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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

New rec center almost complete

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It stayed in the planning stages for about three years, and soon the county's recreation/community center will open its doors to residents.

Located on the Perquimans River in the county's commerce centre on Harvey Point Road, the facility includes a gymnasium/community center, large meeting room, offices and storage for the recreation department, a lighted soccer field, a lighted Babe Ruth Baseball field and large parking area.

"It's impressive," said County Manager Paul Gregory. "I'm proud of it. It's going to be a super-nice facility."

The recreation staff may move into the offices earlier, but the center will not be ready for full use until late fall or early winter, Gregory said. That's because it will not be hooked up to the town of Hertford's sewer system until that time.

Engineering work on the wastewater collection project was not completed early in the building process, and therefore, the center is not ready to be used by the public.

However, Gregory said the engineering work has now been done and the state has approved the plans, which will allow for temporary wastewater collection at the site.

The county has applied for a \$250,000 grant from the Rural Center to fund extending water and sewer lines from the pump station in the commerce park to the center.

The facility was constructed with \$250,000 in grant funds, \$500,000 the county saved for the project and \$750,000 borrowed for five years, Gregory said.

By January, county officials hope the building will be ready for full use. It will be available for rent when not scheduled for county and recreation activities. The only stipulations will be that no high-heeled shoes can be worn on the gym floor and no alcohol may be served.

Gregory said it will be a nice facility for wedding receptions and other functions as there are indoor and outdoor areas which overlook the river.

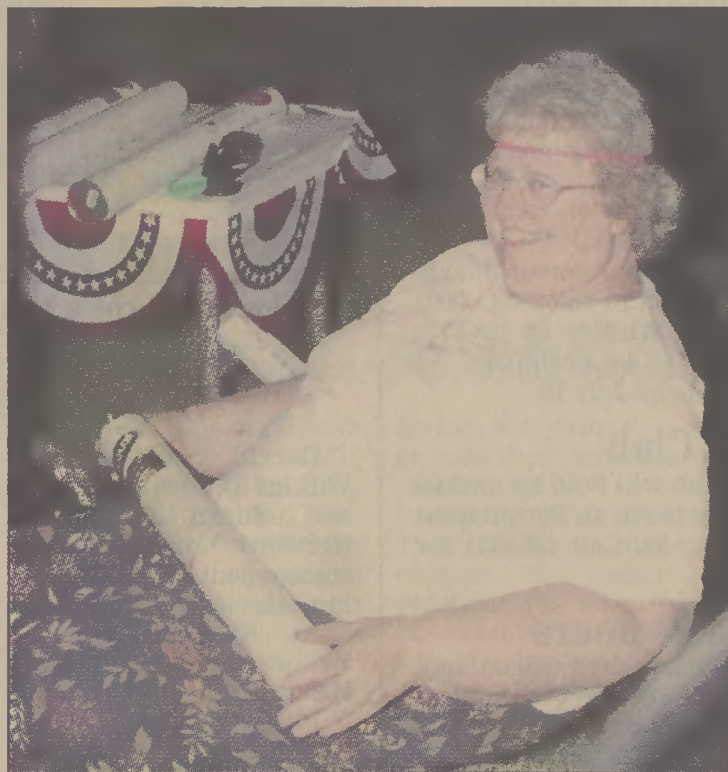
The recreation complex is phase I of what the county hopes is a two-three phase program.

Phase II will include a ViQuest cardiovascular center featuring a pool and exercise equipment which will be available to the public for a fee.

It will also include an extension to the existing building in which COA will operate classrooms.

It has not been decided whether a par-three golf course will be a part of phase II or phase III.

FESTIVE FOURTH



Families from across Perquimans gathered at Missing Mill Park Friday night for a hometown 4th of July, complete with food, novelties, music and of course, fireworks. Children of all ages lined up to buy glow-in-the-dark necklaces and other novelties (top left). Even those with youthful hearts, like Mary Hunnicutt (top right) donned the glowing plastic 4th favorites. As soon as the night sky turned dark, the fireworks show, sponsored by the American Legion, lit up the sky over the river. The show was shot by local volunteers with the Hertford Fire Department on hand as a safety precaution. Some couples sang along, clapped their hands and even danced (bottom right) to the tunes of Loose Change. The festivities were organized by the Historic Hertford Business Association.



EARLY MORNING FIRE



Stacy Jethro Jones snapped this photo of Bethel firefighters battling a garage fire on Holly Street in the Snug Harbor community during the wee hours of Saturday morning. The garage was a total loss, but her neighbors were able to move a truck backed up to the garage, but not before the tail lights and bedliner melted.

Locals get break paying estimated taxes

New laws put more money in personal pockets

Self-employed persons, investors, and others who make estimated tax payments started benefiting from the lower tax rates and other changes made by the new tax law when they made their second quarterly payments. By using the new provisions to refigure their projected 2003 income tax, many will be able to reduce their payments for the rest of the year.

The IRS Web site has an overview of key changes to be considered, the new tax rate schedules to be used and worksheets in Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax, for computing special items. Go to www.irs.gov/newsroom, click on "What's Hot" and then the estimated tax article.

For many, the biggest impact on quarterly payments will come from lower tax rates.

The maximum rate is 15 percent for qualified dividends for 2003 and for net capital gain on sales and installment sale payments received after May 5. But a 5 percent rate applies to gains or dividends that would have otherwise been taxed at a regular rate of 10 or 15 percent. (There are no changes in the special rates for unrecaptured section 1250 gain, collectibles gain, or section 1202 gain.)

In addition to the tax rates, other key changes include higher standard deductions, alternative minimum exemptions, business expense deductions and depreciation.

Some taxpayers also saw a slight increase in paychecks in June due to the new federal tax cuts.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 90
Low: 76
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
High: 89
Low: 72
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 90
Low: 72
ISOLATED T'STORMS

Please note:
Our email addresses
have changed.
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