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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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30 Cents

Briefs

Heart dinner planned

The Perquimans County Heart Association is gearing up for its annual celebrity dinner.

Scheduled for Saturday, June 1, this year's dinner has been expanded to include dancing. Celebrity waiters and waitresses have been chosen, and chairman of the event Cathy Terranova and Perquimans County Heart Association Chairman Chris Lane are accepting reservations for the dinner which will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Angler's Cove Restaurant. Those interested in joining this evening of dining and dancing to help raise funds to combat heart disease may call Terranova at 426-5257 (days) or Lane at 426-5711 (days) or 426-5169 (evenings before 9 p.m.).

Trap shoot set

A trap-shoot game will be held Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Chowan County Moose Lodge.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$10 per person. Each individual must furnish their own shells.

Aerobics classes slated

The Perquimans County Recreation Department is sponsoring a six-week Aerobic Class to begin on Monday, May 20. Classes will be on Monday and Thursday nights at 8 p.m. at the county library. The instructor is Allyson Coleman and the cost \$20. For more information or to register call the recreation department at 426-5695.

Also, all 16-18 year olds interested in playing Babe Ruth baseball need to sign up at the recreation department or see Coach Woodell at the high school by Friday, May 17.

Schools set program

On Thursday, May 9, at 1 p.m., Nancy Alexander, Perquimans County Schools guidance counselor for elementary grades will be presenting a program on discipline at the board of education office.

PAC to meet

Perquimans Central School will have a Chapter 1 PAC meeting on Thursday, May 16, at 1 p.m. Andrea Salvage will be the guest speaker for this program.

For more information call Chris Barber or Estelle Felton at 426-5741.

Playhouse holds tryouts

The Perquimans Playhouse will hold tryouts for their upcoming production of "Love, Sex and the IRS" on Thursday and Friday, May 9 and 10, from 7-9 p.m., at the senior center. Needed for the cast are two young women and one "mom," two young men and three older men. The theater group is open to all.

Directories prepared

Preparation for the forthcoming Albemarle area telephone directory is nearly completed. T.F. Daniels, District Commercial Manager for Carolina Telephone, said that April 23 was the last day for requesting changes in the new directory.

Telephone customers who wish to change or add directory listings should call the business office promptly.

The directory is scheduled for delivery during June.

Etheridge says education must be state priority

Perquimans County welcomed North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge in style Sunday afternoon, treating the elected official to a concert by three Perquimans Middle School musical groups at Perquimans High School.

Etheridge spoke to a full house after hearing from the 7th grade band, 8th grade band and Middle School Choral Ensemble.

"We can build the roads and erect the buildings, but we must focus on education," Etheridge said. "Education is the thing that helps each individual reach their full potential."

Etheridge said he supports a tax increase to offset revenue shortfalls which will impact on public education appropriations. He said North Carolinians must be willing to invest in education.

"The state's facing some very tough decisions this year," Etheridge said. "They now recognize that they can't cut enough to balance the state budget."

"I know what it means to make hard decisions," said the former state legislator who once served as chairman of the appropriations committee.

"I happen to believe...that the taxes that I pay as a North Carolinian and as an American are my rent for living in a free and democratic society," Etheridge stated.



Photo by Jason Sandford

North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge spoke to a full house at Perquimans High School Sunday afternoon.

idger stated.

Etheridge said he had spoken earlier in the year with Perquimans schools superintendent Randall Henion about the problems facing the local school system. Etheridge said Henion told him about the struggle here and the need to meet the challenges faced by today's school systems. Henion also told the state superintendent about the quality staff working to education Perquimans children.

"People here are working to do things right," Henion told Etheridge. "Some of the finest people of North Carolina live in Perquimans County."

Henion also told Etheridge that it is time for "a new deal" for public schools.

The state has made a lot of progress since 1985 when the Basic Education Plan was passed by the General Assembly, Etheridge said, but he noted that ground has been lost over the past two years. He added that poorer systems like Perquimans have suffered the most.

"We need to decide what our priorities really are," Etheridge said in closing. "It's time to invest in our children and to invest in our future because our future will be here before you know it."



Photo by Jason Sandford

Eighth grade band students were among three Perquimans Middle School groups who performed for Etheridge during his visit.

Etheridge commends county for support

After a whirlwind tour of the county school facilities, state education superintendent Bob Etheridge was honored at a luncheon attended by school board members, county commissioners and community leaders.

Etheridge commended the county for its support of education.

"This county has done an awful lot with the resources you have," he said. "You really work hard to make sure children have the opportunity. Now it's time for you to do that on the state level."

Etheridge said the state is facing one of the toughest budget years since the 1930s.

"It is a critical year and I think all of us have to step up and pay the price," he stated.

Etheridge said that teachers would not be cut under budget proposals adopted by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, but that teacher assistant, textbook, equipment and energy funds would fall under the budget ax.

Etheridge has felt the budget pinch in his office. He recently sent notices to 75 people that their employment would be terminated effective July 1. The lay-off represents a 10 percent cut in state positions. The layoffs came as a part of a \$4 million dollar cut in the state department of public instruction.

"I understand how difficult it is to lay people off," Etheridge said. "It may play well for legislators to talk about cutting bureaucracy, but it is painful to

tell people who have given 25 or 30 years, people who have really given their lives to public service in education..."

