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Starmakers drama class presents updated version of Snow White: Page 7



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PCHS students win first place at ECU math contest: Page 8

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

Schools apply for grants
Perquimans County Schools is applying for two grants to provide services for handicapped children. These grants are IDEA, Title VI, Part B and Preschool Handicapped.

Both project applications will be available for review on April 24 and 25 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the conference room of the Perquimans County Schools Administration Building on Edenton Road Street. For more information, contact Brenda Terranova at 426-5741.

Church holds supper

Home cooked dinners will be for sale at Ellis Temple Baptist Church in Winfall on Saturday, April 27 from 2-6 p.m. BBQ-chicken, fried chicken, and fish dinners will be available for \$3. Cakes, pies and sodas will also be sold.

Kindergarten sign-ups held

Registration will be held for all kindergarten students in Perquimans County during the week of April 29-May 3. Registration will be held at Hertford Grammar School each day from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. A child must be 5 years old on or before Oct. 16 to be eligible for kindergarten. Birth certificates are required for registration.

UMW to hold sale

The UMW of Hertford United Methodist Church will sponsor a yard sale on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. A variety of items will be offered for sale.

AARP will meet Monday

Perquimans Chapter 4118 of AARP Inc. will meet Monday, April 29 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. A board meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

Dr. Redding of the eye clinic will speak on the care of eyes. Everyone interested in this subject may attend this meeting. Chapter 4118 is open to membership for all the surrounding areas.

Former 4-Hers sought

The Perquimans Cooperative Extension Service is asking former 4-Hers to register with its office. \$-H alumni identification is the 1990-91 state 4-H project. If you are a former member, send your name, address, phone number, occupation and 4-H history to Juanita Bailey, Home Economics Extension Agent, P.O. Box 87, Hertford, N.C. 27944. The information will be used to create a statewide listing of all former 4-Hers. Do you part to help "Make the Best Better." 4-H needs to hear from you.

4-Hers elect officers

The Belvidere-Whiteston 4-H Club will meet on Monday, April 29 from 7-8 p.m. at the Whites-ton Community Building. Youth ages 6-21 years old are invited to join this new 4-H group. Election of officers will be held.

Old Timer's game set

The annual Old Timer's game sponsored by the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 at Perquimans County High School.

This year's fundraiser will feature a double-header. At 5:30 p.m., players from 1960s teams will face off with 1960s athletes. The Old Timer's team from the state championship team boasting Jim "Catfish" Hunter will take the field at 7:30 to play the 1991 Pirates. For only \$2, sports fans and alumni can enjoy both games.

There will also be a barbecue chicken supper from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 each, and may be purchased from any Athletic Booster Club member and at The Perquimans Weekly office.

