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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Spring Garden Party planned

ANNA G. MCCARTHY  
Correspondent

Soft white petals fall from cherry trees. Flowers of every bright hue spray the landscape and magnificent Dogwood and Red Bud trees line the streets.

Abandon your wool and flannels, and step out in your trendiest whites and crisp cottons.

Spring is here, and it is time for a party — A Spring Garden Party.

A Spring Garden Party, Pig-Pickin' and Historic Homes Tour will be held during the Perquimans Spring Weekend, May 17-19.

A Pig-Pickin' barbecue in front of the Perquimans County Courthouse is scheduled for May 17 from 4 to 7 p.m. The celebration will include live music. Tickets for the Pig-Out-on-the-Green are \$5. For more information, call 426-2021.

The Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans County, sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association and Preservation North Carolina, will be held May 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and May 19, 1 to 5 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$15, and \$20 May 18-19. For more information, call 426-7567.

Homes included on the Tour are: Creecy-Skinner-Whedbee House, John Bogue House, Francis Nixon House, Thomas C. Blanchard House, Simpson-Blanchard House, Roger Stokes House, John White House, George E. Major House.

Also, the Temperance Hall, Josiah Nicholson Store, Land's End, Jonathan Hill Jacocks House, Col. Francis Toms House, Richard Pratt House, Bear Swamp House, Bennetts Creek House, Flat Branch House, Chowan House, Pasquotank House, Piney Woods Friends Meeting House.

And, the Hertford United Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge Hall of Perquimans Lodge 106 in Perquimans County Courthouse and Newbold-White House.

The Eleventh Annual Spring Garden Party will be held May 18, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The party will be located at the Fletcher-Skinner-Nixon Plantation House (1815), the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Peter Rascoe, Jr.

Grilled marinated pork tenderloin medallions on French baguette with chutney, pate a choux with crabmeat, caponata cucumber with salmon Couer a la creme, fresh fruit skewers with assorted cheeses, pecan stuffed mushrooms, spring spinach spread with assorted breads and curry crackers.

Tickets for the Spring Garden Party are \$25. A drawing to win a \$250 gift certificate to Kenyon Bailey Garden and Gift Center will be conducted during the party with each chance ticket costing \$5 a piece. Reservations for the Spring Garden Party must be made by May 10.

For more information about tickets and the Spring Garden Weekend, call the Newbold-White House at 426-7567.

## Schools to cut bus service

ANNA G. MCCARTHY  
Correspondent

Budget constraints are requiring the Perquimans County School System to cut back on transportation.

The School System will have three fewer buses operating

next school year, said Superintendent Kenneth Wells.

Wells said the annual average cost to operate one bus is \$10,300. Eliminating three buses will result in a savings of more than \$30,900.

This year's transportation efficiency rating is close to the state average, and the changes

next year will result in a higher efficiency rating, said Wells.

Many suggestions were considered to cut back on spending, said Wells. Staggering starting times of schools, and allowing students from the same area, regardless of age, to ride the same bus were various

methods of reducing costs.

Wells said he would not recommend allowing younger students to ride on the same bus as much older students. It would save money, but multi-age busing would not be beneficial to the students.

Wells said he worked in a school system that used

multi-age busing, and its disadvantages far outnumbered its advantages.

By eliminating three buses, we will not have to consider these alternatives, said Wells.

Service could be affected. "It's something we will have to continue to monitor," said Wells.

## PIRATES WIN IN BASEBALL



Photo by Sam Wolfe The Daily Advance

Andrew Almadova of Perquimans slides safely into second during the Pirates' game against Southside last week. Perquimans won the game, 19-1. See game story on page 7.

## Tater Tot Pageant May 25

The Albemarle Potato Festival, planned for Saturday, May 25, in Elizabeth City will be holding a "Little Miss Tater Tot" pageant. This marks the second consecutive recent year for the festival that began in the 1930s and continued for more than three decades.

The committee for the pageant is seeking contestants from the counties of Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

One contestant will be selected from each county to participate in the actual pageant on the 25th. Contestants will be required to wear a suitable Sunday-style dress during the duration of the pageant which will include the Festival parade. The contestants will be judged on their neatness, poise, personality, and their responses to simple interview questions. Each contestant will receive small gifts and prizes, with the top three contestants receiving special recognition, and the 2002 winner being crowned "Little Miss Tater Tot."

