

Tracksters head for regionals

Page 10

Senior Health Fair set

Page 3

Hospital wins award

Page 6

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Annual spring weekend approaches

### Events set for May 18, 19

The county will put on its party hat May 18 and 19 for the annual Perquimans Spring Weekend.

Events kick off on Friday with a traditional eastern North Carolina pig pickin'. Barbecue, catered by Tommy Dale, and live

entertainment by the Silver Spurs can be enjoyed on the historic Perquimans County Courthouse Green. Hertford's shops will be open for after-dinning shopping. Dinner will be served 4-7 p.m., with entertainment, 5-8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 per person and are available from downtown Hertford merchants and at the

Perquimans County and Town of Hertford Visitor Center. It is encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Desserts will also be available for purchase.

The county is known for its quaint antiques and collectables shops. Folks who visit during Spring weekend can take a little piece of history home with them from the Historic Hertford

Antique Show and Sale on Saturday. Over 20 dealers will participate in the show at Perquimans County High School. Show hours are 9:30 a.m.—5 p.m. Food and beverages will be available. Admission to the show is \$2 at the door.

Activities will climax with the gala Spring Garden Party on Saturday evening at the riverfront

home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Earl Lane. Guests decked out in their spring finery will mingle amidst the seasonal flowers as they enjoy a delectable menu.

Hours of the garden party are 5:30—7:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and tickets must be purchased by May 14. Call the Perquimans County Restoration Association at

426-7567 for tickets. Check, MasterCard or Visa are accepted. Proceeds benefit the Perquimans County Restoration Association to promote the cultural heritage of Perquimans County and to preserve the early 18th century character of the Newbold-White House.

For more information, call 426-7567.

## Alleged robber caught

SUSAN R. HARRIS and SEAN JACKSON

Sheriffs Eric Tilley and Fred Spruill were checking out the Woodville address of a suspected armed robber on April 23 when the man they were looking for drove past them.

Tilley, the Perquimans County sheriff, said he turned his car around and followed the suspect's car into the parking lot at Bateman's Service Station where he and Spruill took him into custody. Spruill is the sheriff in Chowan County.

James Joseph Tomlin, 36, of 172 Gregory's Lane, Hertford, was arrested later that afternoon by Edenton Police and charged with felony armed robbery. He was held at the Chowan County Detention Facility in lieu of a \$25,000 secured bond.

Tomlin is accused of robbing Time Finance Service in Edenton shortly after 11:30 a.m. on April 23. Edenton Police Chief Gregory Bonner said Tomlin entered Time Finance and sprayed pepper spray on two employees and demanded money. He left with less than \$800, Bonner said.

Tomlin was not carrying a firearm and no one was hurt. He was charged with armed robbery because he released the pepper spray during the commission of the robbery, Bonner said. Bonner said he considered the pepper spray a weapon because of its effects on those sprayed with it.

Tomlin left the scene in a late-model Cadillac. Employees provided a license plate number and descriptions of both Tomlin and the car.

The sheriffs took Tomlin into custody about an hour after the robbery. Bonner said they recovered a significant amount of the money Tomlin allegedly took from the finance company.

Edenton Police Detective Sgt. Rhonda Copeland said Tomlin, an employee at the Elizabeth City Cotton Mill, told police he had no connection to the robbery. He had his first appearance in court on April 24.

Bonner said he appreciates the assistance of Tilley and Spruill in the case.

