

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C. Thursday, April 26, 1990

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## Briefs

### Special Olympics date set

The Perquimans County Special Olympics will have its annual local tournament on Friday, May 4, 1990 with opening ceremonies beginning at 9:20 a.m. This year's event will be held at Perquimans County Central School in Winfall, NC. The Canaan Memorial Baptist Church puppeteers will perform. Come and enjoy a festive day with our special olympians.

### Preschool program offered

Limited space will be available for a preschool program to be offered by Perquimans County Schools during the 1990-91 school year. Parents interested in having their children participate should call 426-5741 by Friday, May 4.

Those children who will be three by October 16 and four by the same date can be considered for placement in the program.

### Kindergarten sign-up in progress

Kindergarten registration is being held at Hertford Grammar and Perquimans Central Grammar schools through Friday, April 27. Registration is from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the office at each school.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and social security number.

It would be helpful if bus riders could be prepared to provide directions to the child's house.

### Business loans available

Small business loans are available through the Northeastern Education and Development Foundation, Inc. Micro-Enterprises Fund, according to Lynette Whealton, enterprise agent.

The fund was established to provide small loans for small business startups and expansions; loans which banks often find too costly to approve.

Unique to the Micro Loan Fund is the relationship between the borrowers. Five people who need funds are teamed to form a loan committee. Since all small businesses face similar problems competing in the marketplace, the committee meets bi-weekly to discuss successes and problem areas. Input from those who know what pitfalls small businesses face can help others avoid making costly mistakes.

The loan committee also approves and rejects loan requests within the group. Because the loan fund is revolving, the failure of one business to repay borrowed monies can jeopardize another member's loan.

Those who may be eligible for loans are anyone at least 18-years old who lives within a 50-mile radius of Elizabeth City, and who is trying to begin a micro-enterprise or expand an existing enterprise. Examples of micro-enterprises are crafts makers, lawn care persons or produce vendors.

Loans range from \$500 to \$8,000, with a maximum first time loan of \$2,500. The interest rate is fixed at 16 percent. Loans must be repaid within six to 12 months. A \$5 application fee is required. Members must provide proof to their five-member committee that the loan is being used for the proper purposes, and that the business is operating using acceptable business practices.

For an application or more information contact Ms. Whealton at 338-0357 or 338-0853.

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.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

## Puppets help children deal with child abuse

Students at Hertford Grammar School were the audience for a very special marionette show.

"Knock, Knock...Who's There?" was presented on April 11 by the non-profit Children's Performance Workshops from Virginia Beach. Reed Oil Company and Dr. and Mrs. Alan Bonner sponsored the performance.

The production is geared to educate children about child abuse in plain, non-threatening language.

The script unfolds the story of a young girl who has been abused by a male family member. Her actions show children how they can handle similar situations in their own lives, and give credence to their mixed emotions when they feel threatened.

The program is the brainchild of Regina Marscheider of Spectrum Puppet Productions, Inc.

Ms. Marscheider was doing workshops at schools when she was asked by educators why no child abuse programs were available. That query sparked a three-and-one-half year research expedition, which saddened, angered and spurred Ms. Marscheider in her efforts.

She first contacted police officers. Her initial interview lasted four hours and gave her a shocking look at child abuse and its effects.

"When I left there I was crushed," she said. "And I also knew I had the tools and the opportunity to make a difference."

Over \$60,000 was raised to fund Ms. Marscheider's efforts through "knocking on doors and begging," she said. Corporate sponsors such as American Airlines and Tru-Value Hardware added to monies from community donors.

What was born from her desire to help children was "Knock, Knock...Who's There?"



Photo by Susan Harris

Students at Hertford Grammar School learned how to deal with child abuse when "Knock, Knock...Who's There?" was brought to the school. The marionette show was sponsored by Reed Oil Company and Dr. and Mrs. Alan Bonner.

Ms. Marscheider said the program has three goals: to teach children 1) to recognize if they are being abused, 2) that their feelings of anger, guilt and betrayal are normal, and 3) what to do if they are the victim of abuse.

Many times when children tell an adult what is happening to them, the adult doesn't believe them, Ms. Marscheider said. Her message is to keep on telling people until someone does offer to help.

