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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## School board doesn't want power to tax

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Correspondent

The Perquimans County Board of Education does not want the power to tax.

In regular session Monday night, members voted down a resolution that would support giving taxing authority to the Board.

"It will create hostility if we accept this," said Board Member Helen Shaw.

Members unanimously voted not to approve the resolu-

tion.

If the resolution had been approved it would have requested that "the North Carolina General Assembly grant local boards of education the authority to levy taxes to provide for the local educational need of the children they serve."

Board Member Thomas Riddick said the resolution was not justifiable.

Presently county commissioners are in control of the

appropriation of funds.

According to the resolution, "the existing school funding arrangement in North Carolina often puts elected members of the board of education at odds with the budgetary and taxing decisions of another locally elected body elected by the same constituency; and whereas, the decisions concerning the local needs of an individual school system should be made by those who are the most knowledgeable

about school system needs.

"County commissioners have no special expertise in education matters nor a legal duty or authority to govern the school systems," the resolution continues.

Even though the relationship with the county commissioners and the school board is favorable now, the school board needs to look beyond the present circumstances, said board member Wallace Nelson.

"However, I am still not con-

vinced that this resolution is a better way," said Nelson.

As long as the county commissioners make reasonable decisions, the resolution should not be approved, said board member Charles Cheezum.

If the school board finds that the school system's needs are not being met by the county commissioners, the resolution could be considered at that time, said board member Marjorie Rayburn.

The school board and county commissioners discussed the issue at a joint meeting in late winter. Only commissioner Bert Hayes appeared open to consideration of the idea. Likewise, Nelson has been the only school board member to publicly say the plan may have merit. Others on the elected boards point to the positive working relationship the two bodies have enjoyed in the past as a reason the measure is not needed here.

## Spring Weekend set for May

Success of first effort leads to second event

**SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
Editor

A second Perquimans Spring weekend is set for May 19-21.

The event will open with a pig-pickin' on the courthouse green, tagged Pig-Out in Perquimans. Pork barbecue and fixings in the local tradition will be served as diners enjoy the quaint downtown area alive with entertainment and shopping.

Saturday will be a full one as homes, businesses, churches, and public buildings open their doors to tourist. Sponsored by Preservation North Carolina and the Perquimans County Restoration Association, the self-guided tour features some of the state's most significant restored historic properties. The tour will continue on Sunday afternoon.

Saturday evening features another social highlight of the weekend, a Garden Party at the Wood-McCallum-Winslow House on Front Street. This dressy gathering with refreshments has become the premiere fund raiser of the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

This year's weekend will also include an expansive Antiques Show & Sale organized by the Antique Dealers of Perquimans County. The historic Morgan Building will be the site of the show.

The first Perquimans Spring weekend was held last year, and was a tremendous success, according to LuAnne Pendergraft, Development Officer stationed at the Newbold-White House. The events are organized cooperatively by several groups united in their desire to preserve and promote the rich heritage of the county while encouraging economic vigor. Preservation North Carolina and The Perquimans County Restoration Association are the lead organizers with Historic Hertford Business Association and Antique Dealers Association of Perquimans County also sponsoring events.

Pendergraft said organizers plan to make the Spring Weekend a biennial event after this year. It will be held in years when there is no biennial tour in neighboring Chowan.

Proceeds from the tour will assist Perquimans communities pursue designation as National Register Historic Districts. The garden party will benefit PCRA in its ongoing efforts to preserve the county's cultural heritage. Profits from the dinner will go to further efforts to preserve the downtown area. The antiques show and sale is one of several activities organized by the antique dealers to promote the county as a destination for those seeking antiques and period collectibles.

For tickets or information, call the Newbold-White House at 426-7567.

## BYE-BYE, BIRDIE



PCHS students rehearse for the upcoming performances of the Broadway hit, "Bye-Bye, Birdie" on April 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Admission to the musical is \$4 for adults and \$1 for students.



## Only 42 percent of census forms returned so far

Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt released the first public report on America's response to Census 2000 Monday. The figures show that 42 percent of the questionnaires have been returned so far.

Release of the first response information launches a program by the Census Bureau to provide daily reports on initial response rates for every state, county and local jurisdiction in the country over the next 16 days.

Most communities can compare their 2000 performance with their record in the 1990 census.

Prewitt has challenged the country to surpass its 1990 initial mail response rate of 65 percent, and set a goal for the country and most communities to increase their 1990 response rates by at least 5 percentage points.

"A national response rate that reaches 70 percent would signal that the country has reversed its decades-long decline in civic participation," the director said. "It is too

early to know whether we can reach that goal or even match the 1990 response rate. By reporting the cumulative initial response rate every day, the Census Bureau invites the country to watch this story unfold.

"Although 42 percent of the households have returned the form, that leaves 58 percent not heard from. The success of Census 2000 is in the hands of the American people."

Daily updates on the percentage of households that have mailed back their Census 2000 questionnaires are being posted by the Census Bureau on its Web site, <http://www.census.gov>, as part of a grassroots campaign to encourage census participation called How America Knows What America Needs. The figures reflect the rates as of the close of business, two days before. The report is updated daily at 6 p.m.

The Census Bureau will post initial response rates a final time for these entities on the Internet on April 18.

## Old Timers Day approaches

Old Timers Day is fast approaching.

ALS Foundation Old Timers Day Committee member Keith Vaughan said signed memorabilia from the Boston Red Sox (including Trot Nixon), Milwaukee Brewers, Arizona Diamondbacks, Oakland A's, New York Yankees and other teams has either arrived or is on its way to Hertford. The items will be sold during the

silent auction.

Tickets for the barbecued chicken meal to be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. are available at Woodard's Pharmacy.

To volunteer to help on Old Timers Day, a benefit for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation and Perquimans Athletic Boosters, call Vaughan at 426-7460, Edgar Roberson at 426-5363, or Susan Harris at 426-5728.

## Police secretary issues APB for department history

Hertford Police Department secretary Betty Thornton has issued an APB for all former members of the department.

Who was the first police officer hired by the town of Hertford? When was he hired? What was his salary? What are the names of all the officers who have served the department?

Thornton hopes to answer these questions and more as she gathers information for a history of the department.

Thornton is a history buff, and thought it would be interesting to find out about the beginnings of the town's police

department and the changes that have come over the years. Very few early records can be found to help her in her quest.

Those who may know the names of former officers, the years they served and other information are asked to call Thornton at 426-5587 from 1-3 p.m. daily.

She is also collecting memorabilia, including uniforms and other gear, and photographs of officers and the department. Her ultimate goal is to put together a scrapbook and items pertinent to the history of the police department to share with the public.

## HHBA gears up for Spring Fling

The Historic Hertford Business Association is organizing its annual Spring Fling, set for Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The event will again coincide with Old Timers Day.

Display, food, information, craft and art booths are available for rent through Frankie Eason at Hertford Cafe and Sheila Harrell at Ballahack Cards and Crafts. Fees begin at \$35 for display, information and craft booths, and move up to \$75. Electricity is available. For more information on booth rental, contact Eason at 426-5593 or 426-5737.

Spring Fling is a mini street festival featuring entertainment on the courthouse lawn; arts, crafts, food and other products for sale; and shopping in downtown Hertford.

HHBA will soon be selling tickets for the Pig-Out on the Perquimans, part of the Spring Weekend.

**WEEKEND WEATHER**

**THURSDAY**  
High: 71  
Low: 51  
THUNDERSTORMS

**FRIDAY**  
High: 70  
Low: 52  
SCATTERED SHOWERS

**SATURDAY**  
High: 72  
Low: 49  
ISOLATED T'STORMS