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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

May 11, 2000

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## Revitalization efforts move forward Jenny's Gut to be cleaned

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Progress is being made in the areas of downtown revitalization and heritage tourism, Chris Lane said at a public hearing to inform the public about Hertford's designation as a Main Street community.

Lane, who is president of the Perquimans County Restoration Association and has been a driving force

behind several heritage tourism initiatives, said much has been accomplished since the first heritage tourism town meeting in December 1998. Most recently, the Landmark Design Group has been hired to look at downtown and the corridors leading to the downtown area and devise a plan to make it more attractive. The first project will be lighting from the S-bridge down

Church Street back to the bypass, Lane said. Period light fixtures were donated to the town that may be used for the bridge, which represents a significant start to the project.

Funds to hire the planner came from the Northeast North Carolina Partnership (\$10,000) and the Division of Tourism (\$25,000).

A signage project has also been funded in conjunction

with the National Register areas. The project will include not only information signs, but areas to pull off the highway, read historic information, and direct tourists to areas of interest.

In addition, the Newbold-White House has been selected as a Save America's Treasures site. The designation allows PCRA to apply for funding for such expenses as operations. It

also puts the site on all national promotional materials.

Town manager John Christensen said the town will be looking for someone who is a preservationist and possesses promotional, organization and team-building skills to serve as part-time project manager for the Main Street program. Main Street is a state revitalization program that Please see HEARING, page 9

## Jenny's Gut to be cleaned

ANNA GOODWIN MCCARTHY  
 correspondent

It's spring cleaning time for Jenny's Gut.

The Hertford Town Council accepted a \$16,500 bid from Russell Hurdle in a meeting Monday night for the removal of silt from the ditch that drains a good portion of the town.

Many of the ditches in the area needed cleaning out after Hurricane Floyd, said Hertford Town Manager John Christensen.

Christensen said he was contacted by several property owners who felt the town should clean out the ditches behind their homes.

"It's an issue that will not go away," said Christensen.

The city was never under any obligation to clean out some of the ditches, said Christensen. However, it had been done in the past, and many people were upset when they learned that their ditches would not be cleaned, said Christensen.

After the hurricane, Christensen said he and a representative from FEMA inspected all of the ditches in the area for damage. Christensen said that many of the ditches had encroachments such as fences, making it difficult to even attempt to observe the damage.

Christensen said the representative from FEMA told him the property owners are responsible for the clean up of many of the ditches. As a result, only Jenny's Gut received federal funding for the removal of silt.

Jenny's Gut was approved for funding because it is adjacent to public property (the high school), and because it had a history of being cleaned out by the town, said Christensen.

Christensen said there are approximately 13 ditches in the town, and he recommended that the Town Council consider cleaning the ditches on a case by case basis.

A study of local streets indicates that DOT needs to upgrade or replace many signs, Council learned. There has also been a recommendation made that no parking be allowed on the west side of East and West Academy streets. Residents will be notified so they can have input before the recommendation goes to the planning board.

## Perquimans Spring Weekend approaches

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Perquimans Spring Weekend gives local residents the perfect opportunity to show off a rich history and the Southern hospitality for which North Carolinians are known.

The weekend is a celebration of the rich architectural and cultural history of the county — a time when homeowners starch the spring curtains and throw open the front doors to friends they know and friends they will meet during the activities.

The weekend, scheduled for May 19-21, begins with an old-fashioned pork barbecue dinner on the courthouse lawn, Pig Out on the Green. For \$5, diners can enjoy this Southern culinary delight complete with all the fixin's while a five-piece band plays from the courthouse steps. Dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m. with downtown shops remaining open until 8 o'clock.

Saturday will get started at 10 a.m. when the homes tour begins. Tourists can enjoy the homes at their own pace, in any order they choose until 5 p.m. Tours will be from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Homes on the tour range from the 1730 Newbold-White House to the 1920 Jesse H. Baker House.

Saturday evenings' Garden Party on the riverfront lawn of Lucille Winslow on Front Street will feature dapper gentlemen, ladies in spring bonnets, a delectable menu and entertainment. Party-goers will enjoy the view of the Carolina Moon-inspiring Perquimans River from 5-7:30 p.m.

The Garden Party has become a popular annual fund raiser for the Perquimans County Restoration Association, co-sponsors with Preservation North Carolina of the Spring Weekend tours.

Tickets for the Garden Party are \$25 per person.

The first Antique Dealers Association of Perquimans County antiques show and sale will be held in the historic Morgan building in downtown Hertford on Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door.

Tickets for all weekend events are \$52 per person. For reservations or information, call the Newbold-White Visitor's Center at 426-7567.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Local residents from all walks of life gathered on the courthouse lawn last Thursday to observe National Day of Prayer.

## Community gathers to pray

The community gathered last Thursday at noon on the courthouse lawn for National Day of Prayer.

Residents from all walks of life joined for the 49th annual observance of National Day of Prayer, this year themed PRAY2K, America's Hope for the New Millennium.

