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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## County gets PARTF grant

SUSAN HARRIS

The county hit a home-run with the receipt of nearly \$500,000 in grant money for expansion of sports facilities at the recreation complex off Harvey Point Road.

County Manager Bobby Darden told commissioners Monday night during their regular August meeting that he got a letter confirming that the county received a \$431,125 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund — commonly shortened to PARTF and pronounced “par-teef” — grant to add lighted youth softball and T-ball fields, picnic/concessions/restroom facilities, playground equipment and a skateboard park at the site.

The PARTF is a 50-50 match grant, and the county will use a \$341,750 clean water trust fund grant as part of the match, with \$89,375 coming from county coffers.

The clean water trust fund project is underway. That project will help repair erosion and site damage from Hurricane Isabel and construct wetlands to filter stormwater runoff from the paved parking lot and ball fields. Vegetation will be added and a breakwall will be built 20-30 feet offshore, Darden said, to prevent future erosion.

Albemarle RC&D, Perquimans Soil and Water Conservation and NRCS are providing technical assistance with the projects.

The county has applied for a CAMA grant to install a public fishing pier and small boat ramp at the facility. Darden said the county should hear from that grant by year end.

Phase I of the recreation project included building a gymnasium/community center, a lighted baseball field, a lighted soccer/football field, a picnic/concessions/restroom facility and parking.

Next year, the county will begin preliminary work on a wellness center at the site.

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford police will spend more time in high crime areas, thanks to a federally funded grant through the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission.

The \$10,000 Operation Safe Street Grant will pay off-duty police officers to work overtime in problem areas, patrolling in cars and walking the streets. Regular officers on duty

## Music makers



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE SILVA

There are many signs that school bells and fall are just around the corner, but none more melodic than the sounds of the PCHS Marching Pirates during band camp as they prepare in the heat of summer for the upcoming season.

## PCHS auditorium gets facelift

SUSAN HARRIS

Hairstyles have changed. Lifestyles have changed. The folks who are still with us who can say they were among the first to tour the building have changed.

But unchanged over nine decades is how important the high school auditorium is to the community.

The last remaining component of the 1924 structure, the auditorium is getting a facelift that will retain its character while smoothing out its deficiencies and giving it some 21st century amenities.

The outer banks of seats have been removed

and the walls stripped to reveal the brick veneer. New plaster walls are going up and the wood floors will be spruced up, as will the 660-odd seats. The original tin ceiling will remain intact. A new coat of trim paint — perhaps burgundy, Principal James Bunch is thinking — will replace the mauve that was rolled on in the 1980s.

New lighting and a new sound system will be installed.

School officials hope the work will be completed by the time students return to the halls of PCHS on Aug. 27.

Over the years, the auditorium has seen hun

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PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The PCHS auditorium is presently getting a facelift, having been stripped down to the brick veneer in preparation for new plaster walls.

## Grant helps HPD patrol town's highest crime areas more

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford police will spend more time in high crime areas, thanks to a federally funded grant through the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission.

The \$10,000 Operation Safe Street Grant will pay off-duty police officers to work overtime in problem areas, patrolling in cars and walking the streets. Regular officers on duty

will continue to patrol the town in addition to the concentrated police presence in the troubled areas.

“This is the first time we have received an overtime grant,” said Chief Dale Vanscoy. “It's been awhile since we've been able to provide additional officers on the street.”

Officers in cars and on foot will spend time making contact with the area residents, opening up the lines of communication, and setting up check points to see who's going

in and going out of areas. They will be watching for troublemakers, especially those who don't live in the neighborhood.

Police will focus on King Street and Stokes Drive, an area that is part of the Hertford Housing Authority. Police tracked the location and nature of their complaints for about a year and entered that data into a computer software program that determined the town's high

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## Chestnut pleads to murder

The house condemned by local officials on Market Street was the source of numerous criminal activities over the years. William Stanley Johnson was found dead of a gunshot wound to the chest Aug. 11, 2005 around 1 a.m. near the residence.

Clarence A. Chestnut, 28, of Winfall, pleaded no contest in superior court

in July to second-degree murder in connection with the shooting. Chestnut was sentenced in Perquimans County Superior Court to a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 12 years, 9 months in prison as a result of a plea agreement.

Police believed the two men had been in a dispute earlier in the day.

## Teens confess to crime spree

SUSAN HARRIS

Two 14-year-olds face the next few years in detention after allegedly confessing to a string of offenses over the past 10 months in three counties.

The minors admitted to an array of felonies including stealing vehicles, break-ins and robberies, according to Sheriff Eric Tilley, Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy and Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer.

Officials began to close in on the minors the day after a vehicle was stolen and another vehicle was vandalized at Northeast Dragway on Aug. 1. Tilley said the stolen vehicle belonging to dragway owner Curtis Trueblood was recovered by Shaffer on River Street in Winfall.

Based on a description of a suspicious young man seen in the area around the time of the incident at the dragway, the sheriff's department had a suspect, but insufficient evidence for charges. Shaffer said he and DMV Officers Hardy Gilliam and Roy Bateman interviewed the suspect. During that interview, Shaffer said the suspect admitted involvement in crimes committed across Perquimans, Chowan and Gates counties. An accomplice was also named.

The juveniles's grandparents took him to the Hertford Police Department and the suspected accomplice was picked up. Both suspects were questioned by officers from all three local agencies, and a number of open cases under investigation in all three jurisdictions were cleared as a result of admissions by the pair, Tilley, Vanscoy and Shaffer said.

The sheriff's department issued four juvenile petitions for one of the youth for his alleged role in three incidents, including:

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 97, LOW: 77  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 96, LOW: 76  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 88, LOW: 70  
ISOLATED T'STORMS