When the state makes cuts in critical areas, such as energy, the county must make up the difference, Etheridge said, which strains local resources.

The superintendent said he would favor a state initiative to address equity in public school funding for small school systems. He said all children deserve the same educational opportunities.

Etheridge said North Carolina must decide where its priorities lie.

"In this state, when we have a problem with transportation, we build more highways. When we have too many law breaker, we build more prisons--even going so far as to pass a prison bond referendum. When schools need improvement, what do we do?" Etheridge queried.

He said the state passed the Basic Education Plan but stopped mid-way in the funding.

"The Basic Education Program is only one in a long list of programs that have started and stopped short of completion," Etheridge commented.

"I ask today that whatever your politics, whatever your beliefs about public schools and how to best run them, that you let the state's legislative leaders know what your top priority is for the future health of North Carolina. Let them know it is education," Etheridge said in closing.

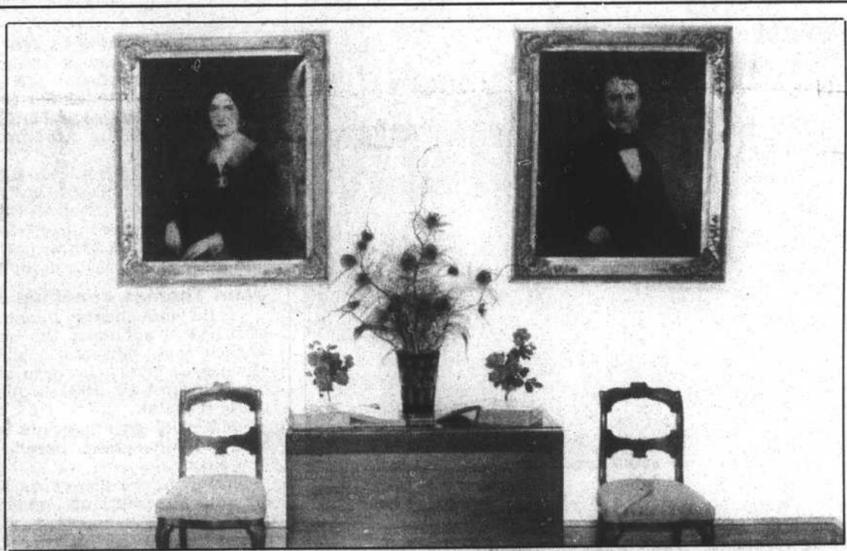


Photo by Susan Harris

Rich heritage

The rich heritage of the Durants Neck and Old Neck sections of Perquimans County was highlighted during the second annual homes tour held Saturday. Over 200 people gathered to view four National Register Homes and other distinctive landmarks.

Above, original furnishings and paintings from the Leigh Farm, known as Land's End, were on display at the Perquimans Center at the Newbold-White historic site. For more highlights, please see pages 10 and 11.

Lady Pirates dish up loss to undefeated Currituck in Hertford Thursday afternoon

The Lady Pirates held a World Series-class celebration in mid-field Thursday afternoon in Hertford after striding past Currituck 9-8 in Albemarle Conference play.

Perquimans earned the distinction of being the only team to defeat Currituck in regular season play since 1989.

Especially jubilant were seniors Kim Hunter, Jackie Dail and Wendy Stallings. The trio dreamed of defeating the Lady Knights just once before retiring their black and gold uniforms and donning their graduation gowns.

"We've never beaten them that I can remember," Dail commented excitedly after the game. "Being this is our senior year, that was our main goal, mine anyway."

"Can you believe it?" queried Hunter with the smile on her face stretching from ear to ear.

Perquimans came out swinging in the first inning, mounting a 5-3 lead. Dail and junior Lisa Lane carried the big bats in that inning. Lane nailed a two-run

"It feels great."

Karen Booker
Lady Pirate coach

double to right-center with two outs. Dail kept up the pace with a two-run single.

The Lady Knights answered with three runs in the second, thanks to a three-run homer sent sailing by Leslie Simpson.

Perquimans was able to deliver some well-placed hits in the bottom of the second to regain the lead. After holding Currituck scoreless in the top of the third, the Lady Pirates extended their margin with another run.

The Lady Knights sent single runners over the plate in the top of the fourth and fifth innings to knot the score at 8-8.

Dail whacked a triple to right field with one out in the top of the fifth. Freshman Bernadette Shively slapped one of her three hits for the day into right to score Dail.

Neither team could round

the bases in the sixth, and Perquimans went into the do-or-die seventh with a one-run lead, 9-8.

"I can't believe it. We're only three outs away from beating Currituck," said Betty Bright, mother of pitcher Denise Hare, when the Lady Pirates took the field in the top of the seventh.

Bright was right. The Lady Pirates were only three outs away from a big win over Currituck.

Perquimans tallied 11 hits during the contest. Shively was 3-for-3 and Dail 2-for-3. Emily Bass and Kim Rilee both rounded the bases twice.

"It feels great," said Perquimans coach Karen Booker after her team's mid-field celebration, and her "shower" with the water cooler, courtesy of her team.

The win upped the Lady Pirate's record to 7-7 (7-2).



Photo by Susan Harris

Singers have highlighted the Hank Williams Youth Crusade at Perquimans High School, bringing their message in song.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
With our best wishes and utmost admiration on your special day.