

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Local Briefs

### Community plans benefit for hunting accident victim

A group of citizens has banned together to plan a benefit supper for Mack Bunch of Perquimans County, who recently received injuries to his face and chest in a hunting accident.

The pork barbecue and trimmings meal is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Bethel Fire Station. Tickets will sell for \$5.

Anyone interested in making benefit donations or needing more information may contact Jeff Proctor (426-7812), Willis Proctor (482-8073) or Wayne Layden (426-7591).

Bunch is presently in Pitt Memorial Hospital.

### Democrats plan annual precinct meetings

Perquimans County Democrats have scheduled their annual precinct meetings to be held at their regular polling places on March 8 at 8 p.m.

County Democratic Chairman Julian H. Broughton encouraged all registered Democrats to attend. "We want all Democrats to attend this meeting, whether they're party regulars or just want to get involved with the party again," he said.

Chairman Broughton said that precinct meetings are the most basic ingredient for Democratic success. "The precinct level is where all policy-making begins," Broughton said. "The more that people get involved in precinct meetings, the better the party can represent the views of all Democrats."

At the March 8 meetings, Democrats will elect delegates to the April 21 County Conventions.

Precincts also will have the chance to pass resolutions on the Party's public policy issues.

For more information, call Chairman Broughton at 426-5667 or 426-5438.

### Committee of 100 plans dinner meeting Monday

Perquimans County Committee of 100 will hold its annual meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, at Angler's Cove Restaurant. Social hour will begin at 6:30 with dinner at 7:30. Members and guests are welcome. Tickets are \$7.50 and may be picked up at the Perquimans County Chamber office.

### Witwer elected to New York Academy of Science

Dr. Timothy Witwer, an Elizabeth City internist, has been elected to the New York Academy of Science. The Academy recognizes leaders in medical and scientific fields internationally.

The Board of Governors of the Academy acted on Dr. Witwer's nomination this month. Candidates are judged on their achievements in their field of endeavor. The Academy announced new members at a special award ceremony in New York City.

Witwer commented that he was pleased to be elected into the distinguished organization. Witwer and his wife, Susan, live in Elizabeth City and are the parents of two children.

**Thinking of placing a Classified Ad; but not sure how to do it? Just call our friendly Ad-Visor, Elenora she will be glad to help you.**

**426-5728**  
**Perquimans Weekly**  
119 W. Grubb St.  
8 a.m.-5p.m., Mon.-Fri.

## Perquimans schools approves differentiated pay and school improvement plans after months of study

By JOE SOUTHERN  
Daily Advance Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Education, with support from the system's employees, has approved its differentiated pay plan and school improvement plan, and has submitted them to the state for approval.

The pay plan closely follows the Career Development Program the school system has been test piloting for the state for the last five years. Through the plan, teachers earn their raises and bonuses based on student performance and improvement. It is one of the biggest factors listed in the school improvement plan, as submitted through the provision of the Student Improvement and Accountability Act (a.k.a. Senate Bill 2).

"Research shows that certain teaching practices are positively correlated with stu-

dent achievement," the pay plan says. "The focus of teacher evaluation in the CDP is on those effective teaching practices which can make a difference in student performance."

The plan has three major goals. They are: "to improve the quality of instruction; to increase the attractiveness of teaching; and to encourage the recognition and retention of high quality teachers."

The plan calls for advancement based on performance as judged by a panel of trained evaluators. Employees entering into the system are assigned an "initial status" during the first two years of employment. An employee who has completed the requirements of the initial certification program, but is not yet tenured in the county school system, will be assigned a "provisional status."

After tenure has been obtained, the em-

ployees can then earn "Career Status I." After three years the employee is eligible to be promoted to "Career Status II."

The plan has a provision designed to keep employees from becoming lax in their duties once the higher level is achieved. If an evaluator determines that the employee is not maintaining appropriate levels, measures can be taken to return the person to Career Status I.

