

12 013165 10/09/1999 *C20
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 110 W ACADEMY ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944

Perquimans teams stick in playoffs
 Page 6

Churches hold ground breakings
 Page 5

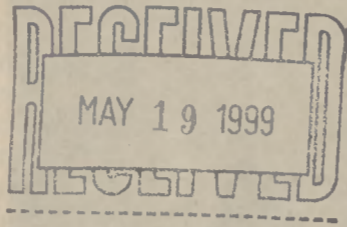
Learning about the grand jury system
 Page 4

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35¢

May 20, 1999

Vol. 67, No. 20 Hertford, North Carolina 27944



DAILY ADVANCE PHOTOS

A large crowd listens to Jon Strother singing "Beautiful Morning," the county's new theme song, during the dedication ceremony for the completion of the new Central School building and the renovated Hertford Grammar School in the Central School multi-purpose room on Sunday. State and local officials said teamwork led to the successful project completions.

County celebrates schools completion

Cooperation key to successful completions, officials say

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

Teamwork was credited for the successful completion of two major school construction projects Sunday when state and local officials spoke at the dedication ceremony for the two sites.

Perquimans County Commissioners Chairman Charles Ward likened the ceremony, dedicating the new Central School building and the Hertford Grammar School renovations, to lighting the candle on a birthday cake. He said like the cooperation it takes to turn wheat into flour and sugar cane into sugar for a cake, so it took the school board and administration, the county commissioners, the architect and construction management firm working cooperatively to build schools that will serve students in the county for years to come.

Ward also told the crowd of about 200 that braved the wet, windy weather to attend the ceremony at the new Central School that the county is firmly committed to education.

"Without education, our county can't prosper," he said.

State Rep. W.C. "Bill" Owens was guest speaker. He echoed Ward's message that teamwork could be credited for the \$6.2 million building projects. He included the General Assembly and the voters on the team of those who worked together. About \$4 million of the funds used in the building projects came from state bond funds and other state grants.

"We all know the most

important need we have in our state is educating our children," Owens said. "Most everyone I know in Raleigh is committed to education."

School board chairman Wallace Nelson dedicated the buildings. He, too, credited teamwork with the timely, on-budget completion of the two projects.

"It just touches my heart a lot to see this building here today," Nelson said.

Nelson added that when potential industrial clients come to the county to consider locating here, one thing they want to see is schools. While buildings are only a first impression, Nelson said, both Central and Hertford Grammar will give beautiful first impressions, which will be backed up when the clients meet the dedicated staffs inside the buildings.

Nelson also used an article on trying from the Bits and Pieces magazine in his talk.

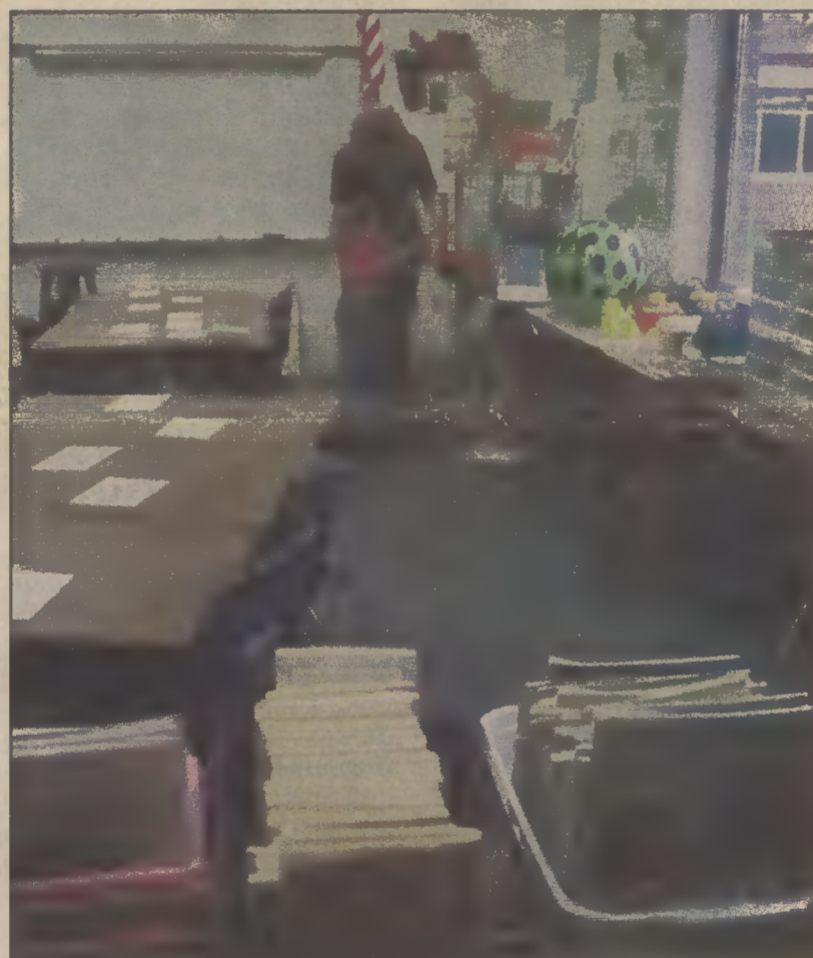
"There's no such thing as trying," Nelson said. "You either do it or you don't."

