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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Local SAT scores up

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans posted the fifth highest SAT scores among the 18 school districts in Region I last year.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction released last year's scores at noon on Tuesday. Perquimans students scored an average of 475 in math and 466 in verbal, for a total score of 941. The scores recorded were for seniors scheduled to graduate in 2001.

Last year, Perquimans students scored an average of 903, 443 in math and 460 in verbal.

Statewide, scores rose four points to 992, while the national average rose one point to 1020.

Over the past seven years, scores in Perquimans have ranged from 863 to 953. The average in 1995 was 935; 1996, 952; 1997, 953; 1998, 912; 1999, 863; 2000, 903; and 2001, 941. In 1996 and 1997 when the county posted the two highest average scores, only 36 and 34.7 percent of students scheduled to graduate took the test. In 2001, 54.9 percent took the SAT.

Perquimans Superintendent Ken Wells said it is noteworthy that Perquimans' participation rate increased with the SAT score 2000 over 2001, which is often not the case. He said students will continue to be encouraged to take the SAT.

With a qualified staff at the high school and distance learning opportunities available, Wells said he looks for improved scores to become a trend in the local school system. The College Board reports that students who take higher level courses tend to score higher on the SAT.

Hartleys renovate home

Couple restoring National Register home

JULIE STAMPER
Correspondent

Another of Hertford's fine historic homes is on its way to restoration. The home known as the Arps-White-Lattimore on the corner of Dobbs Street and Covent Garden has been purchased through Preservation North Carolina by Gilbert and Mary Hartley. They plan an extensive restoration of the home.

The Hartleys come to Hertford from Lancaster, Penn. They were looking for an older home to fix up and were drawn to Elizabeth City.

"But we just fell in love with Hertford. It's so quiet and peaceful," according to Mr. Hartley.

They soon found the Arps-White-Lattimore house. Mrs. Hartley said,

"At first I wouldn't even get out of the car, it was in such bad shape. But once I saw the inside, I loved it."

The Hartleys were encouraged by the untouched interior.

"We've looked at other houses and they had torn out the old cabinets. It was nice, but it wasn't what we wanted," according to Mr. Hartley. The Hartleys want to restore the house without ruining



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Years of neglect have taken a toll on the Arps-White-Lattimore House on the corner of Dobbs Street and Covent Garden. But with a lot of hard work, Gilbert and Mary Hartley plan to restore the National Register home to its former glory.

its historic feel and plan on doing much of the work themselves.

The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Districts of the Town of Hertford, and is the third house in Hertford to be sold through PNC.

According to Claudia Deviney, Director of PNC, "The sale and ultimate rehabilitation of the Arps-White-Lattimore House will have a positive impact on the Town of Hertford in its attempt to attract heritage tourism dollars. I am personally excited about the ambitious plans Mary and Gil have for the house, and I am especially grateful to the Lattimores. Even though they no longer

own the property, the family will always be part of the community because they insisted that the house be preserved."

The mission of PNC is to acquire historic properties and resell them with protective covenants to sympathetic buyers who agree to rehabilitate and maintain the structures. The Hartleys had to agree to complete the exterior restoration within 2 years. Mr. Hartley has very positive comments about working with PNC.

"They've been very easy to work with. Once they got comfortable with us, and understood what we wanted to do, they've been very helpful.

The Hartleys have found Hertford to be a

very friendly place.

"People keep stopping by, wishing us well. They are glad someone's doing something with the house," Mr. Hartley said.

They really appreciate that Hertford has an active downtown and community activities.

"I go see Erie [Haste] at the hardware store. He gets me whatever I need. Mary [White] at the Wishing Well is great. The fireworks were as good as we've ever seen. The street dance, everything, it's just great."

For more information about the Endangered Properties Program and the benefits of historic preservation, call PNC's Northeast Regional Office at 482-7455.

