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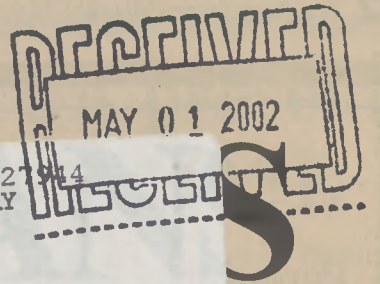
Spring sports update

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



35 cents

Cheezum retiring from school board

S. BRADY CALHOUN
The Daily Advance

He's been a friend, resource and, at times, conscience to the Perquimans County Board of Education.

But after next Tuesday, Charles Cheezum will be just another private citizen.

Even though his seat on the school board comes up for election in November, Cheezum is stepping down early so he can spend more time with his family. He also plans to spend some time in Colorado helping take care of his ailing mother-in-law.

Just prior to his final school board meeting in late April, colleagues and

school officials held a reception for Cheezum at the administration building.

Schools Superintendent Ken Wells said Cheezum had always been an inquisitive, caring board member who also had a great sense of humor.

"Not everyone saw that side of him," Wells said.

Cheezum also kept abreast of the latest trends in education, Wells said. The departing school board member often dropped articles about trends, speakers and new ideas by Wells office, the superintendent said.

"He is very well-read about what is going on in public schools," Wells said.

When he was elected to

the Board of Education in 1998, Cheezum had held jobs as a postman, judge and substitute teacher.

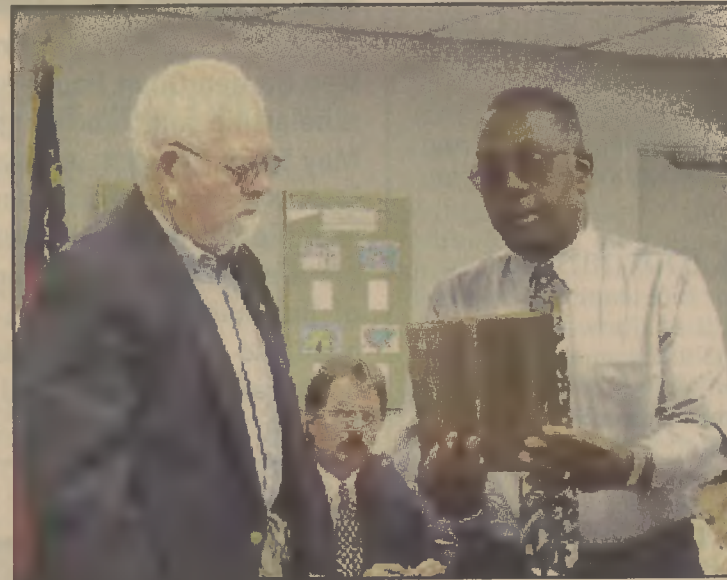
Nothing compared to his time as a public servant, however.

"It's been a real pleasure to get to know the people in the school system," Cheezum said. "They are very dedicated and the people in Perquimans County are very lucky."

Board Chairman Walter Leigh says Cheezum will be missed.

"Charles has brought dignity, grace, strength and great wisdom to this board," Leigh said. "He's respected and loved by this board."

To board member Iris Byrne, Cheezum was both



School Board Chairman Walter Leigh thanks retiring board member Charles Cheezum for his years of service at Superintendent Kenneth Wells looks on. Cheezum's term did not expire until July.

mentor and friend.

"He explained to me what it meant to be on the school board," Byrne said. "I'm feeling like I lost my right hand, like half of me is gone."

Under state law, the school board can operate for two months before it has to fill Cheezum's position, Leigh said. He expects the board will continue with only five members until then.

New board members should have been elected in May and seated July 1; however the districting lawsuit that has postponed the state's May primary indefinitely will cause the local school board to have to appoint a replacement for Cheezum.

Old Timers' Day activities planned

Spring is the season of diamonds in Perquimans County — ball diamonds, that is.

Some of the best of Perquimans High School's former baseball and softball players will challenge the 2002 Pirate teams in the annual Old Timers' Day games on May 11.

Old Timers events originated over 20 years ago with the 1963 PCHS state championship baseball team — which featured Jim "Catfish" Hunter on the mound — coming home on Mother's Day weekend to face the high school team. Many of the 1963-era players came out early on Saturday morning to cook the Old Timers' barbecued chicken dinners before pulling on their cleats for the big game.

Old Timers' has grown over the years to include varsity and junior varsity games, as well as softball. A homerun derby added three years ago has also become a highlight of Old Timers' events.

Perquimans has added two softball state championship trophies to its awards showcase recently — a slow pitch in 1997 and a fast pitch in 2000. Now, state championship women also come home to play.