## BREAKING THE TAPE

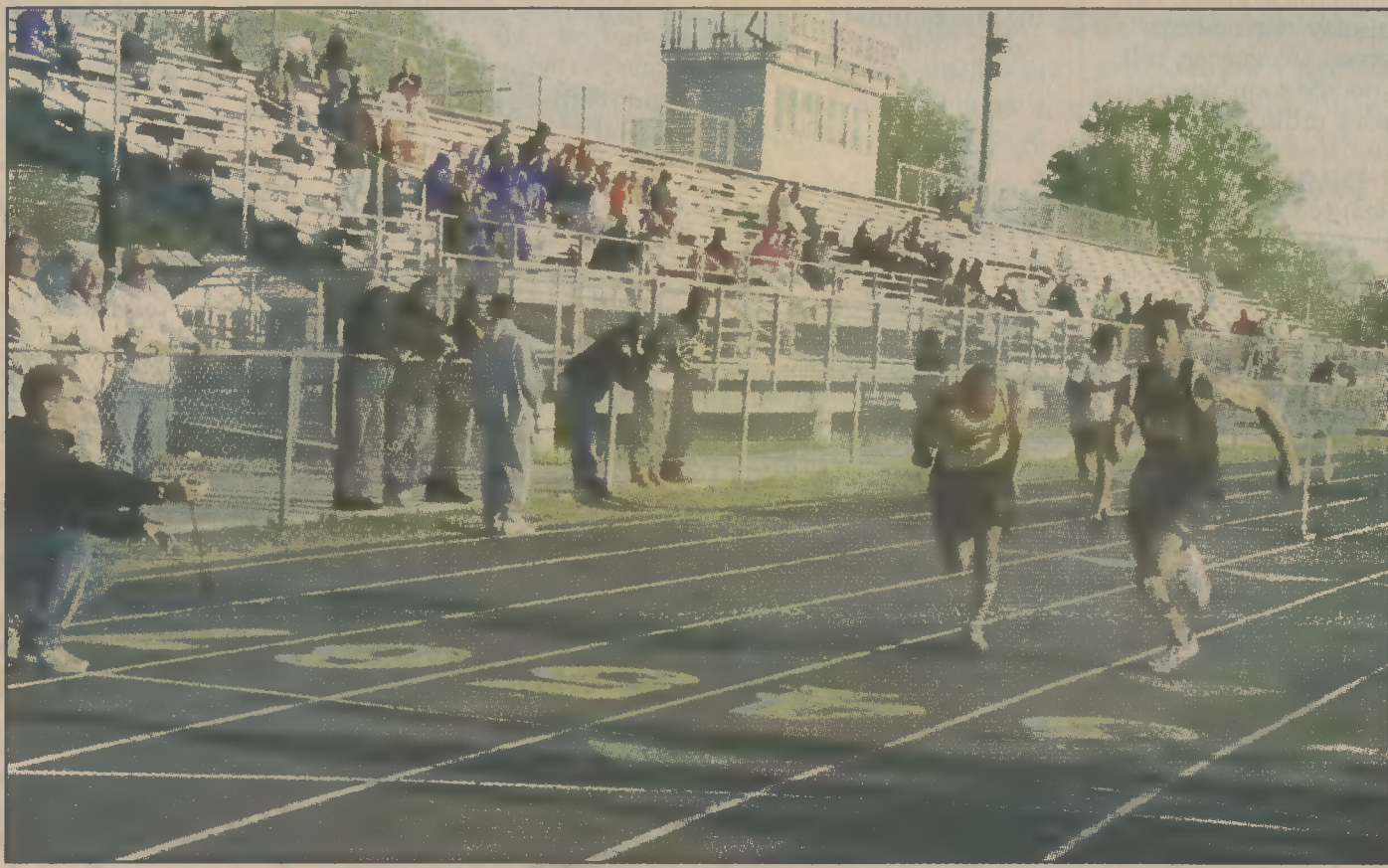


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans' Chad Jordan won the 100 meter dash in the Northeastern Albemarle Conference track meet in Edenton last Thursday. Jordan has not lost the event in regular season in two years. For a rundown on the winners and those who earned regional berths, please see page 10.

## Band promo is hoax

SUSAN R. HARRIS

An advertising company calling local businesses about a Perquimans County High School band fund raiser has not been authorized to do so, according to band director Chris Whitehurst.

Whitehurst said he was informed by local business representatives of the sales campaign. Whitehurst said Prime Time Advertising is calling businesses to sell advertising on seat cushions, which the band would then sell to raise money. The salesperson told at least one business that Whitehurst had approved the campaign.

