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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## PCHS raises test scores

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County High School is listed as a School of Progress based on the official ABCs test scores for last school year.

PCHS students demonstrated the most growth in math and science. In Algebra I and Algebra II, the number of students demonstrating proficiency increased by 4.5 percent, while students enrolled in geometry increased by 16.2 percent. Students enrolled in biology, chemistry and physical science combined for an increased student proficiency of 36.8 percent.

Students exceeded their expected growth, performing well enough to meet high growth status. High growth factors in 10 percent above the statewide average growth in the formula and is used in conjunction with the performance standard to identify schools that qualify for recognition and assistance.

Test scores rose at the high school in eight of 10 test areas. The only scores to drop were physics and U.S. History. Low numbers of students taking physics causes the proficiency average to swing significantly each year. Over the four years of physics testing, scores have gone from 44.4 percent to 75 percent to 50 percent and then last year's 33.3 percent.

U.S. History was at 45.5

percent in 1997/98 and has fluctuated to a low of 31.7 percent in 1990/00 to a high of 54.3 percent in 2000/01. Last year's score was 40.2 percent.

"Quality educators and superb students are among the reasons our school is doing so well," said high school principal Dwayne Stallings. "Teachers are working like never before to put our children and their education first."

Stallings said the school has used a number of strategies to raise test scores, including meetings with parents and students prior to school opening the past two years, after-school programs, a transition program for ninth graders, technology, progress reports, newsletters, personal contact with parents, a PTSA and setting high expectations for students.

"It's important to get the parents involved and to get the community involved," Stallings said. "We're trying to do a combination of things to reach everyone."

Stallings said for the past two years he and assistant principals Tim Aydt and Alonza Joyner have scheduled meetings with each student and a parent prior to the start of school. During this time, the administrators are able to go over criteria for graduation and moving from one grade level to the next.

See Scores, page 8

## Junk cars crunched

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County has sent 159 junk vehicles to used car heaven over the past two years.

The vehicle removal is part of a clean-up project in Perquimans, Chowan and Gates counties. Originally, the goal of the effort was to use grant funds to rid the counties of unsightly and unhealthy junk vehicles that owners voluntarily agreed to recycle. The initial goal was to remove 230 vehicles in the tri-county area.

Now, according to Anne Blindt, Recycling Coordinator with Chowan/Gates/Perquimans Solid Waste Management, the goal has doubled. Each county should be able to tow at least 200 vehicles and maybe more.

The project budget, she said, is healthy, due in part to local funding. The original budget was set at \$30,493, all reimbursable through the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, with just over \$20,000 reimbursed as of June 30. The project received additional local cash assistance of just under \$20,000 to make a total budget of \$50,078 over three fiscal years. There is about \$25,000 available for fiscal year 2003.

The project has not been without its surprises.

"In a surprise move, after Chowan County inspectors tagged four vehicles, they disappeared," Blindt said. "An unknown towing company that misrepresented itself to the property owner as the 'company that the county hired' took two vans. The owner of two other vehicles removed them from a yard after he apparently saw the removal stickers on them."

USA Recycling from Roanoke Rapids crushed several more loads of vehicles earlier this summer. The company can crush larger than average vehicles, so project coordinators are trying to get a few larger vehicles towed. At least one school bus has been taken in, and plans to tow the track of a tractor-trailer rig abandoned in Gates County are in place.

Building Inspector Zeke Jackson is the Perquimans County contact for the vehicle recycling project. Jackson said that once the project runs out of funds, owners of property upon which junk vehicles are located could be cited for violating a county ordinance and required to pay for removal of the vehicles.

Anyone wishing to recycle a vehicle should contact Jackson in Perquimans County (426-8283), Ron McDougald in Gates County (357-1380), and Mason Tiller or Chad Sary in Chowan County (482-5618).

