

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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INSIDE TODAY — Indian Summer Festival guide



50 cents

"News from Next Door"

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PCHS prepares for future early graduates

Focus on more advanced courses, STEM program

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

With the change in advanced courses and more focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) classes, school officials predict some advanced students in future years may

be ready to graduate from high school as early as their sophomore year.

Because of the future possibilities, Perquimans County High School is developing procedures now to help guide students who may choose to graduate earlier than normal to either begin their college study or career choice.

Assistant Superintendent James Bunch presented the early graduation procedures to mem-

bers of the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night. While students may meet the graduation requirements early, the new procedures basically allows school administrators the opportunity to encourage the student to remain in high school and take college courses instead.

"We are excited about this," said Bunch. "It is possible in the year 2015-16 for some students to

meet requirements for graduation after three years. But, we want them to stay in school at PCHS and take college courses through our school which would save them money on tuition and books. Our vision is for students to eventually have a two-year college degree when they graduate from high school."

According to the procedures, a student must show satisfactory mastery of high school aca-

demical skills and concepts, must complete at least six semesters in a high school course of study in grades 9-12, must complete the last semester of enrollment as a full-time student at PCHS, must show a need for early graduation, and meet graduation course and testing requirements that were in effect the time the student entered ninth grade.

See GRADUATES, 8

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Perquimans Central School Principal Melissa Fields greets students on opening day of school, Monday.

Traffic only problem on first day of classes

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Little five-year-old Caden Munden walked into Perquimans Central School Monday morning holding her daddy's hand.

Petite and blonde with her hair pulled back in a single braid, she wore a colorful peace-sign shirt, ruffled skirt and leggings,

and carried a huge pink Hello Kitty book bag on her back that was nearly as long as she is tall.

After entering her kindergarten classroom on the first day of school, she watched as her teacher Nicole Ralph hug one of her former students, six-year-old Hannah Bergman. Ralph was Bergman's

See FIRST DAY, 8



Happy students arrived bright and early Monday for their first day of school at Perquimans Central School.



Check out the new shoes! Two girls returning to school at Perquimans Central on Monday compare new shoes as they carry in a good supply of tissues for the upcoming school year.

Detective suspended after DWI

Firkel has been with police department since July 2009

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A Hertford Police detective has been suspended from his duties without pay after being charged with driving while impaired early Sunday morning following an automobile accident.

Town Manager Brandon Shoaf confirmed that Christopher Firkel, age 30, was suspended without pay on Monday. He would not comment on the duration of the suspension, saying only that "is it an ongoing personnel matter."

According to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Firkel was driving a 1997 Jeep Sunday morning around 2 a.m. in the 700-block of Forest Park Road in Elizabeth City when the vehicle ran off the road on the right side, overcorrected, crossed the center line, ran off the roadway and struck a concrete driveway. The accident was investigated by Trooper C. Allison.

According to court records, Firkel was charged with driving while impaired following the accident. He was released in the custody of a responsible party, court officials said, and faces a Nov. 8 court date in Pasquotank County.

Firkel has been a Hertford Police officer since July 2009.

Shots are fired around Wynne Fork complex

Bullets strike trailer, car on April 21

From staff reports

Gunfire erupted around the Wynne Fork Apartments Aug. 21 with several bullets striking a nearby mobile home and a vehicle parked near the apartment complex.

No one was reported injured in the gunfire. According to the Hertford Police Department, officers responded to the Hertford Housing Authority complex around 10 p.m. after receiving reports of shots fired in the area.

Police discovered that two bullets had entered a mobile home in the Dogwood Mobile Home Park. Further investigation determined that a vehicle had also been struck twice by bullets.

Police later found seven 9-mm shell casings in the grass scattered from the back to the front of the apartment building.

Investigation into the gunfire is continuing.

Downtown streets to close Sept. 7 for Indian Summer

Church Street (from Grubb to Dobbs streets) and Market Street (from Church Street to the Baptist church parking lot) will be closed to traffic beginning at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7, for the 2012 Indian Summer Festival.

All vehicles parked on

either of those streets must be removed by 4 p.m.

Access to PNC Bank may be made from their Front Street entrance.

Individuals will have access to park in the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot on Friday, Sept. 7, for access to the merchants on both Market and Church streets.

The closing on Market Street will be extended to Covent Garden on Saturday morning, Sept. 8, to accommodate the kids venue and additional features such as the fire trucks and EMS vehicles.

Original Rhondels to open festival

Band will perform from 7 to 10 p.m.

By CATHY B. WILSON
Staff Writer

Mark the date now! Back by popular demand, the Original Rhondels will open this year's Indian Summer Festival by performing during the free street dance on Friday, Sept. 7 from 7-10 p.m. on the main stage located on the historic Courthouse Green on Church Street.

There'll be a "whole lotta shagging" going on in downtown Hertford as the popular beach music band

plays their hit recordings, including their three top 10 hits "May I", "I've Been Hurt", and "What Kind of Food Do You Think I Am?"

From Virginia Beach, the Original Rhondels have performed their hit recordings in almost every major city in the United States. In 1969, Bill Deal and the Rhondels began a recording career that would take them to Madison Square Garden and across the

country. They delight their audiences with outstanding vocals, powerful brass and exciting showmanship.

The unexpected passing of Bill Deal in 2003 was a great loss to the music industry; however, the Original Rhondels continue to perform the great music that earned them a star on the Legends Wall of Fame. The band features Brian Bleakley on vocals and trumpet, Peter Pope on

keys and vocals, Steve Ambrose on sax and vocals, Dean Englert on trombone and vocals, Gary Hardy and Rollie Ligart on trumpet and vocals, Bruce Harlow on guitar and vocals, Wayne Kessinger on baritone sax and vocals, and Sonny Morris on drums and vocals.

A beer and wine garden will be open during the dance at the corner of Church and Market streets. Food and craft vendors, along with music by DJ Cowboy will open the Friday evening festivities at 6 p.m.

See FESTIVAL, 8

