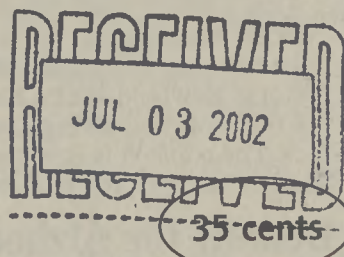


PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Edenton Steamers will
raise funds for
Catfish Hunter ALS Foundation
Friday night
Pages 6, 7 and 8

July 3, 2002

Vol. 70, No. 27 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

Block schedule adopted at PCHS

S. BRADY CALHOUN
The Daily Advance

Starting this fall Perquimans County High School students will have to take more classes to graduate, but officials say the extra work will help prepare them for college careers.

The school is moving to a block schedule with students taking eight 90-minute classes a year — four in the fall semester and four in the spring semester. Previously, students took six, 55-minute classes a year.

Officials say the new schedule allows students to take more classes and a greater variety of classes.

"They'll be able to take more electives and more classes," said PCHS principal Dwayne Stallings. "It gives them more opportunities."

Previously, over four years, students took 24 courses. Now, they will take 32 courses.

With the block schedule, students will also be required to pass more classes — 28 — to graduate. Under the old system, they were required to pass 20 courses.

Despite what officials see as its long-term benefits, block scheduling is not a cure-all for the school, officials said.

"Changing schedules is not going to instantly make you a better high school," said Perquimans Superintendent Ken Wells. "It will not improve attendance or test scores or SAT scores."

The new schedule will, however, make college-bound students more competitive with incoming college freshmen nationwide. For students on a college track curriculum, 24 possible classes is not enough to give them the basics to graduate plus college level courses, Stallings said.

The hardest part of the transition will be switching from a 55-minute class period to a 90-minute class period, Stallings said, adding that it will be up to the teachers to keep students learning and interested.

"The teachers will have to break up the time and differentiate things," he said.

School officials are currently meeting with parents and students to explain, as well as answer questions and solve problems created by the new schedule.

"By the time school starts, everybody should have a good idea what's going on," Stallings said.

The school board, also, is preparing for the change, updating policies to reflect the new academic requirements of the block schedule.

