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Lady Pirates win tournament

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May busy at PCMS

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Vote on Tuesday

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

## School board sets high local standards

ANNA GOODWIN MCCARTHY  
 Correspondent

Local student accountability standards have increased for Perquimans County students.

The Perquimans County Board of Education proposed a new set of student accountabil-

ity standards that will assess the performance of students at each grade level.

"I think that it's good that we have our own gateways," said school board member Majorie Rayburn.

Students in grades three through eight will be tested in

reading, writing and math, said Superintendent Gregory Todd.

High school students will have to perform at grade level for courses with end-of-grade tests, as well as passing the high school exit exam, said Todd.

State standards require that testing be conducted at grades three, five and eight.

Students will continue to be held responsible for state accountability standards in addition to the local standards.

The new accountability standards will include intervention strategies and an

appeals process, said Todd.

"Each school will have to write an intervention plan," said Todd.

Todd said the new local accountability standards will be listed in each school's student handbook that is passed out to students.

Rayburn said she thought the language explaining the accountability standards was somewhat overwhelming.

School board member Charles Cheezum said a synopsis should be included that summarizes the key points of the new standards.



### HHBA HOSTS ANNUAL EASTER ACTIVITIES

Saturday's cool breeze which threatened rain didn't keep all the boys and girls away from Historic Hertford Business Association's annual Easter activities. The Hertford turtle donned an Easter bonnet and enjoyed breakfast on the courthouse lawn with friends. Then children searched the courthouse lawn for colorful Easter eggs, earning prizes for finding the most.

## Hertford named Main Street community

Hertford was selected to participate in the North Carolina Main Street Program.

The town was one of four chosen to join 45 previously designated communities.

Main Street is a downtown revitalization program for smaller towns based on economic development

The National Trust's Main Street model is based on the Fourt Point Approach to downtown revitalization and emphasizes organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring. It is this balanced approach to downtown revitalization that succeeds where others have failed.

New communities are selected through a competitive application process approximately every 2 years. Main Street participation is open to any community

There will be a public hearing on May 4 at 7 p.m. at the courthouse to discuss the program.

withint the context of historic preservation. The North Carolina Main Street Program, which provides technical assistance to its communities, is part of the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance.

North Carolina's Main Street cities have achieved a great deal of success in their downtowns. Since 1980, there have been more than 1,900 building renovations. Jobs created during this period exceed 15,000 and more than 4,300 new businesses have opened. Total investment in these downtowns has been \$540 million since 1980.

Begun by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a demonstration program in three Midwestern towns in 1977, Main Street expanded to a state demonstration program in 1980. Thirty-eight states applied to participate and North Carolina was one of six chosen.

with a certified population of less than 50,000. Eligible communities must commit to hiring a full-time downtown manager and funding the program for an initial 3-year period. Towns under 5,000 may hire a part-time manager.

There has been a big push for downtown revitalization in Hertford, especially since Hertford was designated the Heritage Tourism Development pilot community in the eastern part of the state. Already, entrepreneurs have breathed new life into some buildings. Several new small businesses have located in the downtown area.

On May 4 at 7 p.m., the town of Hertford is holding a town meeting at the courthouse so that the public may learn more about heritage tourism, the Main Street Program, and other events and initiatives in the community.

## Relay gets underway Friday afternoon

For Harrell, Relay is very personal

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

For Jennifer Harrell, Relay for Life is not just a community service project or a chance to get together with friends to have a good time while doing something worthwhile.

Jennifer will go the the junior-senior prom on May 6. She'll graduate with honors from PCHS on June 9 after enjoying full years of learning and extra-curricular activities at both the middle and high school levels.

That doesn't seem special at all until you realize that a number of years ago, Jennifer's name would probably appear on the graduation program with "in memory of our classmate" written beside it. You see, Jennifer, at the tender age of 17, is a cancer survivor.

Please see RELAY, page 8



Cancer survivor Jennifer Harrell is proud of the money her fellow students at Perquimans High School have raised for this weekend's Relay for Life. Harrell looks over the thousands of chain links sold to students, faculty and staff to raise over \$800 for cancer research and education. A team of students from the school, coordinated through the SADD Club with assistance from advisors Carolyn Rogers and Margaret Brothers, will walk this weekend. The Perquimans Weekly is the group's business partner in the Relay.

## Local voters will seat three school board members

Perquimans voters will choose three school board members during Tuesday's primary election.

Seeking office are William Byrum, Iris Byrne, Ramona Murphy, Thomas Riddick and Helen Shaw. Riddick and Shaw are the incumbents in the non-partisan race. Those elected will be seated in June.

Each candidate was mailed a questionnaire asking them to discuss issues in education. The answers of Byrne, Murphy and Shaw were published last week. Byrum did not submit his answers. Riddick's appear below exactly as they were submitted.

What talents/abilities/experiences/training qualify you to sit on the school board?

32 years working experience in administration and manage-



Thomas Riddick

ment, working for and with the public, elected to the Perquimans County School Board in 1996, currently serving as vice chairman having served almost 4 years. I have

gained valuable experience that will be very helpful if elected to another term.

What is your interest in the school system?

Being a part of a team whose interest is working toward goals that will provide the children of Perquimans County an opportunity to get the best possible education

Why are you running for school board?

Because of my concern that children are afforded an opportunity of the best in education. Children are our most valuable asset, they will be our future leaders.

What is the greatest challenge facing Perquimans County Schools? What can the school board do to meet this challenge?

There are many challenges facing our school system. We

have a high percentage of low performing students Level I and Level II. Social promotions are out. Children must be taught and they must learn. The board believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. End of grade testing, even though we know it isn't perfect it does provide us with a measuring tool that helps us see a students progress and the educational progress we are making. We have many excellerated students that we can't forget or loose because of so much attention being devoted to low performance. The excellerated student must be provided a curriculum and programs that will keep them in an excellerated mode. Education is a team

effort of board, administrators, teachers, parents, community and students. We must educate the parents on expectations and keep them informed on their child's performance.

Facilities need - New high school. Plan now and work toward project getting underway as soon as Winfall Central debt is paid off.

Budget - seems to get smaller each year. The board and administration must look and develop ways of being more efficient.

I could go on, there is and will be a full plate of issues and challenges.

The school board recently chose not to pass a resolution requesting taxing authority from the state. Discuss that action.

Please see ELECT, page 8

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 65  
 Low: 48  
 SCATTERED SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
 High: 68  
 Low: 51  
 SCATTERED SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
 High: 74  
 Low: 52  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY  
 High: 76  
 Low: 54  
 PARTLY CLOUDY