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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Report: Violence down in local schools

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County High School has shown a decrease in violent acts in the last three years, according to the Annual Report on School Crime and Violence.

Other schools in the county reported no incidents.

At the same time, PCHS showed a higher percentage of violent incidents per 1,000 students than four surrounding counties in the school year 2004-2005.

Perquimans County Schools reported a total of 11 incidents. Although the number of incidents reported two years ago was the same, the number of students increased by 100. Violent acts occurring on a

per-1,000-students basis were 6.4, compared with 6.6 the previous year and 7.7 three years ago.

Two years ago the system reported one sexual assault incident and three years ago there was one

assault on a school employee and a firearm brought to school. Last year, none of these types of acts were reported.

State law requires that all schools report incidents such as bringing weapons,

alcoholic beverages and controlled substances to school. It also includes prescription drugs as controlled substances.

"The biggest issue is that children bring medications  
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## Permits delay PCHS gym

MARGARET FISHER

Plans to move Jimmy Hunter Drive to allow for construction of a new gym at Perquimans County High School have been delayed by permits, said Assistant Superintendent Dwayne Stallings.

Permits are needed to move sewer, water and natural gas lines that run next to the road and continue back to where the gym will be built. Before the road can be moved, the lines must be moved.

"Most of our applications to the state for different permits that have to go through, we've still not heard back from," Stallings said.

Perquimans County Schools remains in a waiting mode, although construction of the new road should have been started in the summer and may have been completed by now, Stallings said.

As soon as the permits are granted, the school system will advertise for bids to move the lines closer to the administrative building. Contractors will have 30 days to submit bids.

Once the lines are moved, the new Jimmy Hunter Drive will also be constructed south of the present road and closer to the central office.

School officials plan to meet about mid-December to discuss the bidding process and construction plans.

## HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS



PHOTOS BY SUSAN HARRIS

## Holiday parade draws hundreds

SUSAN HARRIS

Hundreds bundled up to enjoy Saturday's beautiful sunshine and celebrate the coming holiday at the annual Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Christmas parade in Hertford Saturday.

Two high school bands, floats, pony carts, mini cars, costumed characters, fire trucks, horses, Smokey Bear and more traveled the route, with those on floats sending smiles and well wishes to their neighbors and friends along the streets.

Float winners were:  
Continued on page 8



Santa Claus and Grand Marshall Charlie Skinner were the bookends of the Perquimans County Christmas parade Saturday.

## Hertford man indicted by feds on drug charges

SUSAN HARRIS

A Hertford man was one of two indicted on drug charges in a federal court in November.

Some details of the case could not be obtained by press time, but Sheriff Eric Tilley confirmed that Marqchello Jordan was indicted by a federal grand jury on drug trafficking charges resulting from a joint investigation by the Perquimans and Chowan county sheriff's departments and the State Bureau of Investigation. He was arrested on Nov. 3.

On Nov. 2, Shawn Christopher Elliott of Edenton was also arrested, while Johnny Sessoms was

detained in Wake County for related drug conspiracy.

Jordan and Elliott were taken before a federal magistrate in Pitt County following their arrests. Both are being held without bond in Pitt County pending their trials.

The two were tagged "major drug traffickers" by law enforcement officials. Tilley and Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said that the arrests should make a big dent in drug trafficking in the area.

Tilley said the initial investigation began in Perquimans County by his department and the SBI. Chowan joined the case when information obtained led to a connection in that county.

## AEMC donates transformers

As part of an international assistance program, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation recently sent three decommissioned transformers to Costa Rica.

The three 1,667 KVA transformers will be used by the Costa Rican government agency Instituto Costarricense de Electricidad to add capacity to a substation located in Muelle that serves the community of Pocosol. About 3,200 consumers will benefit from this improvement, said Larry Thomas, operations specialist with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International.

"This is actually improving an area that, because of electricity, has developed

into an industrial and residential area," Thomas said. "Because the industry has increased, the load has increased, and because the load has increased, they have almost had to do rolling blackouts. These transformers are going to solve that situation."

Albemarle EMC had previously replaced those older transformers at their Winfall substation with a 12 MVA unit that handles considerably more load. The three decommissioned transformers were left idle until they could be provided to NRECA International. If Costa Rica had to purchase the three transformers, it would have cost just under \$50,000 -- a considerable sum for a Third World country.

## Well's U.K. trip widens educational perspective

MARGARET FISHER

While public schools in the United Kingdom face the same kinds of issues that schools in this country face, each country is allowed to analyze their own school systems more closely, said Superintendent Kenneth Wells of Perquimans County Schools.

Wells recently returned from a trip to Britain where he visited a number of state-supported schools in the London area.

An invitation to visit the U.K. was extended to some superintendents, including representatives of the North Carolina Superintendents Association, of which



PHOTO COURTESY KENNETH WELLS

This group of English middle schoolers has the same educational needs as their American counterparts, but their dress is certainly different. Superintendent Kenneth Wells recently spent time in Great Britain learning about their educational system.

Wells is a board member. Ten superintendents took the trip.

"It opens your eyes to a global perspective, as far as education," he said. "A number of the issues they face, we face."

Some of the prominent differences between schools in the two countries include graduation level, physical fitness, nutrition, school uniforms, transportation, when math is introduced and who regulates the curriculum, Wells said.

Students are required to wear uniforms. Also, they graduate from high school at age 16, Wells said.

"Basically, they take off on a couple of different

paths," Wells said. "A lot of it is based on the exam they take."

More emphasis is placed on the final exam than here. The exam results determine whether a student will take a university, college or vocational school pathway, Wells said.

North Carolina scrapped the exit exams because it didn't accurately measure student potential, Wells said. Britains are beginning to look at that possibility, he said.

Wells said he talked to some high school students about their plans after they graduate.

"(Their answers) led me to believe they didn't have  
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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 46, LOW: 34  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 44, LOW: 27  
SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 47, LOW: 31  
MOSTLY SUNNY