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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

October 15, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 42 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

A TEACHER OF distinction



Photo courtesy PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL TEACHER LISA Jones (floral blouse) got a surprise Monday when she was named Teacher of the Year by the Elizabeth City Wal-Mart Store by Store Manager Chris Evans, Training Supervisor Diane Hollowell and Personnel Manager Patricia Crank as her principal, Sylvia Johnson, and superintendent, Dr. Dwayne Stallings look on.

Wal-Mart names Jones Teacher of Year

Teachers say there is no such thing as a typical day.

No doubt that was true for Lisa Jones on Monday, when she was surprised with the news that she has been named Teacher of the Year by the Wal-Mart Store in Elizabeth City.

"It's not just an award for me. It's an award for my students, my colleagues and my school...many of the reasons I am such an enthusiastic teacher," Jones said. "I am proud to be a member of the team that makes Perquimans County Schools so successful."

The Central School educator is a national board certified teacher who has served local students for

the past nine years. Jones received a \$1,000 grant for the schools and a \$100 gift card to buy classroom supplies. She was also presented a personalized certificate.

"Mrs. Lisa Jones stands out as a leader in the educational arena," said Principal Sylvia Johnson. "She works collaboratively with everyone to help create a professional learning environment at Perquimans Central School. Mrs. Jones mirrors the caliber of educator teaching in the school district in Perquimans County."

"Lisa Jones is very deserving of the recognition of Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year," said Superintendent

Dr. Dwayne Stallings. "She is a dedicated, engaging and effective teacher who willingly shares her vision, energy and skills with students, parents and colleagues."

The award was presented by Elizabeth City Wal-Mart Store Manager Chris Evans, Training Supervisor Diane Hollowell, and Personnel Manager Patricia Crank.

Over the next few days, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club associates across the country will announce teacher winners. One teacher is selected by each Wal-Mart Store, Sam's Club, Neighborhood Market Store and Wal-Mart Distribution Center, through nominations

by members of the community during August and selected by a committee of facility associates. Nationwide more than 4,000 teachers are being honored.

"Our area has fantastic teachers," said Evans. "We are pleased to honor Lisa Jones as the Teacher of the Year to share this great news with our community."

Since the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year program began 1995, the Wal-Mart Foundation has honored more than 30,000 teachers nationwide and donated more than \$29 million to schools. Last year more than \$67 million was provided in support of educational initiatives.

PCHS takes quick action on theft, fire

SUSAN HARRIS

Three Perquimans County High School students were suspended last week after allegedly ransacking a locker room during a volleyball match and stealing about \$200 from visiting athletes.

Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter said the trio allegedly entered the locker room where the visiting Camden players had left their personal items during the match, and took about \$200.

Athletic Director Mike Horwat was told about the incident as soon as the match was over and the Camden team returned to the locker room. Horwat immediately notified Principal James Bunch, who was also still at the school.

The match ended just before 8:30 p.m.

Bunch and Horwat were aware that the area of the theft was covered by the school's new security system, which includes video surveillance.

On Wednesday, the video from the cameras was reviewed. Three male students were recorded participating in the incident. Bunch suspended the students from school, athletic events and extra-curricular activities, Lassiter said. The newspaper has learned that they were underclassmen, athletes and under age 16. Names could not be released by the school system under state privacy laws.

In addition, Bunch issued both verbal and written apologies to the visiting team. The school reimbursed the funds taken from the Camden players.

The incident was the second involving serious infractions of the student code of conduct at the school last week. On Monday, the school was evacuated due to a small trash can fire in a restroom in the school's new gymnasium wing.

After a student notified faculty members of smelling smoke, the teachers responded quickly, dousing the flames with a fire extinguisher in minutes. The fire was contained to the trash can.

Firefighters responded and set up equipment to clear smoke from the building, while fire marshal Mark Rogerson determined that the fire was intentionally set.

The student determined responsible for the incident by a review of video from surveillance cameras covering that area of the building was suspended. She could not be identified by school officials due to state privacy laws.

According to Sheriff Eric Tilley, as of Monday, juvenile petitions have not been filed against the students involved in the incidents.

