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Pirates fall to Northside

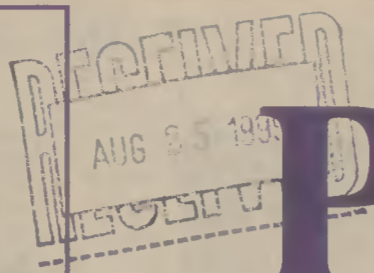
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Class of '59 meets

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Festivals spotlight county, old and new

### Indian Summer, Hearth & Harvest events set for Sept. 11

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

September 11 will be a big day in Hertford.

The 18th annual Indian Summer Festival and the third annual Hearth and Harvest Festival will both be held on that Saturday, putting Hertford in the spotlight and offering a day of fun for all ages.

Indian Summer, sponsored for the second year by the Historic Hertford Business Association, will resemble an old-fashioned street fair. Food, games, entertainment and crafts will be offered downtown from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The day will end with a street dance from 8-11 p.m.

The always-popular PCHS Marching Pirates will open the festival with the 1999 show "PlayBall! A Tribute to Catfish Hunter." The variety of entertainment also includes an Indian parade, the Harbor Lights, Comedy Spot, Step of Faith, Rockin' Willie, Double Eagle Band, Karaoke and for the dance, Carolina Beach Club.

On the grounds of the ca. 1730 Newbold-White House, the past will come alive with traditional 18th century activities that could have taken place at the site over 250 years ago. Corn husk doll making, candle dipping, butter churning, spinning and playing centuries-old games are among scheduled activities.

Events at Newbold-White will get underway at 11 a.m. with a flag ceremony, "Evolution of the American Flag," presented by the Hertford Colonial Color Guard. There will also be an 18th century herb and flower workshop, a Quaker blessing, and storytelling, as well as performances by the Perquimans Pipers and violinist Aaron Grosjean.

Demonstrations will include tatting and spinning, pottery, wood carving and stain glass making. Historic farm equipment, including a hand-crank corn sheller, hand-crank grist mill, horse-drawn cotton planter and peanut planter, will be on display.

Food and beverages will be available. Hours will be 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$5 per carload, \$1 per person.

Festival-goers will be able to park and ride a free shuttle from one venue to the other.

For Indian Summer information, call 426-2021 or 426-5593. For Hearth and Harvest information, call 426-7567.

## Schools welcome students back

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

The lazy days of summer officially ended for Perquimans County Schools students bright and early Tuesday morning.

Around 1,900 students were expected to arrive on the county's four campuses for the first student day of the 1999-2000 school year.

Superintendent Gregory Todd said opening day went smoothly.

"I've been real pleased with the schools," Todd said. "I've been by and it looks like they're all organized. The students are in class and they've already got instruction started. It's been real smooth."

Teachers have been back for several days, attending planning meetings and preparing lesson plans and classrooms

for the return of students.

Perquimans County Schools Personnel Director Brenda Dail said Monday night that all classroom instruction positions were filled as of Monday.

"I feel very good about the staff we have hired," Dail said. "I would feel good about my own children being in the classroom of the new teachers we hired, that's the quality of teachers we were able to hire to fill our vacancies."

Todd had announced earlier that this year each school would have its own fleet of buses. There were several positive outcomes expected from the change, including avoiding having students picked up first in the afternoons travel across the causeway and wait at the other school served by that bus. It also allows for site-based management and coordination between drivers, other school staff and students.