Because the school system served as one of 16 test systems for the program, the system will have a three-year decrease in funding to allow the rest of the state the opportunity to catch up to present levels. The bonuses earned through the pay plan are determined by a percentage of the employees current salary.

The proposal calls for Career Status I em-

ployees to earn bonuses of 4.5 percent of current salary, and for Career Status II employees to receive 14.1 percent. In the second and third years the same percents hold, but with the provision of the availability of funds. The faculty and staff voted on the three-year pay scale, and approved it with a 74-29 vote by the faculty and a 10-0 vote by the administration.

Included in the plan is the appeals process policy.

Included in the school improvement plan was the system's five-year goals. Those goals include professional development, increased community support, improved curriculum and increased funding sources.

Through those goals the system hopes to improve SAT scores, address the adult literacy problem, expand various programs and to improve relations with the community.

## Restoration Association plans art show

The Perquimans County Restoration Association is sponsoring its first art show on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. beginning with a reception honoring the artists. Local artists whose work will be displayed include Henry Rood, Jr., Nat White and Mildred Edwards Whitley.

Members of the Perquimans County Restoration Association will preview the show at their annual dinner meeting on Feb. 24 at the new Perquimans Center at Newbold-White.

Mrs. Whitley, who has just observed her 95th birthday, has been painting since she was 16, and some of her paintings from this early period will be shown. "Mic," as she is fondly called, attributes her love for this art form to a woman named Miss Penelope Norcor who gave classes to young ladies in painting and fine "fancy work."

"She was so strict that we all called her the Pope," Mic says, "but it was fun, and I have been painting ever since." She also studied music, and played the organ at Holy Trinity for 50 years. Mic still keeps her easel set up on her riverfront porch, with two paintings of the Perquimans River now near completion.

Henry Rood's first love seems to have been portraiture. He has almost 500 portraits, hanging in 26 states, to his credit. Among these are four governors of North Carolina and many well-known corporate executives. He works in pastels and oils, and includes landscapes of Greensboro, his former home, the Outer Banks and Perquimans County in his collection.

Rood calls himself "portrait painter, picture conservator, and art educator." A few years ago he and his wife, nee Frances Wilson White, decided to leave the Greensboro home where they lived for 51 years and come to her native home, Hertford, for a more leisurely life style.

He continues to paint, and will unveil his latest work as a conservator at the annual meeting of PCRA of Feb. 24. Frances continues her study of genealogy and early Perquimans history. Both



Photo by Susan Harris

Mildred "Mic" Whitley contemplates a painting of the Perquimans River on which she is presently working in her den/studio on the banks of the river. Mrs. Whitley is one of three local artists whose work will be shown at the first Perquimans Restoration Association art show.

serve as docents at Newbold-White.

Nat White, also a repatriated Perquimans native, proves that despite what Thomas Wolfe said, you "can go home again." Nat, a Perquimans boy, married Mary Lou Perry, a Perquimans girl, which gives them a double dose of Perquimans fever. He also happens to be Frances White Rood's brother, and like her husband, Henry Rood, studied at the New York Art Student's League.

White is well known as an illustrator, with credits from the Reader's Digest and many other

magazines. He is in demand as an illustrator for the better advertising agencies, greeting card companies and publishers of fine art books.

The Art Show will be open for the reception from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, and for three days beginning March 1, when the Newbold-White reopens to the public for the 1990 season. The exhibit is free and everyone is cordially invited to visit the center during regular hours of operation, on March 1, 2, and 3, from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

## School system tries to raise test scores

By JOE SOUTHERN  
Daily Advance Staff Writer

Wanting to turn the tide of poor test results and other problems of educating a largely poor population, the Perquimans County schools has taken its first step with the Effective Schools program.

"The most common element of all humans is not color, height, weight or accent, it's the ability to learn," Robert Fortenberry, Superintendent of Schools in Jackson, Miss., told the faculty and staff of the Perquimans school system during a special program Tuesday afternoon.

Fortenberry, who is credited with making drastic improvements in his home district, is the longest tenured superintendent in an urban environment in the U. S. He has held his position for 17 years. Most recently he has become active with the Effective Schools movement, and was invited as a guest speaker in Perquimans County.

