

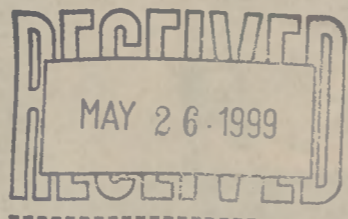
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**Lady Pirates earn berth at state 1-A softball championship tournament**

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THE  
**PERQUIMANS**  
**WEEKLY**

35¢

**Visitors flock to Spring Weekend**

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Beautiful weather and some of the most architecturally significant structures in North Carolina brought visitors to the county last weekend.

A homes tour organized and promoted by Preservation North Carolina and the Perquimans County Restoration Association brought out a barrage of history buffs from far and near. There were over 400 tourists who visited the county over the two-day event, according to Peter Rascoe of Preservation's Edenton office and Chris Lane, president of PCRA.

"It was probably one of the most amazing experiences for me," said Lane. "We certainly expected it to be good, but we didn't expect it to be fantastic and it really was. There were over 250 at the garden party, which is more than we've ever had. All the beds and breakfasts were full. People shopped downtown. The restaurants benefited. It was just wonderful.

"Everyone that I talked to said that it was by far one of the nicest weekends that they've ever spent," Lane added. "They said it was a step above the renowned tours they've been on in the past. They were real impressed that it was the homeowners giving tours and not tour guides."

Lane said people from all over North Carolina and Virginia came for the tour.

"If there have been any naysayers about heritage tourism, I think that this (weekend event) has proved the point that people will come



Tourists Mary Dean and Ken Winchester of Virginia Beach, Va. get a tour of the Newbold-White House from PCRA member and volunteer Chuck White. The couple were among over 400 who toured 24 of the county's historic buildings this weekend.

here," Lane said. "I can just envision many more opportunities like this for us."

Lane said perhaps other events in the county can take advantage of the area's rich historic resources.

Rascoe said his organization was also pleased with the event, tagged Perquimans

Spring Weekend.

"It was a huge success," Rascoe said. "All the comments I heard was it was a great tour. Really everybody liked it. I think we accomplished what we started out doing, which was to bring in out-of-towners and show them what the county has to offer.

Now I hope we'll continue with that effort."

Rascoe said one of the highlights of the tour for many history buffs was the four houses undergoing restoration. He said being able to see the way structures were built in the 19th century was fascinating for many tourists.

Lane said PCRA received a grant to promote the tour and the group paired with Preservation, which expanded PCRA's resources not only in assistance, but use of Preservation's mailing list. The advertising and promotion definitely made a difference as many of the tourists were from the Hampton Roads target advertising market.

The Historic Hertford Business Association also played a part in the weekend, hosting the Pig-Out in Perquimans event on Friday night. Visitors and home folks were able to enjoy barbecue and live entertainment from local musicians on the courthouse lawn. Many browsed through the downtown shops, which stayed open until 8 p.m.

In addition, the Perquimans Arts League Gallery was open all weekend showcasing local works.

According to Lane and LuAnne Pendergraft, Development Officer with the N.C. Department of Commerce headquartered at Newbold-White, all the groups who participated in the weekend enjoyed success.

Lane, Rascoe and Pendergraft all said the families who opened their homes are owed a debt of gratitude.

"It's a lot of work and a lot of worry," Rascoe said. "We owe them a lot."

**Be prepared for hurricane season**

For many, Memorial Day is a time to enjoy cookouts, reopen the family pool, enjoy that first boat ride of the season.

But for emergency management coordinators in North Carolina, Memorial Day means hurricane season is upon us. Gov. Jim Hunt has proclaimed May 30-June 5 Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness Week in the state.

"For the next six months, the possibility of one, or more, hurricanes hitting our state will be very real," said Hunt. "We are seeing an up-swing in hurricane activity in the Atlantic, and Dr. William Gray predicts that this year there will be 14 named storms, nine of them becoming hurricanes and four of those will be powerful ones. I want all of our people to be prepared for whatever this hurricane season may bring."

Perquimans County Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Cullipher said people should use Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness Week as a reminder to put together a three-day emergency kit. He said every household should have an emergency kit on hand. Sometimes, once weather forecasters predict a storm is on the way, stores fill up as people go after items at the last minute. This can mean stores run short of supplies that can become critical if a bad storm hits.

An emergency kit should be packed in an easy to

carry, water tight container such as a large plastic trash can or a cardboard box lined with a couple of heavy trash bags.

