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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Schools in line for \$11 million loan

### PCHS will get new gym if funded

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County High School may get the facelift school board members have been planning for over the past several years. Superintendent Kenneth Wells told school board members Monday night

that the county is in line to get up to \$12.5 million in loan funds from USDA Rural Development, which will fund a new gymnasium, renovate the exciting gymnasium into a media center, renovate the existing media center into office and counselor suites and add new classrooms.

Assistant County Manager Bobby Darden confirmed Monday that the county is preparing documentation to submit an \$11

million loan application in September.

Darden said that the commissioners and school officials have been discussing the facilities needs at the high school for several years, and have looked at specific immediate needs even more closely over the past few months.

Rural Development officials in the Williamston office knew of the needs and ongoing discussions, and told local officials that

the time to submit an application is now, according to Darden. Darden said the county's contact is Susan Christensen.

"Rural Development kind of told us that if we didn't do it this year, we probably wouldn't be able to get the money to do it after this, even in phases," Darden said.

Darden said the application must be in Washington, D.C. for review and approval by

Sept. 30. A comment period on the funding is presently open, and will end on Sept. 21. The county commissioners have planned a special meeting for Sept. 22 to make an official decision on the loan application.

Darden said because the school system has in hand solid long-range plans composed with the assistance of an architect, the application process will be smoother.

"Had that not been done

I don't think we would probably get that funded this year," Darden said.

The county will apply for a 30-year loan at 4.75 percent interest.

"I'd have to go back and look, but I'm almost certain it's the biggest loan we've ever done," Darden said.

Darden said working through Rural Development has the advantage of a long-term pay-back, full funding and low interest rate.

## Students study Lost Colony first-hand

What became of those referred to as "The Lost Colony?"

The image is one of the most haunting in American legends: Eleanor Dare cradling her infant daughter as they struggle through a vast wilderness for themselves.

Eighth graders at Perquimans Middle School, after having studied the details of the legend, traveled to Manteo to hear the facts first-hand.

"In the four centuries since their disappearance, Eleanor and Virginia Dare have become true American heroines in an unsolved mystery that still challenges historians," said one of the tour guides. "In 1587, over 100 men, women and children journeyed from Britain to Roanoke Island on North Carolina's coast and established the first English settlement in America. Within three years, they had vanished with barely a trace."

"Learning came alive today for our students as they visited Roanoke Festival Park and The Lost Colony," said Principal Melvin Hawkins. "Field



Perquimans County Middle School students got a first-hand look at the history of the Lost Colony they studied with a trip to Manteo's Roanoke Festival Park and The Lost Colony.

trips for students are aligned with the curriculum and provide hands-on experience, focusing on activities that cannot be conducted in the classroom."

Hawkins said he believes field trips provide an important contribution to the learning process. Researchers have documented the cognitive and affective benefits of field

trips, including increased motivation for learning, the acquisition of knowledge and skills, and maximized learning to ensure that cognitive and affective benefits are gained.

## Winfall man held in stabbing death

From Daily Advance reports by Julian Eure and Bob Montgomery

Just hours after he admitted to a judge that he violated a court order to stay away from her, Winfall resident William Joseph Moore was charged with the stabbing death of his former girlfriend, Pamela Joye Virzi of Edenton.

District Court Judge J.C. Cole said Moore, 46, of 205 W. Main Street, pleaded guilty on Aug. 17 to violating an earlier order to stay away from Virzi in Chowan County District Court. Cole said that Moore also admitted making several threatening phone calls to Virzi in violation of the court order.

Cole said Virzi was present at the hearing and asked the judge to order Moore to undergo treatment and domestic abuse counseling, a request Cole said he granted.

The judge also said he reminded Moore of the domestic protective order issued by Judge Christopher Bean requiring Moore to stay away from Virzi and her daughter, sisters and mother for one year. He sentenced Moore to supervised probation for violating that order, and ordered him to see his probation officer immediately.

