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Students enjoy Farm day

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November 2, 2005

Vol. 73, No. 44 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Suspension upheld in alleged PCHS gun case

SUSAN HARRIS

A Perquimans County High School student who allegedly used a gun to try to extort money from four fellow students will spend a full year on suspension.

The 15-year-old, whose name can not be released because he is a minor, faces charges stemming from the incident in juvenile court, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley.

The school system announced last week through Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter that the long-term suspension had been upheld by the school board in closed session during which the board was joined by its attorney, John Leidy, last Monday night. The decision was hand-delivered to the parent on Tuesday, and the announcement came on Wednesday.

The suspension, recommended by Principal Melvin Hawkins and approved by Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Wells for the Sept. 12 incident, was appealed to the school board by the student's mother. Three members of the board met as the appeals panel on Oct. 18 to hear from the student, his mother, Hawkins, Wells and

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Officer assaulted making arrest

A Hertford police officer was assaulted while attempting to take a man into custody for warrants taken out a week earlier from Elizabeth City.

At about 1:15 p.m. last Thursday, Officer Kevin Worster attempted to take Kwane Ibin Everett, 31, into custody at the Dollar General for three felony charges.

"While attempting to take Everett into custody," Worster wrote in a police report, "he assaulted me, and he was found to be possessing a concealed weapon (handgun)."

Warrants on Everett, who resides at 100 S. Edenton Road St., include felony charges of obtaining property by false pretense, forgery-using/uttering and forgery/counterfeiting.

Everett was charged, with simple physical assault upon a police officer, escape from custody or resisting arrest, possessing/concealing a weapon and first degree trespass. He was placed in Albemarle District Jail under a secured bond of \$3,500

Hertford man killed in wreck

MARGARET FISHER

A one-vehicle wreck involving a sports utility vehicle caused the death of a Hertford man last Friday night.

At about 11 p.m., Michael Erik Veilleux, 34, was driving south on Muddy Creek Road near Sueola Beach Road when he lost control of his 1989 Mitsubishi Montero, said Sgt. C.T. Griffin of the N.C. Highway Patrol.

According to Trooper J.F. Bray's report, Veilleux was estimated to be traveling at about 75 miles per hour.

Veilleux apparently ran off the road to the right and over-corrected his steering a couple of times before skidding and overturning in the roadway, Griffin said.

"By the gauge marks and the way the vehicle overturned," Griffin said, "it's hard to determine how many times the (SUV) overturned."

Veilleux, who wasn't wearing a seat belt, was ejected at some point as the vehicle was rolling. The vehicle rolled nearly 190 feet. The SUV collided with a tree on the west shoulder of the roadway.

Perquimans County Rescue

Squad, Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department and Perquimans County Sheriffs Department also responded. Veilleux was pronounced dead on the scene, Griffin said.

"We suspect alcohol was involved in the collision," Griffin said.

Veilleux, a native of Lewiston, Maine, resided at 105 N. Cherokee Drive. He is survived by his wife, Dana Wood-Veilleux of Hertford, and two daughters of Salem, N.H. Veilleux was employed as a bartender at Applebees Restaurant in Elizabeth City.

Truck river charged for bus wreck

SUSAN HARRIS

The driver of a construction truck that crashed into a Perquimans County school bus last Monday morning has been charged with causing the fatal accident.

Ruben Fajardo, 25, of Wilson, was charged last week with four counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle and one count of failure to reduce speed. He was charged at Pitt Memorial Hospital, where he was admitted for treatment for what Highway Patrol Trooper Ernest D. Goodwin Jr. termed non-life-threatening injuries, including a broken leg.

Fajardo was driving a construction truck registered to Byrd Brothers, Inc. of Greensboro last Monday just after 7 a.m. when he rear-ended bus 102, running the bus off the road, then his vehicle veered and hit the front of the bus. The impact caused the truck to burst into flame, also igniting the bus.

Forty middle school students and the bus driver escaped from the bus, a credit said Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Wells, to the driver remaining calm and using her emergency training throughout the incident. Wells also credited the students with listening to the driver and working together to exit the bus, as well as motorists who helped at the scene.

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TRICK OR TREAT



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

Downtown Hertford was filled with costumed characters like ducks (left) and Scarecrow and Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz Monday as businesses welcomed trick-or-treaters.



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Construction work has begun on Ginny's Gut at Perquimans County High School to create a wetland area for students to study ecology. The work has also corrected drainage problems.

Eyesore to become outdoor education center

Margaret Fisher

Work is underway at Perquimans County High School to create an outdoor educational wetland laboratory and repair a long-standing drainage problem at the same time.

The deteriorated wetland is part of Jenny's Gut, which includes about two acres extending from the student parking area by Edenton Road Street to the cemetery. Construction is currently taking place between the student parking area and the school.

Jenny's Gut, referred to as Gum Pond Run in county deeds, was originally created to provide drainage for farmlands, homes and roads. It begins across the street from the high school and empties into Skinners Creek near the Church Street bridge and then into the Perquimans River, said town historian Raymond Winslow.

The once thriving wetland has been a problem for the high school and Town of Hertford for a number of years, especially after

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Navy to meet with commissioners on OLF

MARGARET FISHER

Concerned residents plan to pack the commissioners' meeting in November when U.S. Navy officials will be addressing their consideration of locating an airstrip in Perquimans County.

The Navy prefers to locate an outlying landing field in Washington County, but is still considering northern Perquimans County, as well as Bertie, Craven and Hyde counties, said Stan Winslow, organizer for the Perquimans County Chapter of North Carolinians Opposed to the OLF.

"We don't want (an OLF) in Perquimans County," Winslow said, "and we don't want it in northeastern North Carolina."

Officials from the chapter met at Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department to discuss how farmers who may be affected by the OLF and other concerned citizens can address their concerns.

Navy attorneys will be talking to the public at the Nov. 7 commissioners meeting at 7 p.m. upstairs in the Courthouse Annex Building. The public will not be allowed to voice

their concerns during the meeting. However, the commissioners will be able to ask Navy representatives questions.

The meeting in Belvidere provided an opportunity to bring awareness to residents of the Navy's current position and formulate a set of questions for commissioners to ask.

County Manager Bobby Darden, Commissioner Ben Hobbs and No OLF chapter members from Washington County were some of the approximately 70 persons present at the meeting.

"The purpose is to make everyone in the community aware that the Navy is making a revision in the impact study they did two years ago," said

In July 2003, the Navy completed an environmental impact study of the use of F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft for touch-and-go practice on an OLF between Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

On Feb. 18, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina held that the Final EIS was deficient. The Navy was prohibited

from taking further steps towards locating an OLF in Washington County until they complied with the National Environmental Policy Act. Recently, the Navy appealed the decision, but was turned down again.

Now, the Navy plans to conduct a supplemental environmental impact study and is visiting each county with a prepared 30-minute presentation. A study in Perquimans is

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 70, LOW: 51
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 73, LOW: 55
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 75, LOW: 55
PARTLY CLOUDY