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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

HGS PTA sets work day

The Hertford Grammar School PTA will sponsor a workday on Saturday, April 13, at 9:30 a.m. Playground equipment will be installed and other grounds improvement is planned. Call Linda Godfrey at 297-2101 or A.F. Sample for more information.

Jaycees offer CPR course

The Perquimans Jaycees are offering a CPR course on Saturday, March 30 from 9-3 p.m. at the Hertford Lion's Club Building. Annice Peckham will instruct the free course.

CPR scheduled at COA

College of the Albemarle will offer a Community CPR class Saturday, March 30, to provide training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation of adults and infants.

Bryan O'Leary will teach the course from 8-5 p.m. The registration fee for the course is \$25.

A social security number is needed to register. Senior citizens age 65 and over may take classes without paying a registration fee. For more information about the class, interested persons should call COA's Continuing Education office at 335-0821, ext. 250.

Notary class planned

College of the Albemarle is offering a one-night Notary Public Training class in Elizabeth City from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, April 4. Jeanne C. White, with the Perquimans County Register of Deeds office, will teach the course in room 229 of the A Building at COA's main campus.

The cost of the course is \$25 plus \$5.25 required manual. A social security number is needed to register. For more information, call COA's Continuing Education office at 335-0821, ext. 250.

Celebration slated for June

The William Paul Stallings American Legion Post 126 and the Perquimans County V.F.W. Post 8148 have teamed up to bring back the tradition of the Flag Day parade to Hertford.

The theme of the Friday, June 14 event will be "A Salute to All Purple Heart Veterans of All Wars."

Charles Skinner, Legion Flag Day chairman, is trying to locate all Purple Heart veterans so that they may be honored during the festivities. Anyone with information about the names and addresses of these veterans should contact Skinner.

The two organizations hope to have at least 100 American flags carried down the parade route in honor of the Desert Storm veterans.

Plans call for the parade to form in front of the Legion building on West Academy Street, march down Grubb Street, continue on Church Street, and turn down Market Street before ending back at the Legion building. A reviewing stand will be set up on the courthouse green. All Purple Heart veterans will be invited to sit at the reviewing stand as guests of honor.

HAPPY EASTER

The Perquimans Weekly Staff

Perquimans welcomes home Gulf war troops

Welcoming American troops returning from the war in Iraq has become a national passion. Patriotism, pride and a sense of accomplishment permeate the air as the American heroes return to the cheers of crowds and the strains of patriotic melodies.

Perquimans County sent its share of brave men and women to serve in the Saudi Arabian desert, and locals are now beginning to welcome home loved ones.

One of the first to return from the war zone is Eric Cohoon, a security specialist in the U.S. Air Force. Eric returned to the states last week, landing at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base on Wednesday. His family drove to Goldsboro to greet the man who was second off of the plane.

"We all cried," said Cohoon's mother, Nannette, Friday night at a surprise party at Van's Pizza organized by the sergeant's high school friends Denise Lamb and Carla Chappell.

Scud attacks were the most harrowing aspect of the war, according to Eric. The first night of the attacks, he sought refuge in a shelter, but thereafter he passed the frightening episodes in his tent. He also spent about three weeks in his chemical suit.

Leaving his family was the worst part of being away for the man who left on Dec. 12.

"The worst thing was him missing the baby," his wife, Marcy said, "her first tooth and her first step." Marcy said that 10-month-old Jordan had only a few shy hours when her father returned. By Eric's second day at home, Jordan had warmed up to her father once again.

Marcy came to Perquimans County to stay with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Howard, while Eric was away. She and other wives from Seymour-Johnson stayed in contact while their husbands were serving in Saudi Arabia. She said she watched CNN news "day and night" during the first days of the war.

Eric knew that he had a lot of family support while in Saudi Arabia. He said he got lots of letters, photographs, videotapes and care packages to keep him in contact with his family.

But support from others has astounded Eric. When his flight touched down in Bangor, Maine, Eric said the mayor of the town boarded and told the troops they had arranged a small reception for them. The troops disembarked to a hero's welcome with food, music and a cheering crowd.