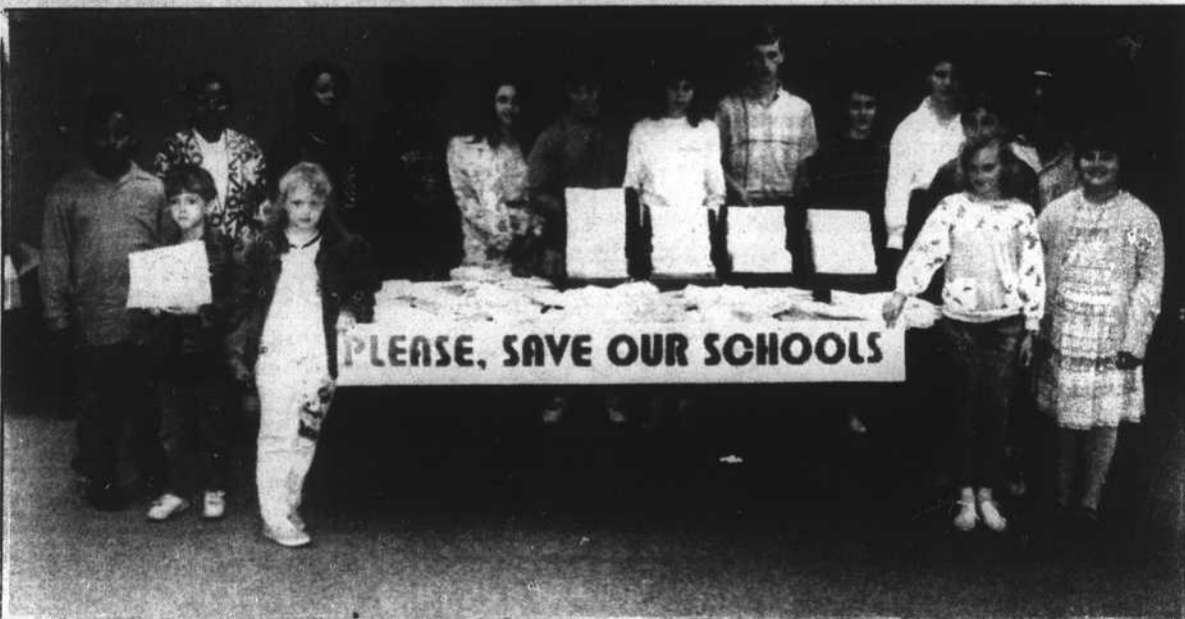


Photo by Susan Harris

Perquimans County students were responsible for this table filled with letters to legislators asking that public school funding not be cut. Pictured are (clockwise) Shellie Hurdle, Christopher Peckham, Phillip Jenkins, schools advisory councilwoman Shirley Yates, Keshia Mallory, Renee Godfrey, Jennifer Terranova, Brian Parks, Susan Owens, Matt Hurdle, Kay Long, Tanya Everett, Chermise Overton, Crag Lewis, Lora Miles and Christina Renoud. Over 2000 letters were mailed to state politicians on Friday.

Students unleash power of pen

Perquimans County students, school personnel, parents and other concerned citizens unleashed the power of the pen Friday when they mailed over 2000 letters to state legislators in support of public school funding.

Faculty and student representatives from each school gathered at the schools administration building, heaping letters from their schools on the board table.

"I cannot believe what I'm seeing, these letters," schools superintendent Dr. Randall Henion remarked in amazement after the students literally covered the table with boxes and bags filled with pleas not to cut education spending.

Henion told the group that he felt students could have great impact on legislators. "Our greatest resources are our students and you're what we're all about," he said.

Preliminary information received regarding state budget negotiations indicates that legislators are considering cutting funds to public schools by \$155 per student statewide. Perquimans County, Henion said, could face serious cutbacks if the budget passes unamended.

"It is critical," he stated. "We stand to have tremendous reductions. I really have a concern as the superintendent of the school district."

Those reductions would come in materials, personnel, instructional support, teacher training and other critical needs areas.

Perquimans Middle School student Chemise Overton said she asked legislators to consider that as a poor county, Perquimans already lags behind in education funds and that cuts would put the system even further behind.

Fellow middle school attendee Crag Lewis told legislators that roads to the future are paved in the classroom, not from city to city.

High school students in Kay Whitley's English classes used the letter-writing campaign as a learning tool. Students did research to support their comments and practiced writing persuasively. In addition, the pupils learned more about democratic government. Each student was required to write 11 letters, and was asked to get family members to write also.

Jennifer Terranova, one of Whitley's students, said she told legislators that it was unfair to cut education funding because students are the state's future. Taking away state funds, she reasoned, would ruin the future of the students and the state.

Hertford Grammar School students are the youngest in the county, but their message was effective. Second graders

Christopher Peckham and Shellie Hurdle combined their talents to come up with an emblem which was drawn on all envelopes in Hollis Williams' class. Williams said her students were concerned about losing their art teacher this year, and having no music or physical education rooms.

Shirley Yates, Winfall councilwoman and senior citizens representative on the schools advisory council, headed up letter-writing by county senior citizens. Yates said that many were retired teachers with an average of 35 years spent in the classroom.

"I would tell the legislators to invest in you," Henion said. "I see the students K-12 as our greatest hope. I'm really proud of the achievements I see on the part of the students."

"I sincerely thank each and every student here for what you did," Henion said in closing. "Whatever happens, you can be proud that you have done this."

School board wrestles with budget cuts

The state budget crisis and its impact on the school system has local board of education members concerned about funding for the Perquimans County Schools next school year.

Schools Superintendent Dr. Randall Henion told board members Monday night that if the state follows through with a proposal to cut funding to local school districts by \$155 per student, this county will be hit hard.

According to Henion, the cuts would come in all areas of the budget. He broke down the losses as follows: assistant superintendent - 30 percent; supervisor position - 25 percent; drivers education - 20 percent; textbooks - 17 percent; remediation and staff development - 10 percent; non-certified personnel, non-teaching positions (assistant principals, librarians, etc.) and drop out prevention/at risk student programs - 6 percent; and transportation - 5 percent. The county would also lose three or four teaching positions, all energy assistance and two weeks of summer school funds. The cuts would approach \$300,000, Henion said.

"That kind of financial hit would impact on our children in the classroom," Henion said. "The students don't have the environment that I feel they should have now," he added.

Henion also expressed a concern that the situation could worsen. "There's even talk of this cut being doubled," he commented.

The board members were told that less than 1 percent of the school budget goes to administrators.

"The perception is that we are top heavy with our budget on administration," Henion said, but that is not the case.

