

The official 2003
Indian Summer and
Hearth & Harvest
program is in this
newspaper

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THE
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WEEKLY

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P.E. has new meaning at PCHS

Lassiter
concentrates
on making
students
accountable

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Students at Perquimans High should take healthful living class, which is basic health and physical education, as seriously as they take math and English.

Failure to dress out for physical education and participate in the classroom in health could lead to a failing grade in healthful living, which is required by the state for graduation. And failing healthful living has taken on new consequences at PCHS.

Principal Hans Lassiter sent letters home last week with students stating that school officials are concerned because of the number of students not dressing out for physical education or participating in health class. He outlined a new policy that could have negative consequences for students over their four years in high school.

"If, in the event you/your child fails health and physical education due to non-participation, you/your child will not be allowed to take health and physical education again until their senior (12th grade) year," Lassiter wrote in the letter addressed to students and parents. "This class is a requirement for graduation, so successful completion of it is expected!"

Because healthful living is required before students can take other health and physical education classes such as advanced physical education, weight training and strength training, students who fail healthful living because of non-participation and have to take it again in their senior year could not take the advanced classes.

Students with a physical malady such as a broken bone, students for whom dressing out in gym clothes violates a religious belief, and students who are physically ill and can be made worse by participating in physical education may be exempt from some components of the policy.

Failure to cooperate in healthful living is not the only concern Lassiter has about the school. Students arriving at school too early, lack of parental involvement, punctuality, responsibility, literacy, race relations safety, and respect for others and for facilities are also on Lassiter's mind these days.

Lassiter said students should not be dropped off until about 7:30 in the morning to ensure that sufficient staff is on site to provide a safe environment.

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D'FEETING ALS



Over 250 pairs of feet strolled through Hertford Saturday morning for the fourth annual Walk to D'Feet ALS, which benefitted the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation. Among the participants was George Wallace (above in foreground in motorized chair), an ALS patient from Virginia. Walking with Helen Hunter (right, second from right), widow of Jim "Catfish" Hunter and a member of the board of directors of the Foundation, were (left) board member Tommy Harrell and his wife Sherry, who helped organize the Foundation and the walk, and Mae Carr. Helen Hunter said almost \$32,000 has been turned in from the walk to date and funds continue to be received. Superior Water Systems donated water for the walkers and Albemarle Plantation provided a golf cart. Hunter said the rescue squad, local law enforcement and Perquimans County Schools helped with the event.



Hertford gets \$400K water grant

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Town of Hertford received notification of a \$400,000 water grant from the Rural Economic Development Center last week.

The funds are to drill a new well in order to provide service to the Perquimans County Commerce Centre, upgrade the water treatment plant, construct a new 500,000 gallon water tank, clean and paint the existing 500,000 gallon water tank, and demolish the existing 100,000 gallon tank.

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley said N.C. Senator Marc Basnight was a great help in getting the grant approved. Rolf Blizzard, the Director of Special Projects and Research in Basnight's office worked with the town on the grant.

Hertford was one of 64 communities across the state to receive a share of almost \$20 million in Rural Center grants. The funds are from the Clean Water Bond and will be used for water and wastewater system improvements.

"As rural North Carolina endures unsettling economic times, we've got to make sure we protect the foundation of our rural communities so they can build new opportunities for the future," said Rural Center President Billy Ray Hall. "That means ensuring they have plentiful, clean water."

Hertford's grant was funded under the supplemental grant category, from which 31 of the grants, totalling \$9.8 million were funded. Supplemental grants serve as matching grants for funds from other sources and may be used only after the other funds have been expended.

The Rural Center is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to develop sound economic strategies that improve the quality of life in rural North Carolina.

Saturday is festivals day in Perquimans

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Saturday will bring something for everyone in Perquimans, when the annual Indian Summer and Hearth & Harvest festivals will be in full swing.

Indian Summer activities get underway at 9 a.m. at both Missing Mill and Winfall Landing parks, while the day begins at the Newbold-White House for Hearth & Harvest at 10 o'clock.

The festival finale is set for 6 p.m. at Missing Mill Park when the Atlantic Fleet Band will perform. The military musicians and vocalists wowed festival-goers last year, and are back by popular demand.

Fireworks, a first for the festival, will burst during the band's final set.

Entertainment, games, vendors offering a variety of merchandise and information, and food will be available at both parks all day.

Travel between the parks will be simple for those



Dental assistant Kim Harris gets a quick, painless dental impression from Holly Rogerson with the use of Toothprints, a dental identification system for safeguarding children. The impression is kept by parents, and provides an impression, DNA and a scent should they ever be needed. Jack Boone, D.D.S. donated the Toothprints kits to the local SPCA. Impressions will be taken at the Indian Summer Festival for a tax-deductible \$5 donation to the SPCA.

who like the river. Water taxis will ferry folks from one park to the other for

only \$1 per ride all day.

There will also be shuttles between the two parks,

the Newbold-White House, downtown and several park-and-ride lots.

At the Newbold-White House, Perquimans County's history will be highlighted with 18th century crafts, entertainment, activities and food. Lunch, which will be available for sale, will include Brunswick stew, apples and hoe cakes cooked over an open hearth.

Festival organizers remind those who plan to attend events that bikes, skate boards, roller blades or animals — even those on leashes — are not allowed in the parks. All park rules must also be observed.

Mark Saturday on your calendar, bring your lawn chair, and plan to spend a day taking in the sights and sounds of Perquimans County's "festival day."

For complete details on the festivals, including an entertainment schedule, vendor information and parking, please see the festival booklet inserted in this newspaper.

Duke concerned about bridge on Hwy. 37 in Winfall

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Lucky Duke is worried that someone will be unlucky.

The Holiday Island resident, who is a truck driver, is concerned that the small bridge near the county softball fields in Winfall will be the site of an accident. It is not wide enough, Duke said, for two large vehicles to safety pass.

Duke's main concern is that school buses and trucks share the road in the morning and afternoons, and that someone unfamiliar with the bridge's width may not yield as he does when he meets another wide vehicle on the bridge.

"It's really dangerous," Duke said. "It's just not wide enough for large vehicles to pass."

"A lot of children travel

that road and something needs to be done about it."

Duke could not attend last week's county commissioners' meeting, but did have someone attend and bring the issue to the board on his behalf.

In addition, Duke has made calls to Senator Marc Basnight, Representative Bill Culpepper and Gov. Mike Easley about his concerns.

At present, he is encouraging local residents to pay special attention to their driving while approaching the bridge, and to call, write or email government and transportation officials with their concerns.

Duke assisted with a petition drive in Holiday Island requesting that the state take over roads there, and said he may initiate one for the Hwy. 37 bridge.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 79
Low: 63
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 81
Low: 68
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 85
Low: 68
SCATTERED SHOWERS