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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Central student diagnosed with MRSA

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A student at Perquimans Central School has been diagnosed with methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a staph infection that is spreading across the nation.

Superintendent Dwayne K. Stallings sent a letter home to parents last Thursday notifying them that the student is under a doctor's care and has been released

by a physician to return to school. The school's nurse will monitor the student's progress while at school. Central houses pre-K through second grade.

Last week, the same school reported a probable case of viral meningitis. That child was hospitalized for observation, but is now back in school under a doctor's care and supervision.

The school system began sanitizing and disinfecting the schools three weeks ago

in an aggressive effort to stave off any outbreaks of viruses including MRSA. In addition to cleaning the schools, maintenance staff is also spraying the schools with Anolyte, a salt-based solution that is stronger than bleach to both sanitize and disinfect surfaces. Stallings said those cleaning practices will continue.

Staph is a common bacteria that is found on the skin of about 1/3 of the population, but can turn into

MRSA skin infections when the bacteria invades a cut or open wound on the skin. It begins as a red bump that looks like a pimple or a spider bite, and may become hard, painful, or filled with pus. While the MRSA infection is resistant to most antibiotics used to treat staph, MRSA does respond to several high-powered antibiotics and can be treated successfully.

Stallings also told parents that the North Caro-

lina Department of Public Instruction allows a student with MRSA to attend school regularly as long as the wound is covered, and the student is receiving proper treatment and has been released by the doctor to attend classes.

Stallings also reminded parents that the best way to prevent transmitting viruses is using good personal hygiene such as washing hands, washing cuts or breaks in the skin and ap-

plying a bandage. Avoiding contact with other people's wounds or bandages is another way to help stop the spread of MRSA as well as avoiding sharing personal items such as towels.

MRSA has been found in schools across the nation and state, as well as locally in Currituck, Pasquotank and Gates counties. It has also been found in Elizabeth City State University. In other states, deaths from MRSA have occurred.

## PCHS media center reopens

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The media center that was damaged during a fire at Perquimans County High School two weeks ago reopened to students on Monday.

Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for the school system, said volunteers from other school districts and from the community helped school personnel move back into the repaired facility Thursday with final touches to the center completed on Friday.

"The center has been repaired to a state which is safe and conducive to learning for our students, with limited spending because the final phase of the ongoing construction project is to remodel the existing media center for office administration," Lassiter stated. "Consequently, this was kept in mind as the media center was repaired. One such example is that ceiling tiles were not replaced. Although, aesthetically, this is not very pleasing, there is no safety issue or concern."

Total repair cost to the center is estimated at \$125,000.

Fire broke out early in the morning of Oct. 21 on the roof of the high school building that houses the media center, computer labs, a distance-learning classroom, and administrative offices. A Hertford police officer on routine patrol first spotted the fire and sounded the alarm. School personnel and volunteer firefighters responded quickly and kept the blaze from spreading. Fire damage was contained to the roof area, but the interior of the building sustained smoke and water damage.

The section of the roof that caught fire was undergoing renovation. A roofing crew had worked on the roof the day before the fire.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy said investigators have determined the fire to be accidental, noting that the roofers used a torch to heat tar, and the tar remained hot enough to ignite insulation.

The school's media center is equipped with 35 multi-media computers and laser printers as well as magazines, newspaper, books, reference materials, instructional materials and audiovisual equipment.

## TRICK OR TREAT



**DOWNTOWN TRICK OR TREATING** - Merchants in downtown Hertford gave out goodies to the trick or treaters dressed in a variety of costumes on Halloween afternoon.



## Winfall seeks grant

Funds would facilitate infrastructure for proposed subdivision

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The town of Winfall is applying for a \$250,000 grant to help pay for infrastructure needed for the development of the proposed Winfall Landing housing project planned on property near Winfall Landing Park.

Members of Winfall town council are holding public hearings outlining the grant application process necessary to obtain a North Carolina Small Community Development Block grant under the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance.

The 80-unit housing project, featuring both houses and town homes, has been in the planning stages for four or five years, Mayor Fred Yates said. Phase I of the project, designed for low to moderate-income families, will include 14 units that will sell in the \$125,000 range, he said.

One public hearing was held Oct. 29. A second public hearing will be held Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Deadline for the grant application is Dec. 15.

The developer for the housing project is John Harris Jr. with REAL Development, Inc.

## Veterans monument to be dedicated

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The county's new veterans monument will be dedicated on Monday at 10:49 a.m. on the Perquimans County courthouse lawn.

Guest speaker will be Wayne Peedin, assistant director of the North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs. The public, especially veterans and their families, is invited to attend. Also taking part in the ceremony are members of the local Boy Scouts, the Perquimans County High School band, local politicians and the commanders of American Legion Posts 362 and 126.

The granite monument is the county's only monument to honor all veterans, past, present and future. It features two removable

bronze vases, one on each side, with the middle stone highlighted by emblems of the six branches of service including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

The stone also features an emblem of the American flag along with the following inscription: "The willingness to sacrifice is the prelude to freedom. The sacrifices of few ensure the freedom of many. A grateful community remembers those who serve in the armed forces of the United States during times of war and peace, whose courage and personal sacrifices defend and preserve our freedom."

The monument is located to the far right side of the county courthouse. The veterans monument committee

originally sought to place the monument in front of the courthouse to the right of the sidewalk, but several people complained that doing so would detract from the historic courthouse and interfere with the courthouse green that is used for public events. Most suggested placing the monument in the park located adjacent to the county library, and designating that park as a veterans' park. Others suggested moving the monument honoring Dr. John Harris, which sat on the courthouse green, to his gravesite in Cedar Wood Cemetery. County commissioners agreed the veterans monument should be located on the courthouse green, and replaced the Harris monument with the monument honoring veterans.

A brick border will sur-

round the monument and a walkway featuring bricks with inscribed names of veterans will be built leading from the monument in several directions. Bricks are being sold at \$50 each and will hold three lines of inscription including such information as the veteran's name, rank, branch of service, or dates of service. Only 550 bricks will be sold, with another 100 reserved for future veterans.

Applications for bricks can be picked up at the Perquimans County Library, the Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center, or at the Veterans Service Office located at 104 Dobbs Street (Mondays only). To buy a brick, just fill out the information and mail with a check for \$50 for each brick and mail to the county manager's office.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 58  
Low: 40  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FOOTBALL FRIDAY  
High: 62  
Low: 42  
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
High: 61  
Low: 43  
MOSTLY SUNNY