Telling people you will try to do something is often actually a lie, the author Nelson quoted said.

Nelson said the article stated that "try" is not in the vocabulary of high achievers.

"This building is not here because somebody tried to do it," he said, but rather because the commissioners, school board, representatives in Raleigh, citizens and parents, architects and others involved in the planning and construction of the building and committing both local and state funds to the projects were "absolutely, positively committed. All these people ... did more than just try. It happened."

Also on the program were former schools superintendent Randall Henion, under whose leadership the funds were



Gail Layden and her daughter, Lindsay browse through one of four new classrooms at Hertford Grammar School after the dedication ceremony Sunday.

obtained and the ground broken for the projects, Steven Howie of M.B. Kahn Construction Management Co., Inc., James A Claywell of Boney Architects and Gregory T. Todd, schools superintendent.

Henion said when he accepted the Perquimans superintendent job in January 1991, a look at critical needs in the schools turned up about \$12 million in projects. With local and state funds and grant monies, new wastewater systems were installed, Perquimans Middle School was renovated, and the projects were begun at both Central and Hertford Grammar, he said.

"It is such a day of celebration," Henion said.

Howie noted that one of the greatest pleasures he experienced in working on the projects was seeing the expressions on the faces of the staff and the children when they saw the new and remodeled

facilities.

Todd noted that man's knowledge is moving ahead at an astounding pace. As society heads into the new millenium, a clear signal is being sent to those in education that children must be made ready for this information explosion.

"We can't be content with what we've been doing in the past," he said. "We have to make sure kids are ready to live in a world where knowledge doubles almost monthly."

A group of second graders led the pledge of allegiance in Spanish. The senior class officers were on hand for the burial of the time capsule which had originally been buried at the Winfall site in 1987. Rainpostponed that part of the ceremony.

In addition, Jon Strother sang his original song, "Beautiful Morning," which has been adopted as the county song.

Both buildings were open for tours after the ceremony.

White House Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.

Riverside Plantation will be the site of the annual Restoration Association Garden Party Saturday evening at 6 o'clock. Tickets are \$20 for buffet and music.

Call Newbold-White, 426-7567 for information.

Gregory's back in business

Downtown icon reopens after 8-month fire cleanup

By CINDI COURBAT
 Daily Advance Correspondent

This Friday's grand re-opening of Gregory's proves the American dime store tradition isn't dead - at least not here.

Located beneath red and white striped awning, across the street from the Perquimans County Courthouse, Gregory's was a community icon for nearly a century.

Then tragedy struck when the store was almost destroyed by fire in September. Eight months and extensive remodeling later, the historic five and dime is back in business.

Today, Gregory's is run by Margaret Ainsley-Brewin and her mother, Doris Gregory Ainsley, daughter of the store's founder, Mark Gregory.

