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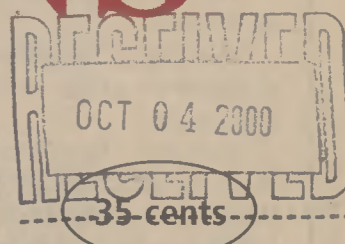
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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Open Door faces crisis

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

It's still open, but the door has shut on part of its services.

The Open Door will continue to provide food to those in need, but not money to help with prescription medicines and utility bills, according to a news release.

The Board of Directors of the agency heard at its last meeting that the organization does not have enough money to keep giving financial assistance to county clients.

Open Door Director Shirley Coon said a decrease in local giving and not receiving a \$1,000 grant from FEMA combined to deplete the ecumenical outreach center's resources. While food items have continued to be donated faithfully, donations of money have dwindled considerably.

Coon said another factor in the funding concerns is that the unusually hot summer drove up electric bills, and therefore requests for assistance. Some people with limited financial resources needed help keeping their electricity turned on, she said.

With the winter coming, the Open Door Board knows that money will be needed to help with heating costs.

The Board approved a comprehensive fund raising drive in order to try to bring more cash into the Open Door's treasury. Letters asking for contributions have gone out to the county's 60-plus churches, Coon said. Letters will also be mailed to local civic groups asking for their support.

In addition, volunteers are selling two-year planners to help raise funds. A table will be set up to sell the planners at Food Lion Saturday. They will also be sold during the annual Hertford United Methodist Women's bazaar on Nov. 1.

The Open Door has been active in Perquimans County since 1980. Its mission is to bring emergency financial assistance and food to county residents when crisis strikes. All those who seek assistance from the Open Door are screened through the Department of Social Services.

Those qualifying for assistance may get a three-day supply of food per person in the household once every three months. Money for utility bills or prescription medicines can be given once per year. Coon said the average cash assistance is about \$40.

Generally, those who seek help from the Open Door have faced such emergencies as an illness that put them out of work, a lay-off, or the break-up of a family. Coon said most clients are trying hard to make ends meet, but just need help getting through a financial crisis.

Donations may be mailed to The Open Door, PO Box 721, Hertford, NC 27944. For information, Call Coon at 426-7776 Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon.

## CONGRATULATIONS, LADY PIRATES!



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Lady Pirates 2000 State Championship Softball Team gathered at Perquimans County High School Friday night to receive their state championship rings from Principal Dwayne Stallings. Athletic Director Bob Turner presented each player with a rose. The girls were wearing their jerseys and state championship jackets. For seniors Mindy Roberson and Kristen Winslow, it was the second state softball championship.

## County to look into hunting problems

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Some county landowners say they effectively have no rights on their own property during hunting season.

The Perquimans County Commissioners revisited earlier complaints about some hunters' lack of respect for property owners' rights and property in regular session Monday.

Commissioners have received reports of hunters using intimidation, even threatening the lives of landowners, over hunting practices, in addition to destroying property.

Commissioner Bert Hayes recommended that the county hold a public hearing or private talks with both parties to try to resolve the issue. County attorney John Matthews said commissioners cannot hold a private meeting with the parties.

But Commissioners Chair Shirley Wiggins said talking has not worked, and that many people who have problems with the hunters are afraid to voice their opinions for fear of retaliation.

"I think it's getting out of hand and it does need some attention," Wiggins said.

A part of the problem is that there is no wildlife officer assigned to Perquimans County at present.

Commissioners said they will put pressure on the state to assign a wildlife officer to the county. Commissioner Ben Hobbs said the officer and other law officials should investigate incidents and make arrests. The problem with pressing charges, however, seems to be that witnesses and landowners are afraid to identify perpetrators, swear out warrants and testify in court.

County Manager Paul Gregory and Hayes will contact hunt club leaders, wildlife officials, the district attorney and others to discuss the issue. Local ordinances will also be reviewed.

Eure and several commissioners stressed that they are not opposed to hunting. In fact Eure said hunting is needed to help keep a healthy wildlife population.

## Weekend spotlights Perquimans' rich agricultural flavor

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Folks are tidying up the barnyards and praying for sunshine and warm temperatures as a weekend celebrating life on the farm approaches.

The first Perquimans County farm tour will get underway Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Registration will begin at 9 on Saturday and 12:30 on Sunday at the Newbold-White House. The fee is \$20 per carload, and tickets are good for Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Tourists will get a first-hand look at farms producing horses, cattle, hogs, chickens, grapes, cotton and peanuts. In addition, a cotton gin will be open for tours, and old-time farming methods and 4-H animals will be on display.