Those who support education must step forward, Henion said, to fight for school funding. He said that both he and board chairman Clifford Winslow had met with groups of superintendents and school board members to discuss actions to encourage state legislators to reconsider proposals to cut funding.

Winslow said that some of the legislators reported that they weren't receiving negative comments from their constituents. "Some of the legislators are only hearing what they want to hear," Winslow said, relating a comment he had heard at one of the meetings.

Winslow said that in the

Law officers respond to non-performance charges

Two law enforcement officers responded this week to dereliction of duty allegations made by a local businessman in a county commissioners' meeting last Monday night.

Joe Meads, owner of Joe's Place and Miller and Meads Mobile Home Park, told the commissioners, "We have got a drug project going on in this county and something needs to be done about it. The law enforcement we've got is not doing their duty."

Meads maintained that the drug traffic could be better controlled by law enforcement officials, and told the commissioners that he intended to take matters "over his (sheriff Joe Lothian's) head."

According to Meads, he has not received satisfactory law enforcement response from either the sheriff's department or Hertford Police Department.

Hertford Police Chief Aubrey Sample said that his department has received numerous calls from Meads and his wife, Irene, concerning drug traffic in the mobile home park. Sample said that officers have responded to each call received, sometimes responding to several calls in one day.

"The dispatch log speaks for itself," Sample responded when asked if he was certain officers responded to every call.

There have also been times, Sample said, when officers from his department have had the mobile home park under surveillance when calls were received by the dispatch office. Officers at the scene reported vehicular traffic, but no conclusive evidence of drug deals. Sample said he was on duty when one such call was received.

Sample said that while Mr. and Mrs. Meads call in reports of drug traffic, "So far the only information they've given us is speculative. We have to have probable cause to stop and search a vehicle, or either consent to search."

Sample said there are also stringent probable cause guidelines which must be met to obtain search warrants for residences.

In order to make an arrest and take a case to court, Sample said, law enforcement officers must have conclusive evidence. Witnesses must be able to positively identify the drug bought or sold, as well as the persons buying and selling. Seeing people pass packages which appear to be drugs is not sufficient to press charges, he said. Crucial to any case, Sample said, is having someone willing to go to court to testify.

Meetings have taken place between Mr. and Mrs. Meads, law enforcement officials and Hertford Mayor W.D. "Bill" Cox, Sample said, in an effort to curtail the drug traffic in the mobile home park owned by Meads. Sample said a plan to use one of several vacant residences in the mobile home park for surveillance with video cameras was outlined to the Meads. The video cameras and additional information that could be gathered



Sheriff Joe Lothian



Chief Aubrey Sample

while working undercover could have helped to secure search warrants for the homes of suspected drug dealers. Sample said. Sample told *The Perquimans Weekly* that Mr. and Mrs. Meads were unwilling to cooperate in that manner.

"We offered to do something there and he denied us permission to do it and wouldn't cooperate," Sample said.

Lothian confirmed that officers have sat down and discussed the situation with Mr. and Mrs. Meads. He said that one of the major drug dealers previously residing in the mobile home park was in arrears on lot rent. The Meads were asked by the law enforcement officers to evict the tenant. Lothian said, but no legal documents were ever received by his department to remove the renter from the premises.

Sample corroborated Lothian's story. He said that he understood the Meads went to the magistrate to begin eviction proceedings, but that papers were never presented to law enforcement officials for service.

When asked to comment on Meads' statement to county commissioners that local law enforcement is not doing its job to fight the drug traffic, Sample responded, "That's his perception. We're doing what the law allows us to do."

Meads also charged that law enforcement officers stake out his night club watching for drunk drivers. Sample said that his officers are generally looking for drug traffic information, not "picking on" Meads' patrons.

That does not mean, Sample added, that officers will not stop drivers they suspect of driving while under the influence of alcohol. "If our officers observed a DWI wherever it would be they would be stopped," Sample stated.

Wolfman is howling success

Wolfman Jack's appearance at the Perquimans County Library last Wednesday night was a "howling" success, according to organizers.

Wolfman was one of thousands of celebrities across the country who volunteered their time to read at public libraries to promote literacy. The Wednesday night effort was tagged *Night of a Thousand Stars*.

The famous disc jockey read *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. The crowd gathered was entranced by the expression in the Wolfman's voice.

In his opening remarks, Wolfman said, "The best part of being with you tonight is being with you tonight," in his clipped

Brooklyn accent.

After reading, Wolfman encouraged the children to whom he read to use the library. The library presented him with his own library card in the name The Wolfman.

Librarian Shelley Fearn said she was very pleased to have Wolfman Jack appear at the library. She said, "He was wonderful."

The children were given bookmarks after the program, which many stood in line to have autographed by Wolfman Jack.

Fearn estimated that 70 people came out to hear the Wolfman and celebrate National Library Week.