"We are so glad to be back in business," Ainsley-Brewin said recently. "Most of the people who come here to shop are those we've known all our lives..."

"The benefit of a small community store is the social contact and the intimacy that large retail stores are not able to give," she said. "Gregory's has always been an important part of this community."

When Mark Gregory opened the store that bears his name on Church Street in 1915, it was the only dime store in Perquimans County.

Back then, Gregory's used about triple the floor space it does today and the store had the reputation of stocking just about anything you might want or need.

Today, Gregory's specializes in school and office supplies and some of the store's floor space is leased to other tenants.

In addition to the school-office supplies, browsers can find unusual gift items, antiques and memorabilia from days gone by. For example, Gregory's carries a unique

little patch kit for pots and pans called "Mendets," a popular item about 50 years ago, Ainsley-Brewin says.

According to Ainsley-Brewin, Mendets are still in great demand among older folks. She believes younger people would buy them too if they knew what they are.

"It's actually a way to recycle," she said.

Before and after World War II, Gregory's had a huge collection of toys for sale.

"It was known as the toy center of the Albemarle for many, many years," Ainsley-Brewin said. "Even today, we have a great collection of old toys, including just about every old game you can imagine."

Upstairs, over the store, the family has collected a great assortment of toys, dolls, antiques and heirlooms. During the 1970s the collection was on display above the store and served as the town's unofficial museum. It was called the Cricket Gallery.

"We still have most of those old items stored upstairs," Ainsley-Brewin said. "We plan to display some of them on the top shelves in the store (after we open)."

Today's "condensed version" of the family five and dime sells old post cards, gift items, antiques, toys and a great selection of old-fashioned candy. At Gregory's you also can buy all-time favorites like coconut ices and chocolate-covered peanuts by-the-scoop.

The store still features much of its original furnishings. On the counter, near the candy case, for example, is the store's original brass scale. Cashiers will ring up sales using the store's wooden cash register.

Gregory's also sells a complete line of custom framing supplies, Ainsley-Brewin said. The frame service is located in the back of the store.

Doris Ainsley, who grew up working in the store, knows the real meaning of the old song, "I Met my Baby at the Five-and-Dime." Gregory's is where she met her husband Willie. Together, they ran Gregory's for more than 50 years.

RELAY set for Friday

You can still buy purple ribbons and luminaries, and donations are most welcome as organizers make final preparations for the American Cancer Society RELAY for Life this weekend.

About 400 walkers are expected to participate in the Chowan-Perquimans fund raiser Friday and Saturday at the Edenton Holmes athletic complex.

The most special participants will walk at 6 p.m. Friday. That's when the survivors will take a lap, signifying their battle with and for some, their defeat of - cancer. Survivors are asked to register by 5:30 at which time they will receive a free T-shirt.

The goal of this year's campaign is \$100,000, according to RELAY co-chair Brenda Newbern. Last year, RELAY raised about \$90,000.

Chowan County will field 27

teams, Perquimans, 10. Each team generally has 10-15 members. Each team pays a \$100 registration fee, and then holds benefits to raise as much money as possible. Car washes, yard sales, gospel sings, auctions and other means are used to raise funds for cancer research and education.

Newbern said it is not too late to support RELAY. Purple bows are on sale for \$3 at Dozier's Florist, BJ's Unisex Beauty Salon and Country Flair. Organizers said it would be wonderful to see purple bows dotting both counties in support of RELAY this weekend.

Spring Weekend events approach

History buffs won't know if they're in Hertford or in heaven when Perquimans Spring Weekend arrives Friday.

There will be no carriages and bonnets, but the barbecue and entertainment on the courthouse green Friday evening is sure to rival that served when Scarlett O'Hara held court at Tara. Tickets for

the fireworks benefit are \$8 each and can be purchased at downtown businesses. Hertford's unique shops will stay open until 8 for the evening.

Saturday will kick off the self-guided tour featuring 24 historic homes and structures across the county. Registration is at Newbold-

White House Saturday at 9 a.m. and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.