

Pledge part of school day

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY

Schools enrollment swells to 1800

If the first day of school is an indicator of how well the 2006-07 school year will be, children attending Perquimans County Schools are in for a productive year, school officials said Friday.

Children toting hefty backpacks, yellow buses cruising the streets and highways, and mothers holding back tears were familiar sights in Perquimans County as the school year got underway Friday. As always, the first day was filled with enthusiastic children, eagerly awaited reunions, and emotional goodbyes.

School doors were opened to nearly 1,800 students, the highest student enrollment in more than seven years.

With the exception of a few transportation woes, the first day was trouble-free.

"Anxious parents felt the need to transport their children on the first day of school, causing traffic to bottleneck at each of the schools," said Superintendent Dr. Kenneth W. Wells. "With the support of administrators and local law enforcement partners, the delay to Continued on page 8



Jo and Stuart White take their daughter Breanna to her first day of kindergarten last Friday. Mom said she tried hard to control her emotions as her youngest child began school.

County, DOT OK road paving

MARGARET FISHER

County commissioners approved a list of priority roads to be paved presented by the N.C. Department of Transportation. Public comments regarding a 56-acre parcel were also heard at a special called meeting held Monday night.

DOT has more than \$550,000 allocated to pave eight roads in the county during 2006. But after commissioners' request to add Harris Landing Road to the list, DOT revised it, adding the request and removing two other roads.

The revised list, approved by commissioners on Monday, includes paving West Island Road, Sprindrift, Flyway Drive, Moonlight Drive, Wildwood Drive and Poor Hill Road.

Bob Bastek, who lives off of Poor Hill Road in Heritage Shores, hopes the long-awaited paving will be a reality before the expected Dec. 31 deadline.

Nearly \$124,000 of the total costs will go for surveys, maintenance, unforeseen extra costs and bringing Harris Landing Road, a dirt road, up to minimum standards.

Two homeowners, who live on Lazy "W" Road off

of Harris Landing Road in Woodville, brought pictures taken of the sole road that leads to their homes. The pictures showed a muddy trail where residents with cars often park and walk to their homes, said Thomas Fleck of 131 Lazy "W" Road.

"I had to get rid of my car and get a 4-wheel drive that has ground clearance," he said.

The road currently cannot accommodate ambulances, school buses or even a hearse for its residents, including two handicapped individuals and a student, said Carol Dillon, who owns a rental home there.

Dillon wrote three state representatives and two county commissioners in April about the problems with the road.

"I have not received one response," she said.

Fleck said he used to level the road with a tractor and, in 1999, he spent nearly \$2,200 to grade and lay down rock on a portion of the road. Water stays on the clay road all the time, and loggers and the development of Bay Landing have made the condition of the road worse, Fleck said.

Priority roads that did Continued on page 8

17th century traders to market wares at festival

MARGARET FISHER

A 3-day added attraction is planned during the weekend of Sept. 9 at the Hearth and Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House.

Colonial Market Days, originally scheduled for April, will premiere from Friday, Sept. 8 to Sunday, Sept. 10 on the historic Quaker home site.

The market fair will feature traders, farmers, soldiers and games for visitors, said Miki Nelson, a reenactor from Pennsylvania and coordinator for the event.

"What we hope the visitor comes away with is a better understanding of colonial life in the 18th century and a greater appreciation of the way of life of the 18th century and historic sites that are left," Nelson said.

Traders, or sutlers, would have traded their wares in the spring and fall. Reenactors will be dis-

playing and selling crafts and other items on blankets during the market fair. Members of Eastern Colonial Trading Company, as well as the Coalition of Historical Trekkers, will be on hand to answer questions about the 1700s.

Games for ladies include a vegetable hunt and whiskey run. Participants hunt for vegetables in a haystack and fill their aprons with as many as they can. Women often used their aprons while harvesting because baskets weren't readily available to everyone, Nelson said.

"A lot of things we deem as commonplace actually weren't then," she said.

The whiskey run is an agility game where ladies carry a glass on a stick through an obstacle course. Originally, a broad sword was used, rather than a stick, Nelson said.

