about 8 miles north of Edenton.

According to the report of N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper C.T. Griffin, Gibson was traveling south in a 1998 GMC automobile when she ran into a 1998 International 18-wheel truck driven by Milford Randolph Rhodes, 53, of Williamston.

Gibson reportedly had lost control of her vehicle, crossed the center line, swerved to avoid another north-bound vehicle, and slammed into Rodgers' truck. Gibson's car spun around and hit the truck's fuel tank and axle. However, there was no fuel leak, according to Faye Gray, a spokeswoman for the Highway Patrol.

Gibson was pronounced dead at Chowan Hospital.

Griffin's report said Rodgers suffered minor injuries, but was not transported to a hospital. His truck sustained \$22,000 in damage. Gibson's car had \$28,000 worth of damage.

Neither vehicle was exceeding the speed limit at the time of the accident. No charges were filed against Rodgers.

Edenton vets reprimanded following death of rottweiler

MARIEL BETANCOURT
 The Daily Advance

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board reprimanded two Edenton veterinarians following the death of a 5-year-old male rottweiler.

On June 7, the veterinary board reprimanded both Timothy L. Jones and R. Christian Ford, both of Chowan Animal Hospital, because the two failed to adequately treat the rottweiler's serious infection, and because they also failed to complete blood work requested by the dog's owner.

According to the veterinary board's letter, the two violated a state law outlawing "incompetence, gross negligence, or other malpractice in the practice of veterinary medicine." The letter of reprimand will remain in their records, but no further disciplinary action will be taken by the state. Neither doctor refused the reprimand or requested a hearing after it was issued.

The reprimand follows a Dec. 4 complaint from Judy Wilder of Perquimans County, whose dog Booger died Aug. 8 after a neutering procedure performed at Chowan Animal Hospital

Jones and Ford did not perform a pre-anesthetic exam prior to the neutering, as Wilder requested.

The dog developed a serious condition following surgery, which could have been prevented had the doctors performed the pre-anesthetic exam, Wilder wrote the veterinary board. The exam could have shown the dog had a serious condition that would be aggravated by surgery, Wilder said.

"Dr. Jones and Dr. Ford are misrepresenting themselves when they encourage clients to sign consent forms in order to check for pre-existing conditions before surgery, yet do not follow through with the pre-testing," Wilder wrote. "... I feel Booger died a premature death due to gross neglect and unethical practices."

Wilder's dog died 11 days after the neutering, and before his death Wilder said she and the doctors observed he suffered pain, stopped eating, vomited, lost use of his legs, had labored breathing, urinated on himself and developed a blood sugar level of 285 — almost triple that of a normal dog.

Though she took Booger to Chowan Animal Hospital several times dur-

ing his illness, doctors sent him home each time after treating him with medication and fluids. Jones examined Booger 45 minutes prior to his death, and sent him home with Wilder.

In a Dec. 11 letter, he told the veterinary board: "I did not think the dog was in danger of dying."

Now Wilder — who has taken her dogs to Jones' clinic for more than 20 years — said she wishes she'd sought other care during Booger's illness.

"It's been a devastating thing for my family — especially me," Wilder said during an interview. "I trusted in (Jones) so much. ... I don't think he did anything to kill my dog, but I feel like he had to know how sick he was and what direction he was going in. He needed more attention than they had given him."

In his Dec. 11 letter to the veterinary board, Ford said an underlying condition not identified prior to surgery, when combined with the stress of surgery, may have caused the dog's death.

"The decision to perform (pre-anesthetic) tests are at the discretion of the doctor administering anesthesia," Ford said.

The form Wilder signed the day of Booger's surgery

may have misrepresented the hospital's policy on pre-anesthetic exams, Jones said during an interview.

"We have changed the form," Jones said. "It's worded better. ... We made some mistakes, no doubt about it."

The form Wilder signed authorizing a pre-anesthetic exam stated Chowan Animal Hospital "will perform these tests and bill you for them unless you decline them by signing below." Wilder checked two boxes, one reading "Yes, complete blood count, blood urea nitrogen (kidney function), SGPT 34 (liver function), total protein and glucose" and another reading, "I approve the pre-anesthetic testing." She signed and dated the form.

Ford and Jones said they could not perform the pre-anesthetic exam as requested because the dog became aggressive.

"He's a big dog," Jones said. "He's a rottweiler, and he's male and he can be aggressive. ... You have to give him sedatives to quiet him down and handle him without putting people at risk."

Also, because Booger was a regular patient, the two doctors felt certain he had no pre-existing condi-

tions, Jones said. Jones chose to anesthetize and then neuter him.

Once a dog is sedated, a pre-anesthetic exam can't be completed, said veterinarian Steven Stelma, a member of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association.

Stelma said he, too, has faced the difficult decision of whether to operate without a pre-anesthetic exam or call an aggressive dog's owner and perhaps reschedule the surgery.

"You just don't know what to do," Stelma said from his clinic in New Bern. "I've had to say, let's go ahead with the surgery and hope it's safe. ... You're in a no-win situation as a vet. It's a tough call."

At Stelma's clinic, a death relating to surgery has not occurred since Oct. 1999, which Stelma said equals one death per more than 5,000 procedures. Sometimes, even following a favorable pre-anesthetic exam, dogs can die during or after surgery, he said.

"Even if (Jones and Ford) had done the testing, it's possible it wouldn't have revealed a problem," Stelma said.

"Unfortunately, bad things can happen even if everybody does everything exactly right."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 87
 Low: 72
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
 High: 84
 Low: 72
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
 High: 86
 Low: 71
 PARTLY CLOUDY