But according to an Edenton police report, around 7 p.m. Virzi was mowing her front lawn on Twiddy Avenue when a man approached her. Witnesses identified the man as Moore.

The two talked briefly, according to witnesses, and then the man began hitting and then stabbing Virzi repeatedly while she tried to flee, according to police reports and eyewitness accounts. She fell on a ramp to her next-door neighbor's porch and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Virzi's neighbor, W.P. "Bill" Goodwin, who is partially blind, said Virzi was mowing her lawn when her riding mower stopped. He said he saw Moore approach her and the two sat briefly on the curb in front of the house.

"He asked her a question, she said 'No,' and he came back and helped her stand up," Twiddy said. "I thought they were friends."

Carroll Bonner of Florence, S.C. was working on a truck in the driveway while visiting his sister, Carolyn Walker of 104 Twiddy Avenue. He said he heard the mower stop, but thought nothing of it until he heard screams.

"She was screaming help and yelled 'Stop, stop stabbing me,'" Bonner said. "I thought he was hitting her. He stabbed her one more time, looked at us, then went to the back. It happened quick."

A knife thought to have been used to kill Virzi was found at the scene.

Moore was apprehended later without incident and charged in connection with her murder. He is being held in Central Prison in Raleigh.

Bean had issued the protective order against Moore in July. In her complaint, Virzi stated that Moore had beat her in April, repeatedly harassed her and made threatening phone calls, including one in which he told her, "You're dead." Virzi wrote that she feared for her life, as well as that of her daughter, her family and her neighbors.

On July 13, Bean issued a warrant for Moore's arrest for violating a protection order. Moore was charged formally on July 20, when Bean ordered him to stay away from the victim and her family for one year.

Bonner said that a probable cause hearing in connection with Virzi's death may be held this week, and that the grand jury would determine any charges to be brought against Moore.

## Annual festivals set in county Sept. 11

Come to Hertford on Saturday, Sept. 11 and join in the fun of two festivals, the annual Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House Historic Site and Indian Summer Festival in downtown Hertford and Winfall Landing Park.

A highlight of the day will be the grand arrival of the periauger, the 18th century replica sailing vessel, into Hertford Municipal Docks.

At the Hearth & Harvest Festival, try your hand at traditional 18th century activities that could have taken place at this Colonial Quaker homestead. Create a cornhusk doll, dip some candles, make some butter and play 18th century games. Join in a musical performance. Watch artisans at work on traditional crafts. This family event has something for everyone.

Music, storytelling and heritage craft demonstra-



Visitors to Hertford's Indian Summer Festival have enjoyed the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Concert Band over the past two years. This year's festival will feature the Atlantic Fleet Jazz Band.

tions will enhance the festival.

Hertford will celebrate with its annual Indian Summer Festival, from 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. The popular street fair features crafts, a food court, daylong enter-

tainment, a children's pavilion, and a Perquimans County Schools art contest.

The Perquimans River will be a special focus of the day with the grand arrival of the periauger set for 10 a.m. at the Hertford

Municipal dock. River events and activities include recreational paddles for kayaks and canoes leaving from Missing Mill Park. Wild River Outfitters of Virginia Beach will rent kayaks and will lead shoreline paddles for a fee at the town docks.

Other special events during the day includes a children's story time at 11:30 and a book signing with Lillie Gilbert and Vicki Shuler for "Wild River Guide to Dismal Swamp Trails," at 2 p.m. at M. James Bookseller.

Arts and crafts of all kinds will be available for sale and the food court boasts something for every taste.

A variety of entertainment is scheduled on the courthouse lawn. A highlight of the day will be a performance by the United States Atlantic Fleet Jazz Band scheduled for 4 p.m.

Winfall's events will feature a patriotic theme.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 83  
LOW: 70  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 92  
LOW: 70  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 82  
LOW: 70  
SCATTERED T'STORMS