

THE PERQUIMAN WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Freshmen lead recycle project Town notes 250th b-day

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Ninth grade science students at Perquimans County High School have recycled over 1,000 pounds of tearable paper in the school.

Students in Celeste Maus's earth and environmental science classes have recycled 1,173.5 pounds of newspaper, magazines, copier paper, notebook paper, sticky notes, and other miscellaneous tearable paper products since Dec. 1. All of the paper came from classrooms within the school and 88 percent of it was newspapers. No paper was brought in from outside the school.

Maus said the project not only helps reduce the amount of waste in the school, but reduces the amount that ends up in the landfill as well. Students also see just how much they are throwing away daily and how it impacts the human environment.

"We have seen many more students start recycling paper here at school," Maus said. "When we first started, we collected 200 pounds of paper from the classrooms. The second time we collected over 500 pounds."

The science classes have a partnership with the school system's maintenance department as well as the Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Custodians at the school pick up the papers from the classrooms twice a week and bring it to the science class where students weigh it and then



RON PETERSON, A NINTH grader at Perquimans County High School, piles the papers onto a scale as part of the earth and environmental science class recycling project. The students have recycled over 1,000 pounds of tearable paper within the school since Dec. 1.

record the data. Custodians then take the papers to the recycle dumpster which is picked up by the solid waste authority.

Actually seeing how

much paper is wasted daily has impacted several of the students, including Theresa Monnserrat who has since started a recycling project at home. In addition to re-

cycling paper, Monnserrat also recycles plastic and aluminum.

Maus encourages the public to recycle as well. While the current students

have been successful recycling for less than two months, Maus is anxious to see what next semester's students can do with a full semester of work.

notes 250th b-day

Hertford seeks to hire events planner to head anniversary celebration activities

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Happy Birthday, Hertford!

The town will celebrate 250 years in existence this year. Statelegislators signed the town charter on May 4, 1758 and town officials plan to commemorate that event throughout the year.

John Christensen, town manager, said the anniversary's kick-off will occur on Sunday, May 4, with a host of state legislators attending. Special events will be planned in town on a monthly basis, some to piggyback on annual events already planned in the area.

A committee has been formed to help plan the anniversary events. The committee is composed of representatives from schools, churches, historians, the county library, the Chamber of Commerce, the Newbold White-House, Historic Hertford, and the Heritage Tourism Committee. In addition, the town plans to utilize the post office and The Perquimans Weekly to help make the anniversary year special in unique ways.

While the committee is in its planning stages now, the town is seeking to hire an events coordinator to organize and spearhead the anniversary celebrations. Town officials hope to fill the position as soon as possible.

Christensen encourages any interested citizen who has ideas for anniversary events to contact the town office.

"There is no such thing as a dumb idea," he said.

Lake Road bridge to close

The bridge on Lake Road (SR-1221) will be closed next week for repairs.

Lee Bundy with the North Carolina Department of Transportation said Lake Road will be closed from Lowe's Lane (SR 1222) to SR 1214 from 8 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25 for maintenance.

Officials plan to replace timbers underneath the bridge.

A detour will reroute traffic around the block, he said.

PCHS renovations 60 days behind schedule

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

While construction of the high school's new gymnasium is 60 days behind schedule, school officials are still optimistic that the entire four-phase renovation project at the school can still be completed on time.

The \$11 million four-phase project is scheduled to be completed by August.

Phase I of the project, the construction of the new gym, had an original completion date of Dec. 21, but has consistently run behind due to design changes and delays in materials. Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for the school system, said the design changes came about because state building codes changed be-

tween the time the project was first approved and the time construction actually began.

"It is anticipated that we will have an occupancy permit for the new gymnasium mid February," said Lassiter. "It is the hope of the administration that occupancy will take place before this year's basketball season is complete so that the seniors will have an opportunity to play in the gym before they graduate. The PCHS basketball teams will begin conference tournament play the week of Feb. 18. The success of the teams will determine if playoffs are at home or on the road. We will have to wait and see how this year's season plays out, but it would be an awesome experience for our seniors if the season could culminate in the new gymnasium."

According to Jonathan Nixon, the system's maintenance director, the overall

Chunks of history for sale

The Perquimans Athletic Boosters are selling small sections of the old gym floor with a small plaque of inscription identifying it as such. The floor sections will be sold as keepsakes to former athletes or students at a pre-order price of \$10 each. Anyone interested in purchasing a section of the old gym floor should contact any Athletic Booster member or call Carolina Trophy at 426-4644 or contact Brenda Lassiter at blassiter@pcs.k12.nc.us.

project is still within budget. Last month, however, county commissioners voiced their unhappiness to the school's architect who appeared before them requesting funding for and

explaining the reasons for several change orders. Funding for each change order comes from the county's \$427,492 contingency fund set aside for the project. The contingency fund was set up to handle unexpected expenses that might occur.

Commissioners were concerned that the reasons for the change orders, ranging from replacing windows to drainage problems to adding more steel in the boiler room, should have been discovered or corrected during the planning and design phase and included in the original cost estimate rather than after construction had already been started.

Because of change orders, the contingency fund has since dwindled down to \$169,207 in December.

Once the new gym is completed, the old gym will be renovated into the school's media center (Phase II).

While some exterior work has been done, most of the work can't be done until the new gym is opened.

Plans call for the old gym's floor to be torn out and the area eventually transformed into a state-of-the-art technology/media center.

Phase III of the project was the renovation of the school's auditorium which has already been completed and is being used. Phase III also includes replacing the HVAC units in the science wing.

Phase IV of the project is renovating the existing media center into administrative offices.

Lassiter said the board of education members will hold an open house and ribbon cutting for the new gymnasium once occupancy has been approved. While the date and time has not been finalized, Lassiter anticipates it will be held mid to late March.

WATER WORKS

HERTFORD TOWN EMPLOYEES WORKED Monday afternoon to dismantle the water fountain located on the courthouse green. Members of the Hertford Rotary Club will restore the fountain to its original working condition.



WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 54 LOW: 46
SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 55 LOW: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 47 LOW: 21
CLOUDY, WINDY