

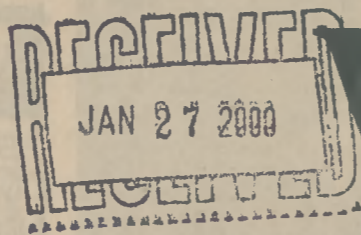
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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Winter weather grips Perquimans

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Winter weather has gripped Perquimans for the past two weeks, and this week promises to bring even nastier weather.

After a moderate beginning, winter turned frigid about two weeks ago with dropping temperatures and blasts of arctic air. Last week, the first of several winter storms dumped enough ice and snow to close schools for two days and make driving after dusk and before dawn hairy.

This week started out with light snow Sunday and turned ugly Monday with rain and storm winds pounding throughout the day. Tuesday's early morning hours brought freezing rain which gave way to snow about mid-morning. Schools were closed for the third day in two weeks Tuesday.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

A light blanket of snow gave the pavilion over the Perquimans River at Missing Mill Park a picture-postcard look last week.

Some forecasters predict the weather will begin to clear on Wednesday; others warn that the nasty weather could stick around until the weekend.

According to information on the on-line Weather Channel, temperatures will reach 37 Thursday, but a low of 22 will freeze any moisture left on the roads. Friday's high of 42 will likewise be accompanied by a low of 26. The Weather Channel predicts temperatures will fail to fall to 32 degrees F. for the first time this week on Saturday, and that low is expected to be 33. Sunday should bring lows in the upper 30s, and by Monday, it is expected to be rainy and warmer, with a low of 41 and a high of 56.

Driving was hazardous during storms both weeks. A few accidents, mostly minor, were reported, along with several vehicles sliding into ditches courtesy of slick roadways.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

**THURSDAY**  
High: 37  
Low: 22  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**FRIDAY**  
High: 42  
Low: 26  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**SATURDAY**  
High: 44  
Low: 33  
PARTLY CLOUDY

**SUNDAY**  
High: 52  
Low: 37  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

**MONDAY**  
High: 56  
Low: 41  
SCATTERED SHOWERS

## Saturday auction to benefit downtown upgrades

A Victorian bedroom suite. Vintage collectibles. Baubles and beads. All this and more will be auctioned Saturday to benefit revitalization efforts in downtown Hertford.

Spearheaded by the newly-formed Antique Dealers Association of Perquimans County, the fund raiser includes both silent and live auctions at L&L, Ltd., formerly home to Morgan Furniture Store on Church Street in downtown Hertford.

Antique dealers, those who support economic development through revitalization and others who have antique and vintage items they'd like to sell have placed quality pieces in the auction, according to organizers.

The silent auction is set for Saturday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., with preview Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The live auction will begin at 7 o'clock Saturday evening. Antiques, collectibles, good quality furnishings, handcrafts and household items will be offered for sale.

Donations are being accepted outright, as well as on consignment and with a reserve.

Frankie's Hertford Cafe will sell refreshments on site during the auction. The Historic Hertford Business Association will handle collection of funds.

Auction proceeds will benefit the ongoing historical downtown revitalization efforts. Grant funding has been pledged to support the efforts by ADAPC and HHBA in this project. Funds will be concentrated on the downtown business district, and will help reach the goals of installing period street lighting, moving utility cables and lines underground, and building a cobblestone thoroughfare.

For information, call Susan Wilkerson, 426-8222; Jane McMahon, 426-5945; or L&L Ltd., 426-3129.

## Two speak on 2000-2001 school calendar

Volleyball team, Christmas contest winners recognized

JEREMY DESPOSITO  
The Daily Advance

A member of the calendar committee had enthusiastic words for the Board of Education regarding the proposed 2000-2001 calendar that was presented Monday night.

While the calendar may be a good one, the president of an agricultural consulting firm said, starting school at the beginning of August would deplete the young staff his company relies on to protect summer crops.

