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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Historic Homes tour set for May

Perquimans County will showcase its southern hospitality and heritage during the Historic Homes Tour Weekend next month.

The doors to some of eastern North Carolina's most historic homes will open to the public during the Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans County, Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19. The self-guided tour features over 20 historic homes and buildings dating from the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.

Founded in 1668, Perquimans boasts three National Register Historic Districts — Old Neck Rural Historic District, Belvidere Rural Historic District and Historic Hertford. Many sites on the tour are located in these historic districts. The tour features houses that have been restored, as well as properties currently undergoing restoration. Homeowners will be available to share their personal restoration experiences.

The event is sponsored by Preservation North Carolina and the Perquimans County Restoration Association. Tickets for the 2002 Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans County are \$15 in advance or \$20 the days of the tour. For more information or to purchase tickets contact 426-7567 or nbwh@inteliport.com.

Featured tour sites include:
■ Land's End Plantation: Built circa 1830, the impressive columned and brick mansion represents the region's former plantation aristocracy. Its double tier porches on the front and back, its scale and decorative details reflect uncommon sophistication. Surrounded by

GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION



Construction crews are still laying natural gas pipeline in Perquimans County. The work is part of gas pipeline construction throughout the Albemarle area. Natural gas is expected to be available in parts of Perquimans County by late this summer.

County slogan contest begins

The "Variety Vacationland" slogan once appeared in promotional materials for the state of North Carolina.

So what would be a good slogan for Perquimans County?

That's what the Perquimans Heritage Tourism Development Council is hoping to determine with its slogan contest that is now under way.

After a slogan is selected, the Council will retain the rights to use the slogan in any way the Council deems appropriate. The slogan might be used on promotional literature and other printed materials. Also, it might appear on road signs at county entrances.

The contest is open to everyone, regardless of age or residency. The slogan may be no more than 10 words. All entries must be submitted on an official entry form available at the Town of Hertford and Perquimans County Visitors Center, the Newbold-White House Visitors Center and the Perquimans County Library.

The Council reserves the right to reject all submissions or to accept more than one for potential use.

Deadline for entries is May 12.

Send entries to Newbold-White House, ATTN: Slogan Contest, P.O. Box 103, Hertford, N.C. 27944; or to the Town of Hertford Visitors Center, 118 W. Market St., Hertford, N.C. 27944.

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County gets public transportation funds

The N.C. Board of Transportation has approved \$550,292 in state funds to enhance rural public transportation operations in 30 counties as well as the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

State Rural Transportation Funds earmarked for Perquimans County total \$35,000.

The state funds will provide

additional operating and capital funds for local transit systems to provide citizens access to jobs and services.

"Many citizens throughout the state depend on public transportation to carry out their daily activities," said state Transportation secretary Lyndo Tippet. "The use of these funds will allow us to better serve citizens by achieving the department's goal of

expanding public transit."

"We are committed to reducing congestion in our urban areas," says Tippet. "The regional public transportation authorities continue to work to provide safe, reliable and affordable transportation options to citizens in our urban communities."

For more information contact Sanford Cross at (919) 733-4713.

Children's group, arts council create summer arts youth program

Wendy Jewett, Executive Director of the Chowan/Gates/Perquimans Partnership for Children, and Sue Clark, Executive Director of the Chowan Arts Council, announced their plans to collaborate on a summer arts youth program.

"We envision this as a summer program that will augment those activities currently offered by the Chowan Parks & Recreation Department," noted Jewett. "The activities offered will be for children in Chowan, Gates, and Perquimans counties who have an interest in or would like enrichment in the arts, and will focus on fine arts and performing arts, such as music, drama, drawing and painting, creative writing and poetry, and dance."

"It is our vision that the activities offered will culminate in an event at the end of the summer that will provide the children an opportunity to showcase their creations and share their performances with their parents and the entire community," said Clark.

A planning session will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m., at the Partnership for Children's Offices on Dillard's Mill Road in Tyner. All interested parties are invited to this exploratory planning meeting. Those wishing to attend should contact Gail King at the Partnership for Children (221-3030).

Farmers respond to higher security, food safety

Following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, the United States was put on an elevated level of national security, meaning there is a significant risk of other attacks.

That's affecting all Americans including North Carolina's farmers, who have a personal interest in protecting America's food supply. They are currently working with government agencies and farm-related businesses to help identify areas around the farm that could be vulnerable to terrorist attack.

One of the best tools available for helping farmers to protect the food supply is the ability to rapidly communicate with them. Critical information can be quickly shared with individual producers, both through government and voluntary farm organizations. U.S. and state departments of agriculture, health, the Cooperative Extension

Service and others regularly work together in times of emergency to see that information gets to food producers.

Nothing, however, can replace vigilance on the part of farmers.

By adding a level of safety to their own operations, North Carolina farmers can help to increase our state's level of food security and add to the level of national security.

The following are general suggestions provided by the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS). They are meant to help farmers and agribusinesses increase security around their operations.

■ Be on the lookout for suspicious people around farms, farm-supply stores, agribusiness centers or crop dusting equipment and rural airport facilities. Be aware of odd or suspicious behavior and report it immediately to local

law enforcement. Provide officers with as many details as possible.

■ Establish and implement a biosecurity plan for your farm that includes restricted access to livestock, pesticides, fertilizer and other chemicals and equipment that could be used as weapons.

■ Conduct a threat assessment of your farm to determine areas of weakness and implement proper safety measures to address concerns. A self-assessment worksheet can be found on the NCDA&CS web site www.ncagr.com.

■ Educate employees about biosecurity plans after conducting an assessment and explain precautions they should take while on the farm.

■ Be aware of all visitors on your farm and stay informed by checking the NCDA&CS web site and the NC Governor's web site www.ncgov.com for regular safety updates.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 86
LOW: 64
SCATTERED
THUNDERSTORMS

Friday
HIGH: 81
LOW: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY

Saturday
HIGH: 80
LOW: 57
PARTLY CLOUDY