Again in Goldsboro Eric's



Photo courtesy of The Daily Advance

Holiday Island residents held a parade and rally Saturday showing their support of the troops serving in the Persian Gulf.

plane was greeted by an overwhelming show of support.

Then came his local welcome Friday night attended by many of his friends, his parents, and his siblings, Joan Harrell, Patsy Berry and Alex Cohoon.

Eric said people wrote him and he saw news clips about the American show of patriotism,

but he did not realize how much support there was until returning to such a homecoming.

"I had no idea," Eric said, shaking his head.

Eric's time in the Persian Gulf was not a fluke. The 1981 Perquimans High School graduate volunteered for duty there.

"I volunteered to go because

I knew when I'd be able to go," Eric said. He was concerned about being sent before finishing work on the bachelor's degree he earned in December just before being shipped out to the desert. Now it appears that Eric will be able to accept his degree in criminal justice in May.

Seeing another culture was a great learning experience for Eric.

"If you haven't ever been out of the United States, it makes you appreciate it when you go to a place like Saudi Arabia," he said, reflecting on his time there. "It's very different there."

Eric said he had very little contact with the people in the desert, but the men on his base were very cordial.

Just before leaving for the conflict, Eric re-enlisted for another four-year term. He said that if he receives a commission, he will make the armed forces his career.

The Cohoon family may not have had the merriest Christmas or the most optimistic New Year they can remember. But one thing is for certain. They will never forget the happiness and pride they felt at Eric's homecoming. Christmas in March wasn't so bad after all.

Egg hunt at center fun for young, old

Scores of children bearing bright-colored Easter baskets littered the lawn at Brian Center/Hertford Friday afternoon during the second annual Junior-Senior Easter Egg Hunt.

About 125 children from tots to pre-teens joined in the fun, scouring the side lawn for cellophane-covered eggs and visiting on the patio with residents of the Center.

"It was a wonderful afternoon for the children, especially the little ones, and the residents," said Brian Center administrator Joe France. "I think everyone involved had a good time."

France said he was very pleased with the participation, and was glad that the weather cooperated at last.

The egg hunt began last year as a way to bring children and Brian Center residents together. It is organized by Brian Center and Perquimans Weekly staff members. Don Juan Manufacturing and Apricot, Inc. have been instrumental in the success of the egg hunt, providing generous donations for refreshments. Businesses who also co-sponsored the event this

year included Dr. Robert Earl Lane and staff, Maxine's Day Care, Albemarle Hospital, the town of Hertford, Woodard's Pharmacy, White's B-B-Q, Dozier's Florist, Charles H. Ward Inc., Belvidere-Chappell

Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Chowan Hospital, Dowd & Twiddy, Dr. Joseph R. Haskett, The Gingerbread Inn, the Town of Winfall, The Orchard Shop and Melba Overton Ceramics.



Photo by Susan Harris

Susan Copeland directs her twin daughters, nieces and nephews to the probable whereabouts of eggs hidden at Brian Center Friday during the second annual Junior/Senior Easter Egg Hunt.

Students earn regional writing honors

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"It was a wonderful afternoon for the children, especially the little ones, and the residents," said Brian Center administrator Joe France. "I think everyone involved had a good time."

France said he was very pleased with the participation, and was glad that the weather permitted so many Center residents to be outside with the children.

Rain threatened to cancel the egg hunt. A mid-day storm left the ground soggy, but the children were not slowed down in the least. They tromped through the puddles to get to the eggs.

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Charles H. Ward Inc., Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Chowan Hospital, Dowd & Twiddy, Dr. Joseph R. Haskett, The Gingerbread Inn, the Town of Winfall, The Orchard Shop and Melba Overton Ceramics.



Photo by Susan Harris

Five middle school students took top honors in the area Fleet Reserve Essay Contest. They were (l to r) Christopher Gregory, Jenny Hurdle, Mark Swindell, Allison Boone and Troy Higgins. Gregory and Swindell moved on to take first place in their divisions on the regional level. Their writing has been submitted for national competition.