Those wishing to participate should submit an entry form to their county representative. Contestants must be exactly five (5) years of age by May 1, 2002 (proof of age required.) Of those participants, one contestant will be selected by their county representative to compete in the actual pageant.

The appropriate county representative must receive all entry forms by May 1, 2002, along with the required \$10 entry fee. (Note: If child is not selected as an actual contestant, the \$10 fee will be refunded.) Checks for fees should be made payable to the Albemarle Potato Festival. Entry forms are available online at [www.NCPotatoes.org/festival](http://www.NCPotatoes.org/festival) or by calling (252) 335-1453.

## Vietnam experience brings vets together 37 years later

Editor's note: The following was written by the Rev. William Greenhood of Indiana, who served with Harvest Holley of Hertford, in Vietnam in the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry — the one featured in the Mel Gibson movie, "We Were Soldiers."

Dear People of Hertford,

We arrived at your courthouse lawn on the morning of March 30 and were delighted at the warm reception we Northerners received from you. My wife and I loved the visit from the Easter Bunny and the parade of children through town. But that did not prompt our nearly 1,000-mile journey. It was the friendship long severed by time, miles, and a series of events that burnt an image on two young mines, one from your famed community and the other out of a Bible College.

Inspired by a recent book, *We Were Soldiers Once, and Young*, made into a Mel Gibson movie about the first major battle of the Vietnam war in 1965. There two regiments of the North Vietnamese army attack a greatly outnumbered group of American soldiers in the small jungle clearing along the Chupong Mountains of the Central Highlands.

I desired to close the gap of 37 years and seek out one of your local citizens that made a difference in my life. Fresh



The Rev. William Greenhood of Indiana (right), and Harvest Holley (left) of Hertford, talked at Holley's home recently 37 years after they served in Vietnam in the battle depicted in the Mel Gibson movie, "We Were Soldiers."

from the halls of then Fort Wayne Bible College, where I was studying form pastoral ministry, I was assigned to the famed 7th Cavalry. I had all the training that the military offered to a light weapons infantryman but I lacked the actual experience of live combat. Someone had told me that if I would last through that first firefight, I would learn much of the survival tactics needed to complete at tour of duty. The policy was to pair up a "new guy" with one of experience. It is the same principal that would make a person select an experienced driver to ride next to a driver with a fresh, new learner's

permit. Alongside of me that hot and steamy fall was Harvest "Sonny" Holley.

We were different in many ways: I was a city-raised college boy with almost three years left in the Army, and "Sonny" was farm-raised and ready to get back to civilian life in less than nine months. We became close. I don't mean that we "got acquainted." We became close. We were soldiers once, and young. The procedure for "Recon" (reconnaissance platoon) was to be dropped into the thick jungle at one clearing and be removed from another clearing some distance away. If circumstances interrupted us on

route, then we would "dig in" before darkness came. My military newness and fate put me in the same foxhole with "Sonny." Together, we would make a hole in that dried red soil and bring in branches to camouflage our home for the night. We would sit back and tell stories of life at home, what we missed most, and what we planned to do as soon as we got to "the world" (as we called it.) We would laugh at the thought of our industrious enemy who we joked could make a helicopter out of a discarded beer can and some leftover communication wire.

"Sonny" has always had such an exciting way of embellishing a story. I can still picture his big grin and giggle that made him "the best thing on TV that night." Somehow the circumstances that brought us together were out of mind for just a moment or two. We were soldiers once...and young! I know that we must have both thought about our differences, but it never mattered. I needed my new friend, and he needed me. As the night settled in we would decide who would have the first "watch" while the other caught up on some needed sleep. Morning would come all too quickly. We would repeat the frightful words, "The night belongs to 'Charlie' (the G.I.'s nickname for the enemy.)"

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 71  
LOW: 47  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

Friday  
HIGH: 67  
LOW: 46  
PARTLY CLOUDY

Saturday  
HIGH: 68  
LOW: 55  
MOSTLY CLOUDY