"The best thing I can do for my grandchildren is make public education work better," he said. "My job above everything else is to see that kids learn."

Fortenberry spent a big part of his lecture dispelling the myth that the ability to learn is based on so-

cio-economic factors. He stressed that the poor not only have the same right to the same education as those of means, but they have the same capabilities to learn as well.

"There are no more excuses. If the children come, teach them," he said. He added that his school district's motto has been "the academic failure of any child is an unacceptable outcome."

He also provided some statistics which appeared to shock his audience.

"The people with the lowest expectation of black kids are the black people," he said.

He pointed out that one in five children born in America are born to teen-age mothers. One in four are illegitimate.

"A search in our district revealed a 22-year-old grandmother," he said. "Do we owe her children anything less (than other children)?"

He also said that 59 percent of the children born today will live with just one parent sometime before they turn 18.

"The Dick and Jane household in America is dead," he said.

"The birth rate in America is

determined by economics, not race," he said.

He showed how the birth rate declined as the household economic levels rose.

"People ask me when we are going to get through this school improvement business. My answer to that is "never," he said.

He also talked about the importance of having good leadership in a school system.

"I have not dealt with a school improvement program in this nation that has bubbled up from the bottom," he said. He encouraged principals to go into the classrooms more often.

After his lecture, Fortenberry said he felt that Perquimans County schools would soon see some improvement.

"It is going to improve here because of the leadership," he said. He added that what he had to say to the teachers and staff would make them uncomfortable.

Perquimans Superintendent Mary Jo Martin agreed. She said that many of the teachers were, for the first time, getting a look at what kind of students they really have in class.

## Hertford Town Council enacts junk car ordinance

By SUSAN HARRIS  
Editor

The Hertford Town Council enacted a junked car ordinance on Monday, Feb. 12 after a year of discussion on the matter.

"I think it's very enforceable and very well written," commented police chief Aubrey Sample when asked by council members for his comments.

The ordinance, which was taken from a model drawn up by the N.C. League of Municipalities, defines abandoned, junked and nuisance vehicles.

Abandoned vehicles are unlawful. The ordinance gives town officials authorization to determine that a vehicle is abandoned and order its removal.

It is unlawful for a vehicle to remain on a real property after the vehicle has been declared a nuisance vehicle. The town building inspector may determine that the vehicle is a health or safety hazard and a nuisance vehicle and order that it be removed.

Junked motor vehicles are regulated. The owner of real property upon which a junked vehicle sits may not leave nor allow a vehicle to remain on property after the vehicle has been ordered removed. Only one junked motor vehicle, subject to strict conditions contained in the ordinance, may sit on any public or private property.

The building inspector may order

the removal of a junked motor vehicle after finding that the aesthetic benefits of removing the vehicle outweigh the burdens imposed on the private property owner upon whose property the vehicle sits.

Abandoned, nuisance or junked vehicles can be towed from the property by the town after the owner of the vehicle and/or property upon which the vehicle sits is given adequate notice as defined in the ordinance.

Exceptions to the prior notice requirements include vehicles obstructing traffic, parked in no parking zones, parked in no stopping zones, parked in loading zones, parked in bus zones or parked in violation of temporary parking restrictions.

After a vehicle has been towed subject to the conditions of the ordinance, the town must notify the last registered owner of the vehicle, detailing the description of the vehicle, the location of the storage facility, the violation with which the owner is charged, procedures for redeeming the vehicle and procedures to request a probable cause hearing on the removal.

Council considered a junked car ordinance in 1989, but could not move ahead with the measure due to pending state legislation dealing with the matter.

Town officials expect to begin enforcing the ordinance immediately.



Photo by Susan Harris

### What's in there?

Curiosity got the best of Heather Nicole Byrum last week. She couldn't figure out why there was a window in the side of the municipal building, so she decided to investigate. Heather was on an outing with her mother, Sarah Morton Byrum.