The statistics are grim. Studies show that one out of every four girls will be sexually molested before

they reach age 13. One out of seven boys will suffer at the hands of a molester.

Ms. Marscheider said that while births have declined 30 percent since 1973, the incidence of child abuse has risen 145 percent. She believes there are three reasons:

1. Child abuse is now openly discussed, bringing more cases to light.
2. Child abuse is a self-perpetuating problem. Abused children tend to become abusive parents.
3. Drugs, alcohol and contributory messages combine to heighten

the problem.

Everyone must work together to stop the tragedy of child abuse, Ms. Marscheider concluded. "Our children are our future," she commented. "I think that's the most important thing."

Hertford Grammar School reported that five children came forward after the performance and said that they were being abused.

*(Editor's note: "Knock, Knock...Who's There" is available for performances throughout the nation. For information, call 804-491-2873.)*

## Schools look to cut budget

Local school systems across North Carolina must ax \$40 million from their budgets as a result of a loss of state funds.

The shortfall has been blamed on declining revenue collections since November, which in turn decreased the amount of funds available for education.

State Superintendent Bob Etheridge and Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services James O. Barber met with school finance officers and superintendents from across the state on April 5. It was decided at the meeting to put the decision on how to reduce expenditures on the local level. Cost-cutting measures suggested at the conference included delaying summer school, putting a freeze on hiring non-instructional positions and postponing staff training.

Perquimans will lose \$68,112. Schools Superintendent Mary Jo Martin said she and Finance Officer Frances Hammer have assessed every line item looking for cuts. Right now, they cannot find where the total amount will come from.

Dr. Martin said that what cuts can be made will have to come from postponing summer school, cutting staff development and not using drop-out prevention funds. Because most state funds are used for salaries, cutting will be difficult, according to Dr. Martin.

"We will calculate the best we can and tell them what we can send back," Dr. Martin said.

## Crime report

The Hertford Police have made the following arrests:

Thomas Rogers, 47, 307 Covert Garden, shoplifting on April 15.

Eric Elliott, 34, 820J Constance Dr., Newport News, Va., assault on a female, April 14.

Stanley Lee Jones, 33, Rt. 5, Box 10 Dogwood Trailer Pk., injury to real property, April 21.

The Perquimans Sheriff's Department arrested the following:

Mark Allen Lane, 26, Rt. 3, Box 101, larceny in general, two counts forging and uttering, April 17, awaiting trial in Albemarle District Jail in lieu of \$10,500 secured bond.

Mark Allen Lane, 26, Rt. 3, Box 101, simple assault, April 18.

Pamela Hope Howard, 19, P.O. Box 66, Belvidere, criminal summons - failure to return rental property, April 20.

## Youth's death is investigated

A Perquimans youth died last Wednesday at Holiday Island, apparently as the result of a gunshot wound.

Elswood Ryan White, a 12-year-old sixth grade student at Perquimans Middle School, was pronounced dead at Chowan Hospital.

Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian said that at this point, numerous interviews have been conducted but evidence is still sketchy. Laboratory reports are not back from Raleigh, so the exact cause and time of death are not available. The time of death has been estimated at between 5 and 7 p.m.

"At this point, we're treating this as we would any homicide investigation," Lothian said.

It is not known, according to Lothian exactly what happened, but it appears that the shooting occurred inside a residence, and that White's body was moved outside into the yard. Without the autopsy and other lab work, Lothian said that it cannot be determined whether or not White was murdered, shot himself or was the victim of a tragic accident.

White had been living with his father in a trailer at Holiday Island for about one year. A native of Virginia Beach, he was the son of Johnnie J. White, Sr. and Billie Rose of South Carolina.

A funeral was held Sunday at 2 p.m. at Knotts Island Baptist Church.

## FmHA changes loan policy

The Farmers Home Administration has made some changes in the rural housing loan program for Perquimans and Chowan Counties.

The rural housing loan program for Perquimans and Chowan counties has recently had a change in family income limits. These changes should enable more families to be eligible for loans under the changes according to Melvin E. Howell, County Supervisor.