The following items are essential to the kit: 1 gallon of water per person per day, and water purification kit or bleach; first aid kit and first aid book; pre-cooked, non-perishable foods such as canned meats, granola bars, instant soups and cereals; baby supplies; non-electric can opener; anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel; blanket or sleeping bag per person; portable radio or portable TV and extra batteries; flashlight and extra batteries; essential medications; extra pair of eyeglasses; extra house and car keys; ABC-type fire extinguisher; food, water, leash and carrier for pets; cash and change; and seasonal change of clothing including sturdy shoes.

Sanitation supplies to have in the kit are large plastic trash bags, tarps and rain ponchos; large trash cans; bar soap and liquid detergent; shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes; feminine hygiene supplies; toilet paper, bleach and rubber gloves.

Enough supplies should be stored to last at least three days, preferably seven days, in one place.

For more about storm safety, contact the N.C. Emergency Management Division of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety at call (919) 733-3219 or visit [www.ncem.org](http://www.ncem.org). Locally, call 426-5751.

**PCHS junior delivers baby in Elizabeth City shoe store**

By GRACE DAVIS-NERNEY  
 The Daily Advance and  
 SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

ELIZABETH CITY — Tytianne Walker was shoed-in to this world last Tuesday night — literally.

The newborn's mother, Lisa Walker, gave birth to her in Payless Shoe Store in Elizabeth City's Jordan Plaza.

"I felt a few labor pains but thought I had plenty of time to pick up her father from work on Highway 17 North (and get to Albemarle Hospital)," Walker said Wednesday.

Tytianne had other ideas, however.

Walker quickly realized she needed help and pulled into the first place she saw people. It happened to be Payless Shoe Store.

Walker saw Michelle Nixon, the only customer in the store at the time.

"I need help, I'm having a baby," was their introduction. Although Nixon is only 16, she took control of the situation. While store employees called the rescue squad and Walker's sister Cythia White, Nixon had Walker lie down.

The Perquimans County High School student hoped that would keep Walker calm until paramedics arrived.

Again, Tytianne had other plans. She arrived right there by the cash register at 8:41 p.m.

"I try not to panic easily," Walker said.

Clearly Nixon doesn't either. Without any training or previous midwife experience, she delivered Walker's

**"I'm 16, I should be doing this...All I wanted was some shoes."**

**Michelle Nixon Age 16 After delivering a baby in an Elizabeth City shoe store last week**

baby.

"I kept thinking, 'I'm 16, I shouldn't be doing this,'" Nixon said. "All I wanted was some shoes."

Nixon said at first Walker's baby didn't seem to be breathing.

"So I put my finger in her mouth and cleared out the mucus and rubbed her back. Pretty soon she started crying and I knew she was OK," Nixon said.

The 16-year-old said she then handed Tytianne to her mother and said, "You take over, I don't know what I'm doing."

Walker thinks otherwise. "She seemed to know what to do," she said.

Five minutes later, the paramedics arrived. Both baby,

who's 18 inches and weighs just over 4 pounds, and mother are doing fine.

Nixon's mother said her daughter called her after 9 p.m. crying.

"I was afraid she'd been in a wreck or something," said Margie Nixon of Hertford. "I tried to get her to calm down. She said she was in a shoe store, then I was afraid she'd been robbed or something. I just kept trying to get her to calm down and then she told me that a lady came into the store, her water broke and she delivered the baby right there. I think when it was all over, she realized what had happened. It happened so fast that she didn't have time to think about anything. She just wanted to help her out."

"She was upset, but she was proud of herself, too," Nixon continued. "We're (her father, Billy and mother) just real proud of her and glad that both the mother and the baby are all right."

Margie Nixon said she called the hospital after talking with Michelle to check on the newborn and its mother. The nurse told her that the ambulance was enroute with the pair, but that from all reports, both seemed to be doing fine.

Apparently babies in a hurry are in vogue right now.

"We have had three babies born before they got to the hospital in the last three weeks," said an Albemarle Hospital



Above: Sixteen-year old Michelle Nixon (left) recounts how she helped new mom Lisa Walker deliver her baby girl, Tytianne, Tuesday night at Payless Shoe Store. Top: Walker enjoys a moment with Tytianne in their Albemarle Hospital room.

maternity ward nurse nursing.

Wednesday. "That's unusual."

Nixon said she has been thinking about a career in

thinking about a career in

"This was a sign, I guess,"

that that's what she ought to do, she said.

As for delivering any more babies, the 16-year-old says she'll probably "lay off for awhile."

DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO