

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## PCRA opens visitor's center

The Perquimans County Restoration Association has made considerable progress in its efforts to make the Newbold-White house a lively public exhibit of county history.

The society has just finished construction of a visitor's center, which is expected to be open by today. The new center will house the information desk and the slide show kiosk, both of which were formerly in the house itself.

The society also expects to open a gift shop in the center very soon. The gift shop will sell locally-made arts and crafts.

The new visitor's center will also make one other important addition to the site — a pair of rest rooms.

Two new pieces of period furniture were bought and placed in the house along with the pre-1690 chair bought soon after the house was opened two months ago. The new pieces, a pair of andirons and another chair, were both purchased in Pennsylvania and were both made in the latter part of the 17th century.

The chair was made in either southeast Virginia or eastern North Carolina because, according to Herbert Nixon, project coordinator for the PCRA, "the bottom is made from North Carolina walnut."

The PCRA in now in the market for an old bed and another chair, but so far has not had much luck. Authenticity is important, and the price of most authentic 17th and early 18th century furniture is prohibitive. One chair the society looked at was found to be Spanish rather than British or American, and was not considered proper for the house.

Because of the price and scarcity of period furniture, the society will make modern reproductions of the pieces, "selling the reproductions" as the actual furniture is purchased.

Two Belvidere men, D.B. Powell and Ben Hobbs, both members of the PCRA, have experience in reproduction and will make the new pieces.

Nixon reports that an unexpected

number of visitors have come to see the house. "It's been much better than I expected," he said. "Sunday's have been good, and so have Saturday's. It's like grapes: they come in bunches."

"We've had our share. After all, the house has only been open a short while."

"We've had people from almost all the states, and we even had two from Australia," he added.

The PCRA has also received a visit and some comments and suggestions from employees of the Division of Archives and History in the state Department of Cultural Resources. These men — Richard Sawyer, administrator of the Historic Sites section of the department; Rick Howell, operations specialist; Michael Smith, furnishings curator; and Larry Misenheimer, assistant administrator — each spoke to the society about how to present the house to the public in the most appealing, educational manner. In other words, how to sell the house to the public.

Among their ideas, the historians suggested that the society try to bring the house — and the history behind it — to life through drama and special events. "The house is not a gem to look at," said Sawyer, "but a living organism. Try to take the 17th and 18th century to the fourth or fifth grade child. Show how everyone talked, walked, ate, but not with cardboard figures. Try to tell people why they are proud of their history through interpretive experiences."

The state group also suggest perhaps constructing an actual farm on the site — an expensive undertaking, but one that the public would enjoy. Landscaping was emphasized, and a student at North Carolina State has expressed interest in doing the landscaping.

Zoning was also mentioned as an important factor in appeal of the house. Proper zoning would prevent the encroachment of development that might take away from the historic site.



## Jousting balloons

Billy White of Elizabeth City charges for the target balloon during the Perquimans County Horse show Monday. Rain didn't stop White, but it stopped most of the rest of the riders and the show was called off soon afterward.

## Options for parents

### Local woman reaches out to mothers

The decision to have children is usually taken after a lot of thought, but often the method of having them is assumed, rather than decided upon.

In Perquimans County, there is really very few choices for women to decide upon, and Kate Shales is trying to do something about that.

Shales is the local coordinator for the International Childbirth Education Association. Her job has been to organize groups to encourage new methods of childbirth in the area, and then educated women in the options they now have.

Her work has formed the Albemarle Parenting and Childbirth Education Association, the local arm of the ICEA.

Shales doesn't look upon childbirth as just the necessary step to becoming a parent. She and her group believe that a couple becomes a parent before the child is born. Just how the child is born can reflect upon the child's development.

"The more information parents have about their choices," she said, "the more satisfied parents they will be."

"Women should know what can be made available for them. I would like to see the area provide a variety of choices, so women won't feel angry. A lot do."

Shales has been in the area for two years, and she and her husband — a developmental pediatrician working for the state Developmental Evaluation Center — have two children of the own, Meg, 9 years old, and Hannah, 1½.

She lived in rural Wisconsin for several years and had her first at home there.

"People expected people to prepare for childbirth," she said about her old home. After her child was born, she began teaching childbirth classes in the community.

She has worked as a lay midwife, and has a bachelors degree in art history. Having come here, she works

with a group of about 40 members. It's an interested core of people who discuss and work toward better choices for women.

The groups includes non-parents and professional people, expectant parents and people who have children now.

They speak to school groups, churches, local organizations. "We are always open to public," Shales said.

At present, local women have only two choices in childbirth — Chowan and Albemarle Hospitals. Shales would like to more variety: small

birth centers, home births, midwives, along with various hospital births.

But that is something to work towards. "We begin with the women, not the facilities," said Shales. "Family-centered maternity care doesn't stop there. It incorporates both parents, getting them involved in the birth."

So far, response to the program has been slow, Shales admits. But through her work she hopes to make women more aware. "I think women would feel more comfortable making their own decisions for the family."

## Filing date announced

The Perquimans County Board of Elections announced the beginning of the filing period for five seats up for election in the county area.

According to Elizabeth Winslow, secretary to the board, there are two seats on the Hertford Town Council up for election this year, two seats on the Winfall Town Council, and the mayor of Winfall. The filing period for candidates

wishing to run for those seats is from noon September 11 until noon October 2. The election will be held November 3.

Erie Haste and John Beers now hold the two seats up for election on the Hertford Town Council. John Simons and Lloyd Ray Morgan hold the seats on the Winfall Town Council. Morgan is also acting mayor of the Winfall.



## Suiting up for the season

Ricky Heidrich of the team gets ready to begin Tigers will open their season eighth graders on September Perquimans Union football practice last week. The Union against Manteo seventh and 16 in Manteo.

## Teacher workshop

The Perquimans County Board of Education announces an "Advanced Workshop for Substitutes" to be held Monday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Perquimans County Office Building Auditorium.

Non-certified persons who have attended a beginners' workshop since September of 1979, are required to attend if they wish to remain on the active substitute list.

Certified persons are not required to attend this workshop

even if they have attended a beginners' workshop in the past. All certified persons will remain on the substitute list unless the Board of Education is advised differently.

All certified persons who have recently requested to be placed on the substitute list for 1981-82 have been added. (subject to Board approval). An orientation workshop will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the County Office Building from 2 to 5 p.m. for certified persons who have not taught in Perquimans County.

## In Hertford

### Police arrest burglar following scuffle

Hertford police arrested a local man in the process of a first degree burglary Saturday night, following a scuffle in which the arrested man was hurt.

The alleged burglar, Edward Hines, 38, of Hertford, was taken to Chowan Hospital for treatment of a cut on the head. He was then transferred to Albemarle District Jail on \$2,000 bond pending a hearing.

According to police, Cpl. Robert Morris arrested Hines Saturday at about 11:15 p.m. while Hines was in the act stealing from the home of Hattie Waller of 207 E. Railroad Ave. Waller was at home at the time, and called police while Hines was breaking in.

Hines, unarmed, attempted to break away from Morris during the arrest. Police said that Morris didn't use his gun or billy club, but during the ensuing fight Hines hit his head on a nearby door, knocking him unconscious. Morris was uninjured.

Along with first degree burglary — a felony — police also charged Hines with resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer, both misdemeanors. He will make his first appearance in district court September 23.

## This week

Patti White began caring for senior citizens while she was still a child. And she cares even more today. See page three.

The Perquimans Pirates have another tough game ahead of them as they travel to Weldon Friday. See page eight.

## Weather

Mild weather through the weekend, highs in the 70s and lows in the lower to mid-60s.