The income limits for Perquimans and Chowan are as follows:

| No. in Family | Maximum Annual Adjusted Income |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1             | \$15,750.00                    |
| 2             | \$18,000.00                    |
| 3             | \$20,250.00                    |
| 4             | \$22,500.00                    |
| 5             | \$23,900.00                    |
| 6             | \$25,300.00                    |
| 7             | \$26,750.00                    |
| 8 & over      | \$28,150.00                    |

Loans can be made to construct, purchase or repair modest houses. The size of the house depends on the size of the family. The maximum size for a family of three is 1008 square feet. The minimum loan payment is 20 percent of the family annual adjusted income. The present loan interest is 8.75 percent. The maximum loan repayment period can go up to 38 years under certain conditions. Applicants must have a satisfactory credit record and ability to repay the subsidized loan. Applicants should be accustomed to have housing costs that are comparable to the loan payment, taxes and insurance costs. Funds for this program are very limited and are not available at the present time.

Howell, County Supervisor, announced that subsidized funds are available through the Farmers Home Administration to finance homes for very low income households in Perquimans and Chowan Counties.

The loans carry an interest rate which can be as low as 1 percent and for up to 100 percent of the value of the dwelling.

In Perquimans and Chowan Counties, a household is deemed to have a very low income if annual income does not exceed the following limits: single member household \$9,850.00; 2 members \$11,250.00; 3 members \$12,650.00; 4 members \$14,050.00; 5 members \$15,150.00; 6 members \$16,300.00; 7 members \$17,400.00 and 8 or more members \$18,550.00.

Among other requirements, the applicant must have a satisfactory credit record and ability to repay the subsidized loan. Cosigner for the loan may be necessary to assist in making the payments. Applicants should be accustomed to having housing costs that are comparable to the loan payment, taxes and insurance.

Those wanting information should contact the FMHA County Office at the Albemarle Commission Building.



Photo by Susan Harris

## Informal dining

This table setting on the porch of Jessie Hendley was one of the highlights of the Perquimans County Restoration Association home and garden tour/art show Saturday. For a review of the day, turn to page 10.

## Commodities distribution planned for May

Perquimans County will receive butter, cornmeal, honey, flour, peanut butter, vegetarian beans, canned pork, raisins and green beans for distribution in May. The Hertford Lion's Club will begin distribution at 9 a.m. on May 8. It will be conducted at the Ice Plant on Grubb Street and will be available to all income eligible households in Perquimans County. A rain date has been set for May 9. Households having four or more members should bring a helper with them to assist in carrying the food to their car.

All households who will not be able to pick up their commodities may use a representative for this purpose. The commodities card or application must be signed in the correct places for this to be acceptable. No household will be allowed to pick up food for more than themselves and no other household as representative. There will be no exceptions.

There will be two lines at the distribution site. The second line will be for the handicapped and/or disabled who are present at the distribution to pick up their food. A doctor's note, stating the disability, must be

provided. Again, there will be no exceptions.

Cars may not be driven into the distribution area. Please remember to park only in authorized parking areas as the Hertford Police Department will be patrolling the area.

Applications may be obtained from the following agencies beginning April 25: Department of Social Services, Health Department, Economic Improvement Council, Catholic Social Ministries, Senior Citizen Center and the Open Door Ministries at the Ice Plant.

The Commodities Distribution Program is available to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, handicap, or political beliefs. Information about regulations against discrimination and how to file a complaint may be secured from the N.C. Division of Social Services, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC or from your county department of social services.

The income criterion are listed below:

| Household Size                           | HOUSEHOLD GROSS INCOME MUST BE BELOW LEVEL OF APPROPRIATE SIZE HOUSEHOLD |           |          |
|--|--|-----------|----------|
|  | Per Year   | Per Month | Per Week |
| 1  | \$ 7,774   | \$ 648    | \$ 150   |
| 2  | 10,426   | 869       | 201      |
| 3  | 13,078   | 1,090     | 252      |
| 4  | 15,730   | 1,311     | 303      |
| 5  | 18,382   | 1,532     | 354      |
| 6  | 21,034   | 1,753     | 405      |
| 7  | 23,686   | 1,974     | 456      |
| 8  | 26,338   | 2,195     | 507      |
| Add for each additional household member | \$ 2,652   | \$ 221    | \$ 51    |