Tour stops include B&P Acres (quarter horses), Willoe Creek Farm (Simmenthal influence cattle), Williams Farm Partnership (cotton and peanuts), Perry's Pick-Your-Own (grapes), Tri-B Farm (show pigs), Byrum Poultry Farms (chickens), Layden's Country Store (handmade sausages, smoked meats),

Ward & Nixon Cotton Gin, Riverside Plantation (old-time farming), and Swampside Plantation (4-H livestock).

Call the Extension Office at 426-5428 for information or to have reserve tickets waiting at the registration site.

The day will also feature the Hertford Heritage Antique/Craft Show and Sale. The sale will feature fine antiques, collectibles, heirloom crafts and florals. The event will be held at Perquimans County High School, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sponsored by the Antique Dealers Association of Perquimans County, admission will be \$2 at the door.

Proceeds from the tour and antique/craft show will benefit the Perquimans County High School agricultural science program.

The third weekend event will be the Jollification, a harvest celebration to benefit the Perquimans County Restoration Association. Featuring a pig pickin' and live bluegrass music, the Jollification will get underway at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and advance reservations are required. Call 426-7567 for information or tickets.

## Operating buses costs big bucks

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Running school buses is no inexpensive undertaking.

Perquimans County Schools Transportation Director Richard O'Neal said it costs \$1.38 per mile to operate a school bus. That number, according to Schools Finance Officer Frances Hammer, is determined by the State Department of Public Instruction. Hammer said the state takes district expenditures and calculates the cost per mile. The formula includes all expenses such as fuel, tires, salaries for drivers and transportation employees, parts, oil and all other costs of the transportation operation.

Last school year, daily mileage for the regular bus routes to and from school was 2,250 miles. Students are in school 180 days. Using the formula, that approaches \$600,000 per year in costs, only part of which is paid by the state.

In addition to regular bus routes, the school system provides transportation for students participating in the after-school programs at the high and middle schools. Four buses serve both schools, branching out from the middle school in four

directions. Routes serve the Belvidere/Nicanor area; the Meads Mobile Home Park/Beech Springs/Hunter's Fork areas, the Wynn Fork Court/Holiday Island/Snug Harbor/Bethel areas; and the New Hope/Woodville/Chapanoke areas.

Last year, extended-day buses dropped all students at their homes. Several concerns, however, sent school administrators looking for alternatives, O'Neal said. Among the concerns were the cost of operating the buses, the length of the day for students living the longest distances from school, and buses operating on the road until 7 p.m.

The new plan answered all concerns. Students are dropped off at set sites in communities, a move that has students home earlier, gets buses off the road earlier, and has shaved 42 miles per day off routes. Using last year's 108 days of extended-day bus runs, that is a savings of \$7,750. Students who live on the route are still dropped off at home.

O'Neal said the plan allows more efficient operation of the buses, while still offering transportation to students so they can take advantage of the extended-day opportunities.

## Voter registration period will soon close

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The voter registration period for the Nov. 7 general election will soon close.

Board of Elections Director Eula Forbes said those who wish to vote in the November general election must register by 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 13. Registration forms are available at the Board of Elections office, the county library, the Department of Social Services, Albemarle Mental Health and driver license offices.

Absentee ballots are avail-

able. Forbes said registered voters who will be unable to get to the polls on election day may vote by absentee ballot. To request a ballot, registered voters should write a request stating the reason why they want an absentee ballot and the name and address to whom the ballot should be mailed. Mail the request to Perquimans County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 336, Hertford, NC 27944. The last date absentee ballots will be mailed is Oct. 31. All ballots are due back in the elections office by Nov. 6 at 5 p.m.

One-stop voting runs Oct. 16-Nov. 3 at 5 p.m. Registered voters who cannot vote during poll hours on election day may go to the Board of Elections office and vote.

Forbes said anyone who fills out any type of election form should use his or her E-911 address.

The elections office is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. It is located on Edenton Road Street in the same building as the Cooperative Extension Service. The phone number is 426-5598.

The county commissioners authorized County Manager Paul Gregory to look into the cost of having a demonstration

voting machine set up at the library. Commissioners Chair Shirley Wiggins said new registrants should be taught how to use the machines prior to the election. She said that using a voting machine is intimidating to some people and may keep them from voting on election day. If those people have the chance to see and use the machine in advance, they may vote.

The May primary was the first time voting machines have been used in Perquimans County. The Board of Elections reported no problems with the machines at that time.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 86  
Low: 66  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 62  
Low: 59  
T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 67  
Low: 45  
SCATTERED SHOWERS