

## Sports:

Trot Nixon signs  
with Red Sox: Page 6

## Community:

Vickie Harris noted  
for work with kids: Page 5

## Sports:

Pirate teams take  
losses from Aces: Page 6

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 31

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, September 16, 1993

35 Cents

## Japanese teachers visit Perquimans Schools

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

It was a week neither Sid and Candy Eley nor Fumio Munakata will ever forget. For one week, the Eleys opened their doors to Munakata. It was an experience all three will hold in their hearts for a lifetime.

"It's been wonderful," Sid said of having Munakata stay in his home. "He has fit in. He's been one of the family."

Candy was equally pleased with the host experience.

"His generosity has just overwhelmed us, and he's been so easy to please," Candy said.

"I feel like we were very fortunate (to have hosted Munakata). I just feel like we had one of the best."

Munakata returned the Eleys' compliments.

"I really enjoyed it," he said.

Munakata came to Perquimans through the Japanese English Teacher's Project, a cultural exchange program sponsored by the N.C. Center for International Understanding, the Council on International Educational Exchange and the Japanese Ministry of Education.

He was one of 10 Japanese English teachers who spent last week in the county. The guests were housed by Perquimans County teachers, and spent their days in the local school system and their free time learning more about life in America.

The Eleys took Munakata to the Outer Banks, football games, and around the county, and introduced him to a lot of new experiences - not the least of which was American food. His favorite culinary treats were seafood, especially soft-shell crabs, pork barbecue and hush puppies.

The famous turtles on the log in the Perquimans River just off the causeway reminded Munakata of home. In Japan, turtles are a symbol of longevity. Turtles are said to live 10,000 years.

Cranes are a second Japanese symbol of long life, and are also a symbol of good wishes. Paper cranes might be sent to someone to wish him a speedy recovery from illness or could be fashioned into a mobile to wish a sports team luck.

Munakata is skilled at origami, paper art. He made about 100 cranes while here, and shared the art with students at Perquimans Middle School.

The educator was impressed with the closeness of the residents of Perquimans.

"Everyone is very nice to



Japanese English teachers visited Perquimans County last week as part of an educational cultural exchange program. The group of visitors and hosts gathered Saturday at Perquimans High School for a traditional southern pork and chicken barbecue. Enjoying the meal are (left to right) Satoko Tsunabachi,

Kathy Ansink, Masao Kondo, Linda Long and Ervin Long. After the barbecue, the group moved to 1812 on the Perquimans, where they enjoyed tea on the lawn and listened to the sounds of the Claymon Sawyer family. (Photo by Susan Harris)

each other," he said. "You know each other very well."

In his hometown of over 1 million, Munakata said he knows few families in his neighborhood.

Another difference in Japanese and American life in the Americans' greater amount of leisure time. The Japanese work longer hours. For example, Candy said Munakata told her it is not unusual for a Japanese teacher to get home from work at 9 p.m.

It is also more expensive to live in Japan than in America. The biggest expense in Japan is housing. Munakata said his house, a two-story structure on a 30-by-30-foot lot, would sell for at least \$300,000 in today's market. That price could easily esca-

late to \$1 million in Tokyo, where land is hard to find.

One cup of coffee sells for \$5-7 in Japan. A canned soft drink is \$1. And the ice cream Munakata said he enjoyed at Woodward's Pharmacy for about 75 cents would run about \$3 in his native land.

Munakata said he was amazed at the prices of Japanese products sold in the U.S. Before leaving to come here, Munakata said he bought a camera, a Pentax ESP 10115, for about \$460. He found it in this country for around \$250. On the whole, Munakata found Japanese products to cost twice as much in Japan as in America.

Students were one thing Munakata found to be the same on

both sides of the world. He said some talk in class and must be called down in both systems.

"It's the same everywhere," he said.

He was impressed with Sid's ability to control his students. "Mr. Eley often says, 'Excuse me, excuse me,' and his students get quiet," Munakata said. "The discipline here is good."

Students are rarely sent to the principal's office in Japan. Munakata said principals basically supervise teachers, and are only called in as a last resort in discipline matters. Japanese teachers try to resolve behavior problems on the classroom level first. If that is not successful, the offending student's homeroom teacher or grade level chairman

is called in. Parents are also notified and are expected to put a stop to the unsatisfactory behavior.

There are about 20 junior high schools, serving 7th, 8th and 9th graders, in Munakata's hometown. He teaches English in a three-story facility housing about 500 students. The school year runs from April through March.

Japanese students take nine subjects in junior high school. Considered the core subjects are Japanese language, social studies, math, science and English language. Students are tested in those five before moving on to senior high school. Students also take music, fine arts, homemaking and industrial arts and phys-

ical education. Each week students have one hour of moral education, a subject Candy said she'd like to see introduced in American schools. Also offered are club activities, sports and cultural classes, such as the proper way to conduct a Japanese tea ceremony.

Students in Japan attend schools Monday-Friday and on Saturday mornings.

The Eleys said they learned to appreciate Perquimans County and many things about the local school system through their visit with Munakata.

"His visit has made us realize how lucky we are to be here," Candy said.

The local couple said they were a little apprehensive about hosting an exchange teacher, but Munakata put them so much at ease they hated to see him leave. Their guest shared the sentiment.

"I really hate to say goodbye," he said.