Men can participate in a fire-starting activity or a gentleman's shoot, if they have a muzzleloader, or primitive black powder rifle.

There will also be children's activities and demonstrations. Visitors can tour the historic home and see the periauger, a period reproduction boat once plentiful on the Perquimans River.

Coordinators for the event hope that the market fair will be held annually. All profits from the fair will support the Newbold-White House.

County seeks bids for architect

New EMS building in works

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans County Emergency Medical Services has upgraded its medical support level this month and is now making plans for a new building.

While EMS was one of the first in the state to obtain EMT certification, it is nearly the last (there are three remaining) that has upgraded from EMT-Basic to EMT-Intermediate. The higher certification level allows EMT-I staff to administer pain, diabetic and other medications and use a tube to get air into the lungs of a patient who is not breathing.

The upgrade will eliminate much of the transferring of patients from Perquimans to Pasquotank's ambulances near the border, said Larry Chappell, EMS director. Requirements include additional supplies and an EMT-I employee on duty at all times.

In addition, about 17 of the 45 employees and volunteers have personally reached the intermediate level, Chappell said.

The new building, estimated to cost less than \$1 million, is to be built at the Commerce Centre. The exact parcel has not been decided upon until an architect can make a recommendation. The bidding

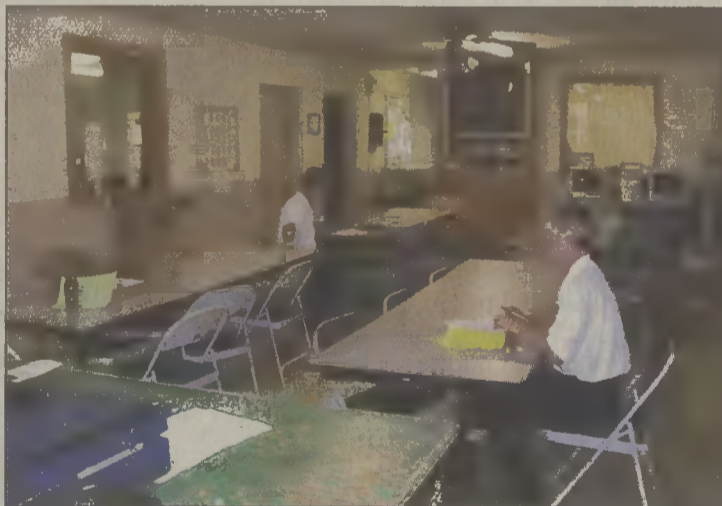


PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

The EMS building work room is also a passageway from the front door and opens directly to offices and the one bathroom/shower room.

period, opened on Aug. 8, will close on Sept. 21.

The current 6,000-square-foot building houses six bays for four ambulances, an EMS car and two water rescue boats, truck and personal watercraft. The portion with four bays has leaked water on the floor when it rains ever since Hurricane Isabel tore off part of the gutter, Chappell said.

The nondescript entrance leads into a large meeting and work room which also acts as a passageway leading to two offices, a kitchen, lounge and the one unisex restroom/shower. The only windows are on the two exterior doors. A bed is located in an office, but night crews usually sleep on the couches in the lounge, Chappell said.

"They're really just kind of making do in the build-

county.

"I don't think we're out of keeping with what is going to be out there (at the Centre)," Darden said. "...It's critical to be in the central part of the county, but also close to Highway 17 and the (high rise) bridge."

Officials hope the new building will have about 10,000 square feet with up to 10 bays. Accommodations for at least three night employees, at least four restrooms, showers and additional office and storage spaces are planned. They also hope to have a garage for a washer, a dryer and biohazard waste.

Additional space may house Central Communications, Darden said.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 80, Low: 74
T'SHOWERS

FRIDAY
High: 81, Low: 71
RAIN/THUNDER/WIND

SATURDAY
High: 87, Low: 72
ISOLATED T'STORMS

LOOK INSIDE

FOR THE 2006 INDIAN SUMMER OAK LEAF HEARTH & HARVEST FESTIVALS GUIDE!