Julia White, calendar committee member and middle school parent, said those in opposition to the proposed calendar need to view the opportunities differently.

"One parent told me that they see the remediation days built in as a form of punishment for the child that needs help," White said. "Do we really want our children to hear us speak of school as a form of punishment? It is the key to their success in life."

Although students would begin school in early August, they would be out by early June, so students wouldn't be "robbed" of their summer vacation, as some parents have purported, according to White.

"They still have eight and a half consecutive weeks off, with several wonderful breaks during the year," she said. "If for the sake of argument we added days to the year, what would be so bad about that? It would provide our children with all the more opportunity to learn. The remediation days can have many uses. If a student is having difficulty, he can get up to speed with his classmates. Is it not better than lagging farther and farther behind? How can we be against time built into the schedule to help our children?"

White added that if "children are doing well, and need no extra help, the days can be used for enrichment." The proposed "alternative" schedule would also allow more one-on-one learning with the teacher, undermining the trend of a growing student population

and a decreasing teacher pool, she said.

"Perquimans students will have their best chance at success when they are no longer serving time, but when time is serving them," she added.

Stan Winslow was the only other public speaker. As president of Tidewater Agronomics Inc. in Camden, his company relies on high school and college hands "to take care of farmers' crops."

"I realize there's lots of good changes to starting earlier in the fall," Winslow said. "But I also realize the problems farmers face, even in good circumstances. I've hired Perquimans County High School students as scouts for the past nine years."

Training students in June, Winslow works with the students through July August, he said, is the crucial time for protecting crops. By then, the students know what parasites to look for as well as other methods of protecting farmers crops.

"By the end of July through the month of August, we would need to double the workforce," Winslow said. "I'm not just speaking for myself, I'm speaking on behalf of the farmers. There's \$15 million in potential income in need of protection during that time."

The board expects to make a motion to approve or reject the proposed calendar at the next board meeting. However, board Chairman Walter Leigh said he foresees no obstacles to board approval.

"I don't see any obstacles that would kill it," he said. "(Calendar) committee members put in long, hard hours since 1998. We value that."

Also at the meeting, the 1999 Lady Pirates volleyball team and winners of the Superintendent's Christmas Card Contest were recognized.

The Lady Pirates, who became the Eastern Regional Class A Volleyball champions in their 32-1 run to the NCHSAA State Class A Finals, were presented awards.

"They had a super season," Leigh said. "They're a great group of young ladies, and they represented us." The contest winners also received ribbons. "It's great," Superintendent Gregory Todd said. "Our students do great work."



PHOTOS BY JEREMY DESPOSITO

Winners of the 1999 Superintendents Christmas Card Contest were congratulated by the Board of Education Monday night. Copies of their greeting cards were sent to all school systems across the state. Winners are listed by school as follows: Perquimans Central School: Jamie Denson, card; Kylli Lassiter, verse; Hertford Grammar School: Julie Hoffman, card; Johnathon Weisgerber, verse (not shown); Ethan Jennings, verse (not shown); Perquimans Middle School: April Fretwell, card; Amanda Joy Goodrich, verse; Perquimans High School: Phillip Brent, card.



The 1999 Lady Pirates Volleyball team was congratulated by the Board of Education for their run to the NCHSAA State Class A Volleyball finals. Going 32-1, they are the Eastern Regional Champions. Pictured in alphabetical order are: Ashley Copeland, Chastity Davis, Genā Harrell, Lisa Harris, Stefani Harris, Tasha Leary, Savannah Pulliam, Mindy Roberson, Ashley Rountree, Ashley Sessoms (not shown), Megan Stallings, Ashley Winslow, E. Ashley Winslow, Fallon Winslow. Also recognized were: Head Coach Carolyn Rogers, assistant Darlene Walton, scorekeeper Shellie Hurdle (not shown), statistician Julane Chappell (not shown), line judge Jay Rountree.