SUMMER ON THE RIVER

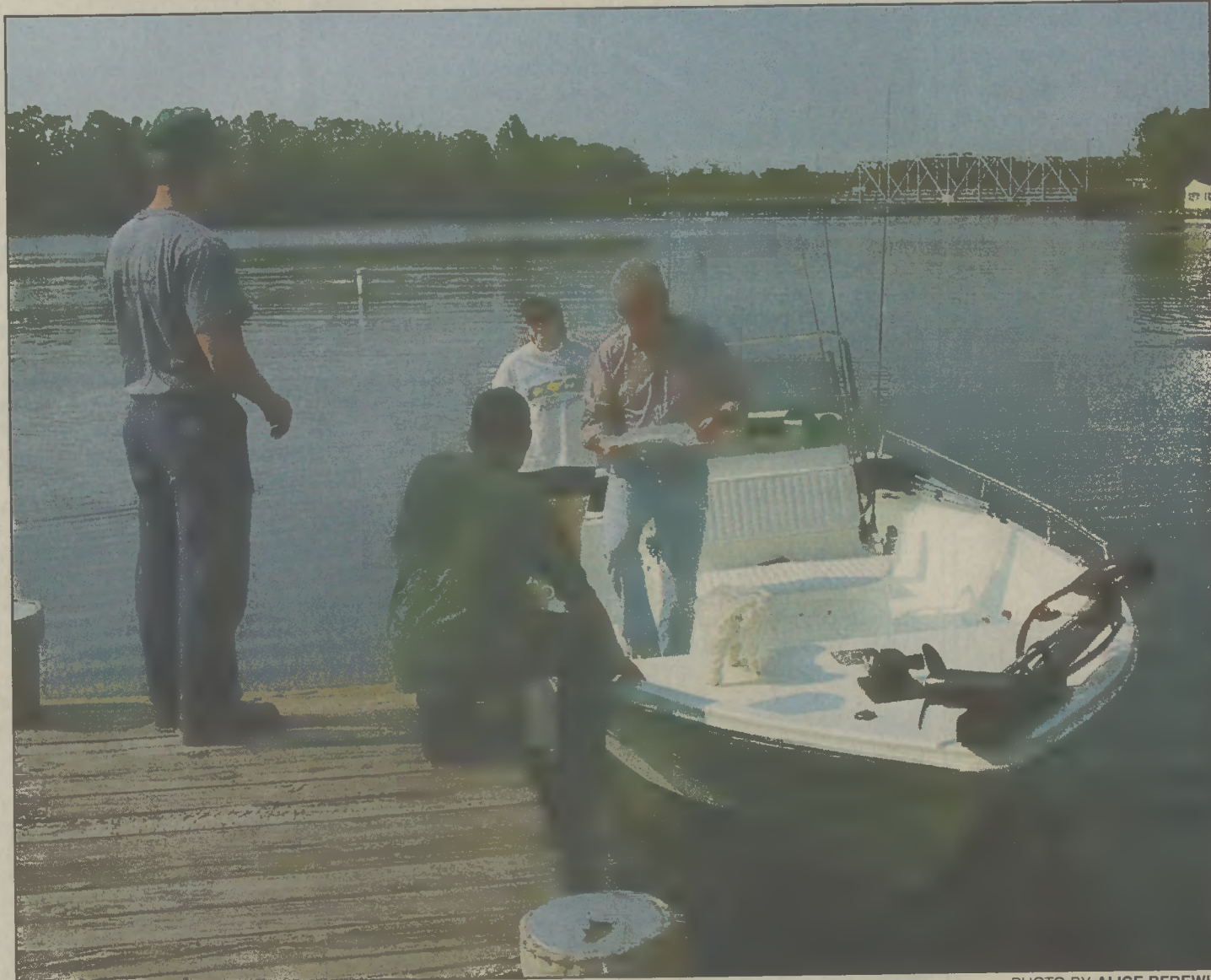


PHOTO BY ALICE BFREWIN

Bobby Murdock and his wife, Betty, enjoy their new boat on the waters of the Perquimans River. Wayne Bass and Richard Bass talk with the couple as they near the dock at Missing Mill Park Monday.

Picnic in the Park set for Thursday

Fireworks will explode at 9

Music, games, food and fireworks will highlight Picnic in the Park set for Thursday beginning at noon.

The Historic Hertford Business Association has organized a day of family fun at Missing Mill Park to celebrate the nation's birthday.

"We've got a lot going on," said Mary White with the HHBA. "I hope the weather will be with us and everybody will come out and enjoy the day."

Festival rides will be a part of this year's event, White said. Due to the popularity of the Super Slide, Sea of Balls and other activities at the Indian Summer Festival, the company that brought them to Hertford will be back for the 4th of July. There will be a charge for the rides.

Party Rentals will offer more activities for children.

Other groups will sell novelties, T-shirts and other items at the park. There will also be information and education booths, including one by the state champion Perquimans Hunter Safety Team.

The day will also feature festival foods, including pizza, burgers, cold drinks, cotton candy and snow cones.

Loose Change is set to perform from 5-9 p.m.

Picnic in the Park will end with a spectacular fireworks display over the river at 9. The fireworks are sponsored by American Legion Post 126. The Hertford Fire Department will be on hand to help maintain a safe shooting environment.

Those attending the day in the park may want to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

To volunteer to help with Picnic in the Park, call 426-2021.

Donations to the fireworks fund may be made in most downtown businesses.

UP ON THE ROOF



PHOTO BY ALICE BFREWIN

Employees of William Bembridge Roofing feel the effects of the summer's sun and humidity on top of Gregory's in downtown Hertford. Health officials say that those who work outside should remember to drink plenty of fluids and protect the skin from the sun's damaging rays.

Friday is ALS night at Edenton Steamers game

Perquimans County's favorite son will be remembered Friday when the Edenton Steamers host Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Night at historic Hicks Field.

A portion of the proceeds from the game will be donated to the Foundation.

The Steamers will take on the Outer Banks Daredevils at 7 p.m. Gates

will open at 6 p.m. Admission is \$4, \$3 for children and senior citizens.

Hunter's family will be on hand for the evening. Hunter's older son, Todd, is the Steamers' general manager.

ALS Foundation sports-wear will be available during the game.

Find out more about ALS on pages 6, 7 and 8.

Law enforcement gearing up for 4th

SUSAN R. HARRIS

County law enforcement officials and emergency units are gearing up for the 4th of July.

Both Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy and Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley have the same message for those who choose to have alcohol at their celebrations: Don't drink and drive.

Vanscoy said those who gather at Missing Mill Park for Picnic in the Park and the fireworks should remember that it is illegal to have alcohol in the park. "Anybody caught with alcohol will be cited and asked to leave the park," Vanscoy said.

While it is legal to shoot the fireworks in the park because the American Legion Post 126 has a permit and certified shooters, Vanscoy also said that other pyrotechnics are not legal. Anything that explodes is illegal. Sparklers and other children's toys may be used legally, but bottle rockets, firecrackers and other devices are against the law in the park. Vanscoy said children should be supervised by adults when using sparklers or other toys.

The chief also reminded people that there is a curfew for youth 16 and under in the town of Hertford. Youth may not be on the streets without an adult Sunday—Thursday after 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday after midnight.

A member of the water rescue team, Vanscoy is concerned, too, about holiday safety on the county's numerous waterways.

Those who plan to enjoy boating, jet skiing and swimming on the 4th should remember that it is dangerous to be on the water after consuming alcohol. Boaters and jet skiers should remember to follow all marine ordinances, including wearing life preservers.

Statewide, law enforcement officers will focus increased attention on those driving while impaired through the Booze It & Lose It campaign. Special attention will be paid to drivers in those cities with high driving while impaired crash rates.

"We have a special message for this campaign, and a special warning for drunk drivers in cities with unacceptably high DWI crash rates," said Don Nail, acting director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "We know where the problems are, and we are taking new and determined steps to stop drug- and alcohol-impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel."

Nags Head, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills are among the 15 cities with populations of less than 10,000 with the highest crash rates, based on an examination of crash data from 1999—2001. During the same three-year period, the number of DWI crashes statewide involving Latino motorists and under-age consumers increased dramatically.

DWI checkpoints and stepped up patrols will be held throughout the state through July 14.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 95
LOW: 72
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 93
LOW: 68
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 86
LOW: 66
PARTLY CLOUDY