

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2015

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Perquimans schools outline future needs



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Replacing the one roof at Perquimans County High School is one of the projects on a list of projects the school system will face in the next few years.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools may need \$13.4 million over the next 10 years for maintenance and improvement projects, according to a report.

The state requires school districts report their capital needs every five years. While the state pays the bulk of the cost of public education, physical needs like buildings are the responsibility of the local county government.

"We're in pretty good shape, and it's because of a lot of people including our maintenance department, our school board and the commissioners," Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said last week. "We've kept up to date."

The list is designed to keep the local county commission as well as the N.C. Department of Public Instruction informed about what may be required in the future.

"That's why you look at long-range needs so unless something expected happens, nobody is surprised," Stallings said.

David Buchanan, the schools' maintenance director, compiled the list. He plans to make a presentation to the Perquimans County Commission when it meets Monday night.

The \$13.4 million includes \$5

million for an athletic complex. Stallings said the athletic complex was included "for informational purposes."

"It (the athletic complex) is not a priority when comparing it to keeping existing buildings maintained."

The needs are broken down into three categories, one for projects in the next five years, one for projects in years six through 10 and a third category that lists projects that are needed but don't fall into the first two groups.

School officials estimate the short-term needs will cost about \$5.6 million. The longer

See NEEDS, 2

Bridge project delayed

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Construction on a replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge is now not expected to start until after July 2020 — two years later than what DOT was projecting two years ago.

The latest delay has been because a federal historic preservation group was called into review the plans. The area where the S-Bridge is is considered a historic district as is the 88-year-old truss bridge itself.

The N.C. Department of Transportation had hoped meetings with the historic group would take place this fall.

"I had hoped it (the review) would have been done by now, but hopefully it will be in the next three months," said Jay McInnis,

See BRIDGE, 2

Parks promote hiking

From Staff Reports

The 2016 centennial of North Carolina's state parks system will launch at Goose Creek State Park with a First Day Hike on Jan. 1.

It is designed as an opportunity to begin the New Year with exercise, family adventure and a reconnection with nature, according to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

There will be similar events at Merchants Millpond State Park, Pettigrew State Park and Dismal Swamp State Park.

Now in its fifth year, the tradition has prompted North Carolinians to walk more than 17,000 miles on

See HIKING, 3



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

An engraved marker honoring Dr. John Harris sits next to the Perquimans County Library.

Markers honor famed dentist

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

It's hard to ignore a solitary granite marker nearly five feet tall, but few apparently even notice it today.

But nearly 70 years ago it was a big deal.

The marker doesn't commemorate a big military battle. It doesn't mark the final place of some elected leader.

It also doesn't mark the specific final resting place of anyone at all.

But the monument that sits beside the Perquimans County Library does honor the life and accomplishments of a man who got sick and died in Hertford.

Dr. John Harris was a New York born dentist who is hailed in Ohio as the father of modern dentistry. He died one July day in 1849 in Hertford and was buried with Masonic rites the very next day. No one is quite sure just where, but there is a marker in Cedarwood Cemetery that shows the general area where he was laid to rest.

But in the early part of the last century, there were no such markers to remember Harris and dentists in Ohio felt he deserved something in Hertford given his contributions to society.

So they and dentists in North Carolina set about a plan for a monument in Hertford. By 1938 the Ohio Dental Association had already purchased the building Harris used in Bainbridge, Ohio as the first dental school in America. The building itself was originally a small



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A marker in Cedarwood Cemetery shows the approximate spot where Dr. John Harris was buried.

house built in 1815.

Modern dentistry in the early 1800s isn't quite the same as modern dentistry today. Newspaper accounts of the museum in Bainbridge speak of crude implements and leather straps on the patients' chair so they would be restrained.

But even in the 1840s, Harris was held in high regard by the dental profession.

Harris' brother Chapin founded a dental school himself the Baltimore Dental College in 1839 12 years after John Bonner started his.

Harris visited Hertford during at time before the Civil War, but

when the possibility of that war was looming.

That was not lost on one speaker at the dedication of Harris' monument in the 1940s.

"One hundred years is a long time, yet it is the time we have waited to honor the memory of the man who probably has meant more to the profession of dentistry than any other man, dead or living. Dr. John Harris. Too, a man's ideals and life work must have been important when we find a gathering of men such as I see before me honoring his

See MARKER, 3

School starts fishing club

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County High School students have another club they join.

The school has added a fishing club to the list.

The group is considered a club, not a sport.

School funds won't be used to fund the club.

Instead students will be expected to raise funds on their own.



LEICESTER

The coordinator of the club is Matt Leicester, a new teacher at PCHS and a 1998 graduate.

"It's really something that happened by chance," Leicester said last week. "I've always enjoyed fishing and being outdoors and when I took this job my best friend mentioned it."

Then I started doing some research and found the program by FLW."

Leicester said he liked the idea that the club would attract some students who might not be involved in any other outside activity at school.

"It will also have a opportunity to students to see other parts of the state when it comes to regionals," Leicester said.

"I felt like it was a great way to reach out to a group of kids so they can get involved in something they might not otherwise do."

Leicester said about a dozen students have shown an interest so far, but he believes more will join.

Leicester, 35, will be teaching the public safety course at the high school. Starting this fall, he'll head the Emergency Medical Technician class.

See CLUB, 2

New round of scholarships available for high school seniors

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Schools Foundation has announced the availability of the following scholarships for high school seniors at-

tending Perquimans High School. Deadline to apply for each scholarship is March 1. For more information or a copy of the application, contact Nancy B. Morgan, school counselor.

Bessie Smith Harrell Scholarship — The Bessie Smith Harrell Scholarship of \$750 is given in honor of Bessie Smith Harrell, a native and lifelong resident of Perquimans County, who



passed away in 2004. The intent of the donor, David Jordan, is that this award will encourage studying basic or

applied fields of science by students. Recipients are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and character.

Claude Brinn Male and Female Athletic Scholarships — The Perquimans County Schools Athletic Boosters fund a \$500 scholarship for a male and female athlete each year. Recipients participate in at least two sports, maintain

high academic standards throughout their tenure in high school, and are noted for their outstanding sportsmanship.

Rhonda Gregory Business Scholarship — This \$1,000 scholarship is a scholarship sponsored by Danny and Rhonda Gregory, and is offered to a PCHS senior planning to attend College of the Albemarle and entering the field of business. Re-

cipients are selected based on financial need and academic standards.

Shearman Athletic Scholarship — Dave Shearman, a Perquimans County resident, sponsors the annual Shearman Athletic Scholarship of \$500 to a PCHS athlete who participates in at least one sport, has no disciplinary referrals and

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