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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

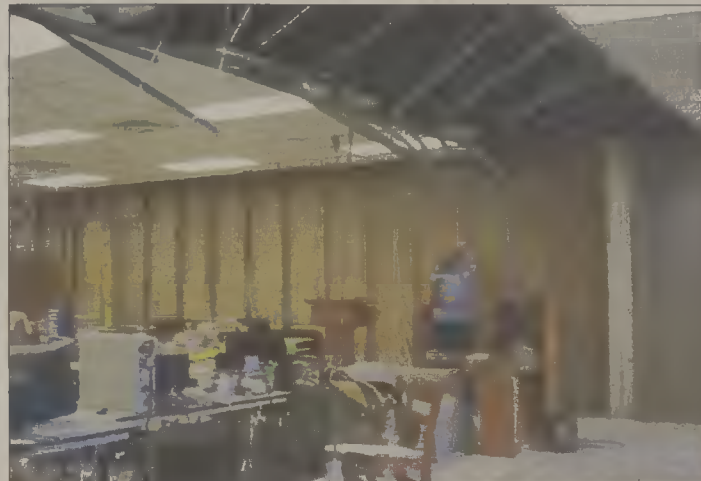
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## FESTIVAL FUN



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

THOUSANDS TURNED OUT FOR Saturday's Indian Summer and Hearth Harvest festivals. The day-long events featured entertainment, food and fun for all ages. Indian Summer brought an old-fashioned street fair to downtown Hertford, complete with musical entertainment on the courthouse green, games and rides, vendors along Church and Market streets, and traditional fair foods. There was also a car show at Missing Mill Park and a lawn mower pull past the park off of Clark Street. At the ca. 1730 Newbold-White House, the past came alive with artisans, costumed interpreters, house tours and games and activities that may have taken place on the site during its history. Festival-goers enjoyed beautiful early fall weather.



Perquimans Weekly Photo by CATHY WILSON

SCHOOL ELECTRICIAN PETE MANSFIELD moves a conduit box during construction in the English department at Perquimans County High School. Moisture and mold were found growing on walls in the wing causing school officials to move students to other parts of the school while construction removed and replaced ceiling tiles and wallboard. Once construction is complete, school officials will continue to monitor the classrooms for moisture.

## High school wing closed for mold

CATHY WILSON Staff Writer

Students and teachers have been moved out of the English department at Perquimans County High School after mold was found growing on walls.

Walls and ceiling tiles are being torn down and replaced, and the 3200 sq. ft. wing is closed down and being treated with an anti-growth concentrate to prevent mold from occurring again.

Maintenance Director Jonathan Nixon said, provided all supplies come in as expected, he hopes to have construction completed so the wing can reopen with students back in their normal English classrooms by Monday.

School officials acted quickly after the mold and moisture were first spotted in one classroom by a staff member the first day of school. Administrators conferred with regional health officials, students were relocated immediately to other areas of the school, and a letter went home to parents notifying them of the problem. To date, school officials have noted no health problems relating to the moisture, mold and mildew.

"Initially, we were just going to fix the wall where the mold was found, but once we started digging, we found more moisture in other areas of the wing," said Brenda Lassiter, spokesperson for the county school system.

Three classrooms in the wing were impacted from moisture believed to come from a leaky roof that was replaced over the summer. In addition, water run-off from the adjacent school courtyard apparently seeped into the wing, adding additional moisture. The moisture, combined with hot temperatures and high humidity this summer, apparently caused the mold to form on the walls.

Nixon added that the roof being off this summer during replacement also added to the problem.

A drain located in the courtyard has been uncovered to help control water run-off.

The wing is closed to the rest of the school to keep mold spores or dust from spreading during the demolition, construction and cleaning process.

**School officials hope to reopen three English classes Monday that were closed when mold was found.**

In an effort to be proactive, school officials decided to replace all ceiling tiles in the wing since tiles

are porous and tend to hold mold spores. More manageable 2x2 ft. tiles are replacing the large 2x4 ft. tiles.

Wallboard and insulation showing any indications of moisture or mold are also being replaced with new material that is moisture, mildew and mold resistant. During the construction process, the school will also upgrade wiring in the wing and replace the classrooms' glass partitions with solid walls.

Maintenance staff is doing much of the work during school hours; however a contractor, who works at night in order not to impact instructional time for the students, is performing the work that can't be done in-house.

Nixon estimates the cost of remedying the moisture and mold problem between \$10,000-\$12,000, not including in-house labor.

Of course, with maintenance employees focusing on the high school's wing, regular maintenance issues in the division are starting to pile up.

"We have a backlog of maintenance issues at the other schools," said Nixon. "Right now, we're only responding to life safety issues."

Lassiter said school officials would continue to monitor the situation in the classrooms, even after construction is completed.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 81  
LOW: 68  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FOOTBALL FRIDAY  
HIGH: 82  
LOW: 67  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 82  
LOW: 62  
SCATTERED T'STORMS

## Red Cross needs blood, help

CATHY WILSON Staff Writer

Although the emergency appeal for blood has passed, there is still a critical need for blood donations in the area.

Blood drives will be held next week in two locations around Perquimans County.

The American Red Cross will hold drives both at New Hope United Methodist Church on Sept. 17 from 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. and at Albemarle Plantation on Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Individuals age 17 or older who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. All blood types are

needed.

Over the past two weeks, the local blood inventory dropped to dangerously low levels including a one-day supply of critical blood types such as O-, O+, B-, and A-. Red Cross officials issued an emergency appeal for blood donors and additional blood drives were held.

A blood drive was held at the Perquimans County Recreational Center last Tuesday, and Red Cross officials were ecstatic at the turnout. Sixty-two persons came out to donate, giving 47 units of blood. Normal turnout for Perquimans County is 30-35.

"We thank everyone who participated," said Georgia Donaldson, American Red Cross area account man-

ager. "We apologize that their wait was longer than usual. Our turnout was almost double the norm."

Still, more is needed. In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross needs volunteers.

Donaldson put out a plea for area volunteers to help during the blood drives, performing tasks such as registration or serving refreshments.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Peg Kennedy, director of volunteers, or Betty Lou Campbell, blood services coordinator, with the Greater Albemarle Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, at 335-2185 or by emailing [campbellbl@embarqmail.com](mailto:campbellbl@embarqmail.com)