Munakata told the Eleys before leaving Sunday that he wants to come back to the United States. While he doesn't think he'll ever be chosen again for the cultural exchange program, he told the Eleys he will retire in seven years, and plans to come back for another visit.

Munakata said so much of his visit was positive, it was difficult to say what he liked best about the United States. "Everything was interesting," he said. "It's hard to say which was the most interesting."

"I enjoyed the life here most," Munakata finally said.

Perquimans teachers who hosted Japanese teachers included the Eleys, Georgia Stallings - Kofi Miyazaki, Freda Nelson - Toshiaki Takahara, Hollis Williams - Hiroyuki Toyonaga, Maureen Pasternak - Takaka Chamoto, Randall Henion - Makoto Ino, Edna Wolberton, Katsunori Furumae, Kathy Ansink - Satoko Tsunabuchi, Linda Long - Masao Kondo, and Art Simmons - Kokei Nabeshima. Pasquotank and Camden counties also hosted exchange teachers.

While here, the teachers taught classes, observed classes, learned about the history of the county, enjoyed a traditional southern pork barbecue at the high school, and were served tea on the lawn of 1812 on the Perquimans complete with music by the Claymon Sawyer family.

## Artists Four showcases local talent

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Words took a back seat to art at the Perquimans County Library Monday evening, when Artists Four opened with rave reviews.

Over 130 guests attended the opening, which featured works by Becky France, Jimmy Hayes, Jesse Parker Perry and Dale Ball. The artists sold about a dozen works valued at about \$2,300, 30 percent of which will go to the library for improvements in computer resources and purchasing audiovisual and print materials. All artists sold work.

"I think it superceded everybody's expectations," France said. "I just feel so successful that we were able to do this."

France said the comments made to the artists and those who helped with the show were overwhelmingly positive. She was receiving complimentary telephone calls Tuesday morning.

The art show and sale concept was conceived by France. The show is an effort to create awareness of and appreciation for art, showcase the talent of local artists, participate in the Indian Summer Festival and raise money for the library.

"I think it superceded everybody's expectations."

Rebecca France  
Local artist

The show's opening drew people from all across the Albemarle area.

France is a watercolorist who takes ordinary subjects and brings them to life on canvases. She strives for design, color, atmosphere and emotion in her work. Her paintings have been shown in the Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery, in a juried national show in Goldsboro and in Charleston, S.C.

Hayes has always been interested in art. She uses vivid color and mixed media to create bold works. Nature is her favorite subject. Her work has been displayed at community art festivals.

An artist and sculptor for 40 years, Perry prefers wood as his media and impressionistic wildlife as his subjects. Perry's work is thoughtful and thought-provoking, as he often uses his commitment to the environment as the theme for his creations. His work has been shown in Elizabeth City, Nags Head and New York City.

Ball, a resident of Moyock, has been drawing since she was a child, and recently earned a bachelor of arts in fine arts from Elizabeth City State University. She is a very versatile artist, working in pen and ink, pencil, oils and watercolor. Her subjects are most often birds, plants and small still lifes of everyday objects. Her work has been shown from Kitty Hawk to Hawaii.

Contributions were received from Century Bank, Jison Center/Hertford, Albemarle Plantation, Carlin Printing Company and the Perquimans County Extension Homeowners. The library board and volunteers put in many hours organizing and promoting the show.

The art show and sale will continue through the Indian Summer Festival, Sept. 25. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the library on Monday, Sept. 27. They intend to be out there until the end of the season.



Perquimans sculptor Jesse Parker Perry makes a statement about environmental concerns with this piece on display now at the Perquimans County Library's first Artists Four art show and sale. The show opened to rave reviews Monday evening. It will run through Sept. 25. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Schools save bucks with audit recommendations

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The Perquimans County School system will save about \$50,000 this fiscal year because several suggestions made in a June 1992 state audit report have been implemented.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said recently that the major savings have come from administrative reorganization at the middle school and placing transportation and maintenance under a single supervisor.

At the time of the audit, Perquimans Middle School was served by co-principals, siphoning over \$10,000 of local funds because the state funds a principal and an assistant principal. The county had to kick in the difference in the salary and benefits of a principal and assistant principal.

During the audit, the maintenance and transportation departments each had a supervisor. When transportation director Lloyd "Pete" Riddick retired, maintenance director Richard O'Neal was assigned to supervise both departments.

Other recommendations of the audit dealt with the superintendent's wide span of control, unclear lines of authority, staff reporting responsibilities, lack of a staff organizational chart, developing written poli-

cies and procedures, documenting employee work loads, developing job descriptions and better credit card control. Henion said all those issues have been addressed since the system received the audit report.

The audit also stated that the schools overspent on workshop meals and refreshments, and should move in line with state limits. Henion said that, too, has been done, and spending is carefully monitored.

Henion said there have been improvements made in completing and submitting vouchers.

Six other audit recommendations are presently being addressed, Henion said. The suggestions include:

- \*cross-training staff members;
- \*developing performance evaluations and making sure employees are evaluated;
- \*providing assistance for employees performing below par and implementing procedures for removal;
- \*lack of communication;
- \*requiring instructional supervisory staff to set school visitation schedules and respond to requests for help; and
- \*improving ineffective time management in the maintenance department.

INDIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY, N.C.

SPECIAL  
INDIAN  
SUMMER  
EDITION  
Next Week  
Sept. 20-21