The day's schedule will be: Noon: Lady Pirates vs. Old Timers. 2 p.m.: Homerun Derby to benefit

the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation. 2:30-5 p.m.: Barbecued chicken plates (\$5) 4 p.m.: JVs vs. Old Timers 6 p.m.: Varsity vs. Old Timers

All-day tickets are \$5.

Former PCHS Lady Pirates interested in playing should contact Kristie Roberson Walker at 426-9249.

Tommy Dale and Todd Hunter are coordinating former baseball players. Those wishing to play should have graduated in 1992 or earlier and must have played baseball for a Perquimans High School team. Dale can be reached at 297-2255 and Hunter at 482-4080.

Edgar Roberson is chairing the chicken supper. Tickets can be purchased from Roberson or softball and baseball players at both the middle and high schools.

Kim Perry will be coordinating volunteers to cover gates and concessions on Old Timers' Day. To volunteer, contact Perry at 426-5741.

Old Timers' Day is an annual event and is the largest fund-raising event to benefit athletic programs at both the high and middle schools. Donations may be made to PCS Athletic Boosters and mailed to Brenda Lassiter, Treasurer, P.O. Box 337, Hertford, NC 27944.

STICKY SITUATION



A German shepherd takes offense to the rabies shot veterinarian Ruston Howell gives Saturday as Kevin White tries to soothe the pooch. The rabies clinic was held Saturday and jointly sponsored by the newly-formed SPCA of Perquimans County North Carolina and Perquimans County. SPCA officials said records indicate it is the first clinic in the county in about 10 years. About 75 dogs and 10 cats were vaccinated during the clinic.

Prayer service set

The Perquimans County Ministers' Council announces that on Thursday, May 2, a National Day of Prayer Service will be held on the

courthouse lawn at noon. The prayer service is open to the public.

In the event of rain, the service will be held at Hertford Baptist Church.

Coalition celebrates tenth anniversary

On May 9, some Perquimans County residents will celebrate their accomplishments over the past 10 years.

The celebration is being sponsored by 2020 Vision Coalition, the county's umbrella 501(c)(3) organization. The group was formed in 1992 and led by the late Bill Cox in order to form long range plans for the county and to preserve and protect the present and future quality of life in the county. Cox was the long-time mayor and first town manager of Hertford.

Fred Yates, Chair of the 2020 Board for most of the organization's life, explained the reason for the celebration.

"We've come a long way, and we want to tell people about what we have done that they may have already forgotten or maybe they're new to the county and would like to know a little about our history."

For the past several years, Leo Higgins has served as the unpaid executive director of 2020. While working on many projects, the biggest is the incubator building in the county's commerce park on Harvey Point Road. The building, also known as The Perquimans Business Center, opened June 4, 2000.

A \$345,000 loan and grant from the Technological Development Authority and USDA Rural Development helped make it a reality.

To date, seven businesses have moved into the PBC, which supplies services and expertise to help entrepreneurs have a successful start.

There are many more successes that 2020 wants to celebrate. At the organizational meetings, the group identified five key areas of concern. Task forces were formed and goals set. The outcome was a strong resolve to improve the Perquimans economy, improve education and human services, encourage citizen participation in local government, and improve the quality of life. The results will be reviewed on May 9.

An informal reception with exhibits from agencies and organizations affiliated with 2020 will be held at the PBC from 5 - 6 p.m. on May 9. It is open to the public without charge. A banquet will begin at 6 p.m. at the Albemarle Commission Building. Tickets, at \$15 each, are available through May 1 from the 2020 office at the PBC and the Chamber of Commerce. Call 426-2020.



Colonial dinner held

On Saturday, April 13, an 18th century-style feast was served inside the historic 1730 Newbold-White House.

Candlelight, traditional toasts, and servers clothed in period garb enhanced the festive mood for the evening. Complementing the historical atmosphere was a menu featuring a wide variety of foods including nutmeg carrot soup, scallops over figs, roasted Cornish hens, stuffing with country ham, hock-cakes with sweet potatoes, spinach custard, apricot bread pudding with rum sauce and various dried fruits and nuts.

This unique dinner was the grand prize for a raffle

benefiting the work of the Perquimans County Restoration Association. PCRA promotes the cultural heritage of Perquimans County and preserves the early 18th century through the Newbold-White House. The winners of this feast for ten were Penny and Bud Dorman of Hertford. PCRA will raffle off the annual dinner again this summer.

PCRA is now planning its biennial historic homes tour on May 18 and 19 and garden party on May 18. The events are part of a weekend of local events, including Pig Out on the Green and antiques show.

For more information, call 426-5123.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 90
LOW: 61
SCATTERED STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 92
LOW: 51
SCATTERED STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 76
LOW: 51
PARTLY CLOUDY