The schools said that Deputy Stacey Mitchell, the school resource officer, assisted in the investigation of the incidents.

Tilley said Monday he

New security system IDs suspects fast

SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County High School's new security system proved its worth twice last week.

The alleged perpetrators in last Monday's bathroom trashcan fire and last Tuesday's locker room theft were identified soon after each incident, and high school Principal James Bunch acted swiftly to enforce discipline policies.

While past efforts to determine the alleged culprit in school incidents were very dependent on witnesses coming forward and interviews with students and staff, the initial investigations of the latest incidents were quicker thanks to the video surveillance component of the school's new security system.

The system provides live and archived data and is extremely flexible and easy to use. Digital video recording technology has revolutionized the security and surveillance of the school buildings and grounds.

Fed by cameras, the crystal-clear footage recorded on a digital system enables school security personnel to observe even the most inconspicuous details—such as a small object changing hands between two students. With strategic placement of cameras, schools can observe individuals continuously as they make their way around campus.

The system was a part of the renovation of PCHS and provides 32 cameras throughout the campus and parking lots. Administrators using the system may stream video to users located anywhere in the district, offering non-centralized viewing and recording options.

"School officials have been well pleased with the results of the security system and the additional benefit of archived data which assists with investigating incidents such as those school officials faced this past week," said schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

The surveillance system does not take the place of interviews and other evidence-gathering, but is used in tandem with those techniques. As it makes initial identification of alleged culprits in an incident much quicker and more sure, it allows school personnel to isolate someone who may pose a potential threat to the safety of others in the building or to proceed with appropriate action against those who are shown accountable on videotape.

was not in town for part of last week, and planned to contact Bunch to review the incidents and determine if further action is warranted. All the students could have juvenile petitions filed against them.

Hail to the (new) chief

Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK TODD Tilley administers the oath of office to Hertford's new police chief, Joe Amos, as Town Manager John Christensen watches. Amos comes to Hertford from the Mt. Gilead Police Department and with 11 years of experience in law enforcement. His wife, Bobbi, is also a school resource officer and an instructor holding a training coordinator certification. Amos is a specialized instructor for the state, he said. They are the parents of a 10-year-old boy.



WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 87 LOW: 61
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 73 LOW: 53
FEW SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 67 LOW: 47
FEW SHOWERS

Teens charged with sex crime

SUSAN HARRIS

Three area teens were arrested on Oct. 2 and charged with sex crimes.

Blayne Kime, 19, 1068 Belvidere Road; George Weber, 19, 504 N. Broad Street, Edenton; and Michael Bragg, 18, Yeopim Road, Edenton all face allegations of sexual misconduct.

According to Sheriff Eric Tilley the three males "got up with" the female. Alcohol and marijuana were allegedly involved, he said. At some point, the female passed out, and there were allegedly sexual advances made, pictures taken and drawings made on the female's body while she was passed out.

Later, the males feared something was wrong with the girl and they rushed her to Albemarle Hospital. Hospital personnel contacted the sheriff's department and an investigation began.

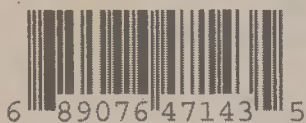
Kime was charged with second degree sex offense and placed under a \$30,000 secured bond. Weber and Bragg were each

charged with aggravated assault with sexual battery and placed under secured bonds of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Another pair of teens faces felony larceny charges after allegedly robbing local businesses.

Lance Michael Castro of 606 Dobbs Street and Tyshawn Whidbee of 232 Joppa Road, Belvidere, are both charged with breaking and entering and felony larceny stemming from thefts at Larry's Drive-Inn and the laundry business at Perquimans Village Shopping Center. Whidbee also stands accused of the same charges in connection with an incident at Country Kettle Restaurant.

In Perquimans County District Court on Oct. 8, both had a first appearance on one count each of breaking and entering and felony larceny. Whidbee waived probably cause on two additional counts of each charge, and Castro on one. The cases upon which probable cause was waived will be heard in Perquimans County Superior Court.



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