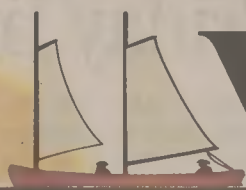


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



**FOOTBALL
PREVIEW** Young
Pirates
will have their
hands full, P. 7

"News from Next Door"

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Students face changes when schools open

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

New coaches, personnel changes

Read more about the changes students face — 8A

Students returning to school next week will see several changes that will impact their school day from the time they get on the bus in the morning

through programs held after school.

Approximately 1,745 students are expected to cross

the thresholds of the doors to the Perquimans County Schools Aug. 25, said Brenda Lassiter, the system's

public information officer. This year, change is in the air—mostly because of state budget cuts and other mandates.

While the bus routes are still the same, school officials say students may see two different bus driv-

ers each day: one driving the morning route and another driver delivering students home by bus in the afternoon.

Lassiter says six bus routes may be affected.

"Because we have so many bus drivers who

work other jobs in the school system, some routes will have split drivers," she explained. "One driver may drive the bus in the morning, but not in the afternoon, and vice versa.

See CHANGES, 8

SCHOOL STARTS 'REEL' SOON



FILE PHOTO/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Area youngsters will soon trade in their fishing rods for school books. The first day of classes for students attending Perquimans County Schools is Aug. 25.

Friday Night Stroll continues

Downtown event is this Friday starting at 5 p.m.

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Chamber officials say Friday Night Strolls have been successful in its inaugural season and plans call to continue the entertaining monthly evenings into the fall.

"The strolls have been well received. People here seem to be pleased. It is an opportunity to do something a little different."

Susan Cox
Chamber president

Chamber President Susan Cox said she is pleased that the area has supported the project for the last three months. Special entertainment performs the third Friday evening of the month in front of the historic county courthouse. Vendors offering food, crafts, and



FILE PHOTO/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Home-baked goods and fresh vegetables were offered on the historic Courthouse green during Friday Night Stroll, June 17. The event is scheduled this Friday.

information line the sidewalks.

The next stroll is set for Friday night from 5-8 p.m.

This month's stroll features a mixture of gospel music, line dancing, good food, and plenty of fun for everyone.

Select businesses will be open late, pony rides will be available for the kids on the Hertford Baptist Church lawn, and a reception will be held at Perquimans Arts League welcoming artist Phil Alden and his works.

Frank Heath and the New Hope Christian Church Youth Group will sign and share music Friday evening. The Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center's Line Danc-

ers will perform as well.

Author Kaye Fussell Long will be on hand for a book signing, and Cox says she hopes Long and Mike Fussell will sing too.

Cox says plans are being formulated to have a focus on back to school for the September stroll, and October's stroll may wrap around the upcoming fall season.

"The strolls have been well received," said Cox. "People here seem to be pleased. It is an opportunity to do something a little different."

"The heat kinda got us last month, and if the heat comes back strong this month, that's OK," she added. "September and October's weather should be very pleasant."

Bridge opening delayed

From staff reports

The historic S-bridge and Causeway will remain closed until Sept. 9.

Randy Williams, with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said crews are working hard to complete maintenance work on the bridge by the original reopen date of Aug. 25, but fears all the work needed can't be completed in time.

"There is so much rust. It (bridge) is in such bad shape, we just can't get it done in time," he said.

The bridge and Causeway were closed Aug. 1 for repair work with crews hoping to get it reopened by the time school buses begin rolling Aug. 25.

Approximately 130 repair orders have to be completed before the bridge can be reopened for traffic, he said.

While the road will be close to vehicle traffic, the bridge will remain open to boat traffic.

Man ejected in truck crash

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

An 18-year-old Williamston man was in critical but stable condition Monday after being ejected from the pick-up truck he was driving during an early morning crash on New Hope Road.

Officials believe Roberson was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

Trooper F.T. Langley, Jr., with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, said Clayton Edward Roberson, Jr. was thrown from the 1992 Dodge pick up truck around 3:43 a.m. Monday morning while traveling on New Hope Road near the intersection with Old Neck Road. The driver of the truck, he said, was "traveling a little too fast," lost control, overcorrected, struck a stop sign and a ditch, causing the truck to overturn before catching on fire. Roberson was thrown about 30 feet and landed in the roadway where he was later found by two men traveling to the Deep Creek Road area.

Perquimans EMS responded and transported Roberson to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and later air-lifted to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

According to Suzanne

See CRASH, 2

Fire probe is ongoing

From staff reports

Investigation is continuing into the cause of a fire that occurred in a Castleton Drive home last month.

Fire was discovered in the utility room and attic area on July 29. Firefighters extinguished the fire within minutes and contained the fire and water damage to those areas of the home located at 507 Castleton Drive.

Owner Deborah Snyder, who was not at home at the time of the fire, said the house was in the foreclosure process earlier in the summer but she was able to pull it out of foreclosure several weeks before

See FIRE, 2