Tour set for Heritage Day

The Perquimans County Restoration Association will once again celebrate Heritage Day with a tour of homes.

On May 4, the history of the New Hope township will be highlighted.

Beginning at the Leigh Plantation, also known as Land's End, the day will be filled with visits into four homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to Land's End, Cove Grove, the Sutton-Newby house and the Newbold-White historic site will also be opened. The stately Cove Grove has remained in the Skinner family for more than 100 years.

Not in the National Register, but deserving of the honor according to local historians, is Riverside. Now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Perry, the house is thought to have been built in the early 18th century by William Jones. The house was dubbed Riverside by Francis E. Winslow upon his purchase of the property in 1872.

The Durant Pilgrimage will begin at 10 a.m. with registration and a briefing by Winslow. Maps showing historic spots to be viewed or visited during the

tour will be distributed.

Back at the Newbold-White site, former Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, Susie Sharpe, and the North Carolina Society Colonial Dames of the 17th Century will unveil a highway marker honoring Ann Marwood Durant. Durant was the first woman allowed to appear in a North Carolina court on behalf of a petitioner in 1673.

Reservations are requested for the Durant Pilgrimage. The \$10 fee includes visits to five homes (viewing of three), the New Hope Methodist Church, lunch at the New Hope Ruritan Club, an open house reception at the Perquimans Center on the Newbold-White site, and viewing of Newbold-White. On exhibit in the Perquimans Center will be artifacts from Land's End and Riverside. Checks should be mailed to the Perquimans County Restoration Association, P.O. Box 103, Hertford, N.C. 27944. Reservations and information are available by calling 426-7567.

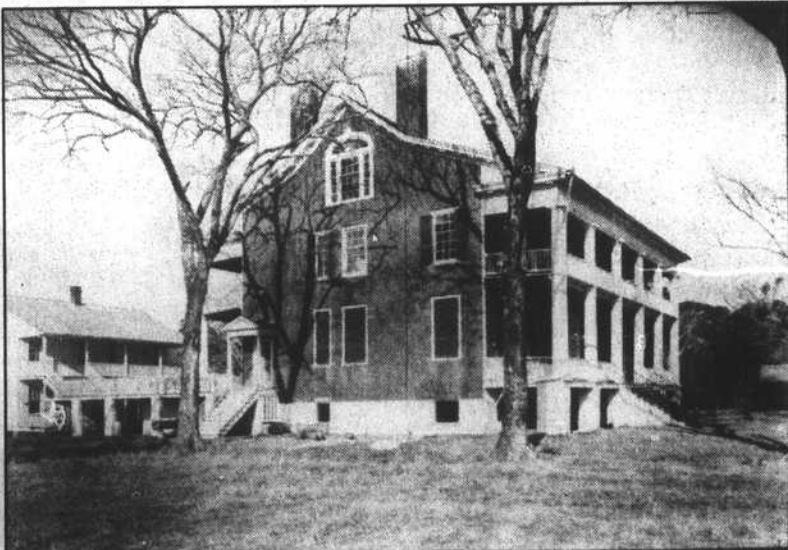


Photo courtesy of Perquimans Restoration Association

Land's End, also known as the Leigh Farm, will be the beginning point in the Durant Pilgrimage scheduled for May 4 by the Perquimans Restoration Association.

Playhouse holds dinner/dance

The Perquimans Playhouse Inc. gathered Saturday at Angler's Cove for An Enchanted Evening, the theater group's annual appreciation dinner/dance honoring members and supporters of the group.

The Playhouse was born when a cast of local thespians, backed by the Chamber of Commerce, presented Egad! What a Cad during the annual Indian Summer Festival several years ago. The popularity of the per-

formances spurred those involved to form an organization of residents who wished to bring theater into the county.

To date, the Playhouse has worked in a dinner theater format, and is most noted for presentations of old-fashioned "meller-drammers." The group wants to expand to offer drama and comedy.

Anyone who wants information about the Playhouse can call the Chamber of Commerce.