But Whitehurst said neither he nor the Band Boosters authorized the promotion. In fact, the contract the company sent to Whitehurst in an information packet is still on Whitehurst's desk, he said. He has called Prime time to try to resolve the situation.

"The Band Boosters and I apologize for any problems this may cause to our local businesses," Whitehurst said. "We ask them for so much and they are so supportive, we wanted to let them know as soon as this situation was brought to our attention that we did not authorize this campaign."

Whitehurst said businesses should not agree to participate in the Prime Time fund raiser or send any money to Prime Time.

## Schools cancel security guard contract

MARIEL BETANCORT  
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans County Board of Education is moving ahead with a plan to replace paid security guards with sheriff's deputies, acting as student resource officers, at the county's schools.

At its meeting on April 23, the board voted to terminate its contract with Corporate Security International Inc. effective June 8 at 11:59 p.m. Corporate Security International Inc., a private

security company based in Fayetteville, has provided the school system with two full-time security officers, at a rate of \$10 an hour, since July 31, 1996. The contract, which extended for a year, had never been renewed, and could be terminated at any time.

The board will now enter into an agreement with the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department to provide school resource officers, or SROs.

"We felt the better option was working with the school resource officers," interim Superintendent

Pat Harrell. "We feel that will be a better program than having a contract with a security company."

Perquimans County Schools is one of four districts in the state without SROs. School officials will apply for a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to hire up to three SROs for the high school, middle school and two elementary schools. If approved, the grant would provide \$125,000 per officer, to cover salaries and benefits for three years.

SROs, unlike security officers, can make arrests, carry weapons and belong to school faculty and staff.

The officers also learn to teach students about crime, conflict resolution and safety.

The board terminated its contract with Corporate Security International Inc. June 8 to coincide with the last day of school.

The county commissioners endorsed the SRO concept at that board's April meeting, agreeing that seeking grant funds is the way to proceed to put SROs in the schools.

## Old Timers, Spring Fling set for May 12

It's Old Timers time again.

Perquimans' diamond dazzlers past and present will gather at PCHS on May 12 for a day of good, fellowship and fun in the ballpark. All-day admission is \$4.

The day will get underway at noon with softball. For the first time since they celebrated Perquimans' first state softball championship, the 1997 Lady Pirates will get back together as a team for Old Timers Day. Head coach Karen Booker is tentatively set to come back and coach her squad.

All former Lady Pirates are eligible to play and are encouraged to participate. Practices will be held at the high school on Saturday, May 5 at 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m. Those planning to play should arrive at PCHS at 11 a.m. on May 12. The softball contact is Susan Harris.

Action will continue with a homerun derby at 2 p.m. on the baseball field.

At 3 o'clock, the JVs will take on a team of former PCHS baseball players before the varsity squad takes the field for the 6 p.m. game. Those who wish to play for the baseball Old

Timers must have played baseball at PCHS and graduated in 1991 or earlier. Baseball contacts are Tommie Dale and Todd Hunter.

Barbecued chicken plates will be available 11 a.m.—3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and are available in advance from Athletic Boosters and athletes. Plates will be sold on May 12 until they run out.

Concessions will be available during the day.

Old Timers is sponsored by the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters. Proceeds from the meal and the gate benefit all athletic pro-

grams at both Perquimans Middle and Perquimans High schools. Concessions will be operated by the high school athletic department.

Also set for May 12 is the Historic Hertford Business Association's annual Spring Fling, an intimate street fair in downtown Hertford. Hours are 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Spring Fling features Mother's Day and sidewalk sales. Booths are also available for rent.

For information on Spring Fling or to rent a booth, contact The Wishing Well at 426-2021.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 67  
Low: 50  
Mostly Sunny

FRIDAY  
High: 78  
Low: 55  
Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY  
High: 81  
Low: 57  
Partly Cloudy