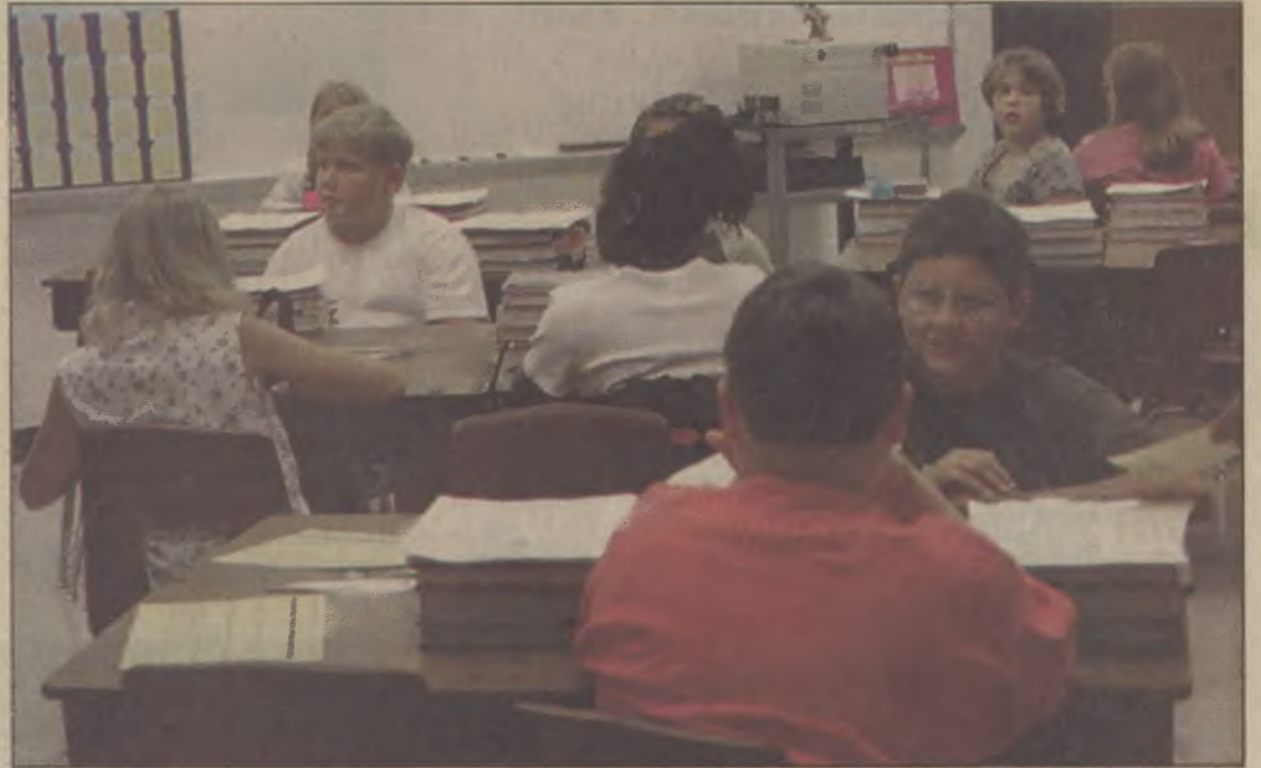


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Fifth graders get ready for an exciting new school year as they return to the classroom Tuesday morning. Students and staff were smiling and ready for a good year ahead.



PHOTO BY JOHN E. ABERNATHY, The Daily Advance

The Marching Pirates and varsity cheerleaders created an arch during the pregame show to guide the 1999 Perquimans football team onto the field Friday night. The three groups performed well in their own rights

during the evening, and worked together to create a classy football Friday at Memorial Stadium. Northside slipped past the Pirates, 30-22, in the season-opener. Please see related story, page 6.

## Safe schools plan to be updated

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Schools superintendent Gregory Todd told board members that the schools' safe schools plans will begin to be updated by October.

The plan was discussed after Jeanie Umphlett reported on a safe, healthy environment conference she attended.

Umphlett said one of the speakers was the superintendent of the Littleton, Col. school system. Umphlett said the most important point she brought home with her is, "Don't ever think it can't happen to us."

There is a systemwide safe schools plan, as well as individual plans at each school. During the upgrade process, crisis management will be a focus, Umphlett said.

A safe schools assessment team visited the high school last year, and Umphlett said most recommendations were implemented. A team will visit the other three schools this year.

In addition to school personnel, local law enforcement and emergency response units are involved in safe schools.

## School board revises meeting schedule

### Religion in the Schools policy not changed

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

The board of education approved the revision of policy 1310 Regular Meetings in regular session Monday night.

The board will now set a meeting schedule for the upcoming fiscal year at its regular meeting each June. Previously, the policy set board meetings for the third Monday of each month.

The schedule adopted by the board in June in anticipation of the change sets meetings on the fourth Monday night of each month for the next fiscal year, except in December, which will be the third Monday. Work sessions are also set for March 20 and May 1.

The board voted not to change its standing policy 5900

Religion in the Schools. The policy was under review because the Gideons requested permission to distribute Bibles in at least one county school.

Prior to the discussion, Fellowship of Christian Athletes co-captain Sarah Harris encouraged the board to allow Bibles to be placed on a table with a sign to read, "Please feel free to take on." She cited court cases which upheld the distribution of Bibles in the schools in that manner.

In part, the board policy reads, "Religious books, including Bibles, or religious symbols may not be given to students as an award for achievement and may not be generally distributed by religious groups to students at school."

Board members who commented on the issue said they were torn between personal feelings, handling other groups wishing to give out literature they considered religious and upholding the law.

"It's in my heart that we should do it (change the policy to allow the distribution)," said Wallace Nelson. But Nelson added that allowing the Bible distribution would open the door for distribution of cult and other materials.

Charles Cheezum concurred.

"I think we all feel that way frankly," Cheezum said. "But what about other groups?"

"In my heart I would like to see it done, to be able to do it," Tommy Riddick agreed.

"There are groups out there that would like to have an in to get information to students," said Marjorie Rayburn.

Walter Leigh summed up the feelings bantered about by the board during the discussion that the issue is something that public bodies continue to deal with, and about which the court rulings are not consistent.

In the end, Nelson was the only board member to vote against changing the policy.

The third policy considera-

tion on the table Monday was the first reading of a revision of 3220, which deals with the responsibilities and duties of teachers regarding supervision of extra-curricular activities.

The revision states that no assignment of supervision of extra-curricular activities may be made to initially licensed teachers or to teachers with more than 27 years of experience unless they request such assignment in writing, or unless the Board makes a finding that there is a compelling reason to suspend this policy for an individual school. The policy also states that assignment of non-teaching duties to those two groups should be kept to a minimum.

Schools superintendent Gregory Todd told the board that the change is recommended in response to changes in state law.

The second reading of that policy recommendation is set for the September board meeting.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 CHANCE OF RAIN

FRIDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 CHANCE OF RAIN

SATURDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 CHANCE OF RAIN