Board okays exam policy

SUSAN R. HARRIS

If high school students could vote, there's little doubt every school board member would be re-elected by a landslide.

The board approved a proposal for midterm exam exemptions in regular session Monday night. Now students who make good grades and attend school will be rewarded at Christmas when they don't have to take midterms.

There was already a board policy on file for final exam exemptions, but high school faculty felt that there were good reasons to expand the policy.

Principal Dwayne Stallings said attendance has climbed 2 percentage points over the last 6 years as officials have worked hard to improve attendance. He credited requiring students to make up time missed after school and taking legal steps against parents when necessary with helping to improve attendance. Expanding the exam exemption policy, he said, would be another reason for students to go to school.

Janet Cartwright, a member of the faculty Exam Exemption Committee, said the request came after faculty brain-stormed at a summer retreat. Teachers were looking for way to reduce test "burnout" due to the large number of standardized tests students must take in addition to regular classroom work and to improve attendance and performance.

Cartwright said the policy will improve attendance, motivate students to achieve at a higher level earlier during the school year instead of waiting until the end of the year, and provide students who have trouble with long term goals with shorter, more attainable ones.

To be exempt from midterms, students must maintain an 82-84 average with no more than two absences during the semester or an 85-92 average with no more than three absences or a 93-100 average with no more than four absences.

Mold, mildew problem at Central better

Superintendent Ken Wells told school board members Monday night that most of the mold and mildew problems at Central School have been eliminated.

"We think we have pretty much systematically improved the conditions causing our mold and mildew problems," he said.

The advice given by all the architects, construction management firm, and HVAC contractor that built the school was taken, Wells said. The group gathered at the school with Wells and Transportation/Maintenance Director Richard O'Neal to look for solutions to the problem which showed up with a

vengeance on Memorial Day weekend.

The carpets were cleaned and dried with fans, and the air conditioning system has been running at its optimal level since the meeting per the advice given the school system.

"It's paid off for us in the long run," Wells said.

The price tag, however, may show the pay-out for the payoff to be high. Wells said it is expensive to operate the air conditioning system as if the building is occupied when it is not. However, he said the tight construction of the building and the fact that the system was meant to run

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Dragway livens up weekends in Chapanoke community

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Talk about a field of dreams.

When the Suffolk, Va. dragway closed down about 10 years ago, area dragsters were forced to either park their cars or drive to Petersburg, Va. or Rocky Mount to race. Curtis Trueblood and his drag-racing son, Tony, thought then about turning some of their land into a drag strip.

Last summer, their discussions and plans became reality when fields became the Northeast Dragway in the Chapanoke community of Perquimans County. These days, race cars compete with farm equipment to travel Lake Road on Friday and Saturday evenings from April through October.

Tony Trueblood was described as the workhorse of the dragway at a ribbon cutting sponsored by the



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Trueblood family, owners of Northeast Dragway, celebrate the grand opening of the drag strip with friends and representatives of the county and Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the ribbon cutting, last week.

Chamber of Commerce last week to mark the official grand opening of the dragway.

"I'm everywhere," said the track manager.

Dad Curtis can usually be found on his golf court, sort of the PR man of the operation. Mom Annette works the pit/gate sign-up area. Tony's wife, Jenneal, keeps the tower running smoothly, keeping the runs straight and even announcing Friday night's test and tune runs. Jenneal's sister, Brianne Perry, is the computer operator. Jenneal's mother, Margaret Bass, often sells T-shirts and keeps watch over Tony and Jenneal's children, Cariss and Caden, who themselves like to rev up Caden's bag of toy race cars to see whose is the fastest on the track. Annette's sister, Betty Byrum, also works at the track.

In addition to this weekend family reunion of sorts, Tony said there are several others employed part-time such as a down track official and pit

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 85
Low: 68
DRY

FRIDAY
High: 88
Low: 72
Poss. EVENING RAIN

SATURDAY
High: 86
Low: 73
Poss. RAIN