## FESTIVAL DAY IN PERQUIMANS



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Members of Perquimans Heritage, Inc. spent Saturday ferrying festival-goers between Municipal Park in Hertford and Winfall Landing Park. Here, a boat prepares to dock in Winfall. For more festival photographs, see page 2

## Festivals are big success

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
and  
ALICE BREWIN

Perquimans County took to the streets Saturday for the annual Indian Summer and Hearth & Harvest festivals.

Hundreds of people flocked to venues in downtown Hertford, Hertford Municipal Park, Missing Mill Park, the Newbold-White House and Winfall Landing Park for shopping, food, entertainment, games and fun.

"All in all, I thought it was great," said Indian Summer Festival co-chair Mary White. "It was not very good with the vendors, probably due in part to the economy. It didn't seem like a lot of people were buying. Food sales, snow cones, face painting and games went well, but vendor purchases were down."

Rain fell in some areas of the county, even in the west section of Hertford, during the day, but the festival venues stayed dry until just after 5 p.m.

"I think that the Atlantic Fleet Band was fabulous," White said. "It made me proud to be an American. It was absolutely wonderful. I'm really sorry Rockin' Willie got rained out. As soon as he started, it started raining. I thought all the entertainment was great. The talent contest (at Missing Mill Park) was really, really good. And Winfall looked smashing. They did a good job for their first year. The boat rides were a hit."

The talent contest and diversity sing at Missing Mill Park drew good numbers and featured loads of local talent.

Michelle Rogers of Hertford won first place; Holly Winslow of Tyner,

second; and Amy Williams of Edenton, third. Honorable mention went to the youngest contestants, Jessica Reynolds and Crystal Pulley, both 9, and both of Hertford.

"I was overwhelmed with the wonderful talent that participated as I'm sure many were," said show organizer Connie Townsend of A&D Neon.

Judges were singer and songwriter J.B. Rudd of Edenton, Crossroads Music owner and local musician Edgar Lane, and singer and musician Phil Patrick of Edenton. Don Evans of Backroads Karaoke provided all equipment and devoted his day to the contest and talent show. Evans also set up his equipment for several group practices and allowed contestants to use equipment at his home for individual rehearsals.

See Festival, page 8

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



PHOTO BY ALICE BREWIN

Albemarle Woodmen Lodge 463 dedicated a new flag pole and flag in honor and remembrance of American heroes last Wednesday at the Albemarle Commission Building. The ceremony was held on Sept. 11, designated by President George Bush as Patriot Day to honor and remember those whose lives were so greatly impacted by the terrorist attacks one year earlier.

Local emergency, law enforcement, veterans and members of the military took part in the program.

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Beau Stough commemorated the event with his bugle playing.

Rev. Kenneth McNeill of Hertford Baptist Church led the prayer.

About seventy-five people turned out for the event.

Observances were also held at each of the schools.

## Hertford Food Lion recalls produce

ALICE BREWIN  
Staff Writer

Food Lion in Hertford is voluntarily recalling some fruits and vegetables that were sold between 10 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15 through 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 16.

The produce being recalled includes red plums, nectarines, seeded red grapes and three pound bags of yellow onions.

According to Ruth Kinzey, Food Lion Director of Corporate Communications, an associate at the Hertford store used pesticide on the floor in the produce area. This pesticide application is against company policy.

"It is company policy not to use pesticides in the produce area," Kinzey said. "The type of pesticide used was basically an off-the-counter, non-commercial type ... basically the kind you would use in your home."

Kinzey also noted that Food Lion was being very cautious. None of the produce near the area where the pesticide was sprayed has actually been tested, but the slightest possibility of contamination was enough for Food Lion to issue the recall.

When asked about the possible side effects from contamination, Kinzey stated, "We are not even sure that any contamination occurred. Proper washing of the fruit would handle whatever it was. That's (proper washing) always important."

An investigation by corporate officials from Food Lion is underway.

Since the time period in which the affected produce was available was relatively short and within off-peak hours, the store does not expect many returns or affected customers.

Customers who purchased these items should return them to the store for a full refund.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 82  
Low: 71  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 85  
Low: 69  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 83  
Low: 67  
ISOLATED T'STORMS