Inspirational music was provided by Step of Faith. Prayers were lifted by Rev. Keith Vaughan, pastor, Hertford Baptist church for forgiveness of personal and corporate sins; Paul Gregory, county manager, for community and national leaders; Walter Leigh, chairman, Perquimans County

Board of Education, for schools and young people; and Jim Kreps, pastor, Perquimans Charge United Methodist Church, for churches and community of faith. Step of Faith also offered the Lord's Prayer in song.

The observance was organized by local ministers.

## Old Timer's Day is set for Saturday at PCHS

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Perquimans County's Old Timer's Day 2000 will be missing its most famous co-founder. But many friends of baseball legend Jim "Catfish" Hunter will gather to continue the Mother's Day weekend tradition at Perquimans County High School Saturday.

Hunter and his teammates on the 1963 state championship Perquimans Indian baseball team suited up against the then-varsity PCHS Pirates squad 20 years ago. The Old Timers, as they called themselves, were coached by the man who took them to Raleigh for the big dance, Bobby Carter. The state champions still loved baseball and had such a good time raising funds for the baseball program at their alma mater that they decided to make the Old Timer's game an annual event.

Over the years, players from the PCHS 1952, 1954 and 1960 state championship teams came out to play, along with players from later baseball squads. A junior varsity game was added when the Pirates began fielding a JV team, and most recently, an Old Timer's softball game.

Last year's Old Timer's Day was bittersweet as thousands gathered to honor Hunter at Memorial Stadium. At 53, Hunter was suffering the ravages of ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Former major league associates, high school teammates, family and friends gathered to celebrate the kick-off of the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

Hunter won't be in the dugout for the 2000 Old Timer's Day, but the foundation established in his honor will benefit from a day of activities at Perquimans County High School.

Events will open on May 13 with a prayer breakfast in the school cafeteria at 7 a.m. The speaker for the event will be Clyde King. In his 55 years in baseball, King has done it all. He played with Jackie Robinson, Pee Wee Reese, and Roy Campanella; managed Willie Mays and Hank Aaron; and even pitched against Fidel Castro. King, a former pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Cincinnati Reds is also the former manager of both the San Francisco Giants and Atlanta Braves.

Currently, King is special advisor to New York Yankees

owner George Steinbrenner. He lives in Goldsboro with his wife, Norma.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$5 per person and are still available, but are limited.

Activities will continue at noon when the current PCHS softball team will play a team of former Lady Pirates — maybe. If the Lady Pirates wins rounds one and two of the state play-offs this week, they are scheduled to play round three Saturday evening at 7 p.m. at PCHS.

In the event that the 2000 Lady Pirates are in the play-offs, the noon game will feature all former players. The Old Timer's Committee encourages everyone to stay for the play-off game. Admission will be \$3. Old Timer's tickets will not be honored for that game, which is regulated by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Two homerun derbies and a PCHS JV baseball team vs. Old Timer's game will be held before the headliner PCHS varsity team versus the Old Timer's at 5 p.m. The first homerun derby will be at 1 p.m. and is open to high school students. The fee is \$15 for 15 pitches. At 2 p.m., an open

derby will be held. The fee is \$30 for 15 pitches. Proceeds will be split between the winners and the ALS Foundation.

The JV game is set for 3 p.m. All-day game tickets are \$5 at the gate. Everyone who enters the gate ages 5 and up will pay. Gates will open at 11 a.m.

A barbecued chicken lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Eat-in or take-out plates are \$5 each.

Tickets for the breakfast and barbecued chicken meal can be purchased at Woodard's Pharmacy.

On hand with King will be fellow baseball greats Goose Gossage (New York Yankees), Joe Rudi (Oakland A's), and Jim Pagliaroni (Oakland A's). These former players will be available for an autograph session 1:15-3:15 p.m. Those who wish to get autographs will line up by the gymnasium door by the picnic tables on the courtyard.

A silent auction of special sports memorabilia will take place all during the day in the ballpark. Signed memorabilia that has been donated by former and current players and teams will include the Boston Red Sox, San Francisco Giants,

Colorado Rockies, former players like Rollie Fingers, George Brett, Sal Bando, Cal Ripkin Jr. and Gaylord Perry, and current players Trot Nixon and Nomar Garciaparra. ALS sportswear will also be available for sale.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation and the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters.

The ALS Foundation was established as a non-profit foundation which works through advocacy, education, fund raising, and philanthropy to bring an end to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and to provide support to those who are stricken with this brutal disease.

Hunter died last September in his Bear Swamp community home surrounded by family and friends. He had been released from Pitt Memorial Hospital after being treated for injuries sustained in a fall at his home.

For more information about the foundation, visit the website at [www.catfishhunterals.org](http://www.catfishhunterals.org).

The Historic Hertford Business Association will hold Spring Fling downtown from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 81  
 Low: 61  
 MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
 High: 90  
 Low: 66  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
 High: 93  
 Low: 66  
 PARTLY CLOUDY