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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents



The Albemarle Plantation home of Montgomery Spindler will be filled with dapper gents and Southern belles on Saturday, May 17 for the annual Perquimans County Restoration Association Garden Party.

Spindler to host Garden Party

Flowers in bloom, live jazz music, and a delectable selection of gourmet treats will highlight the 12th annual Spring Garden Party, Saturday, May 17.

The favorite event benefits the education and preservation programs of Hertford's historic Newbold-White House and is sponsored by Sprint.

The Albemarle Plantation home of Montgomery Spindler is the site of this year's Garden Party.

A highlight of the evening will be dance music provided by the Vince Corozine Jazz Quartet, as well as food, libations, music, dancing and visiting on the lawn.

The menu includes

fresh herb marinated pork tenderloin with orange cranberry coulis; roasted chicken with pineapple; Southern country ham with honey mustard biscuits; savory cheese cakes; shrimp mousse; fresh May strawberries and assorted desserts.

Hours of the party are 5:30 — 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and tickets must be purchased by May 9.

Checks to the Perquimans County Restoration Association can be sent to PCRA, P.O. Box 103, Hertford, NC 27944. MasterCard or Visa also accepted. Call the Perquimans County Restoration Association at 426-7567 for credit card orders or information.

SPECIAL ATHLETES

Athletes Kali Torrance and Kaci Chappell get last-minute instructions from Nettie Moore as they prepare for a running event in the recent local Special Olympics games hosted by Northeastern High School.



Derrick Wood rears back to throw the softball during the recent local Special Olympics games hosted by Northeastern High School.

Relay to honor survivors

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Thanks to numerous advances in medicine, a diagnosis of cancer is no longer automatically a death sentence.

The American Cancer Society through its Relay for Life event celebrates these tremendous advances and honors those who still enjoy life with their family and friends after a cancer diagnosis with the Survivor reception and lap.

Each year, a growing group of cancer survivors gathers at Relay for the most emotional, heart-warming segment of the event. Together, some joined by family members, they walk what actually a victory lap, signifying their victory over cancer. Because of their physical condition, some ride in golf carts. But they all show the dignity and determination of someone who has been through a physically intense, frightening time in life.

This year's Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life Survivor activities will take place at the John A. Holmes High School Athletic Complex on May 9. Registration begins at 5 p.m. After the opening ceremonies at 6 o'clock, the survivors will take the track for the opening lap.

Registered survivors will receive a T-shirt and sash.

Following the survivor lap is the team lap, a lap for all team members to walk together to signify the united fight against cancer.

The luminary ceremony will take place at dusk, around 9 p.m. Votive candles are placed in luminary bags around the track and are lit to honor those fighting cancer and those who have won their battle with the disease, as well as those who have lost their fight with cancer.

The votives will burn throughout the night as a reminder of the purpose for Relay for Life.

For information about the survivor reception and registration, call Sherry Harrell at 426-5145. For information about luminaries, call Brenda Newbern at 426-8349.

Harbor Lites to celebrate 25 years of dancing

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Elva Harrington called Steve Casper one day and said some residents in Snug Harbor wanted to learn to square dance.

That call came 25 years ago, and, according to Casper, "We've been dancing ever since."

The group, known as the Harbor Lites, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Friday night at Casper's home at 308 Craney Island Road from 8-10:30 p.m.

Casper said he and the

Harbor Lites hope everyone who has ever danced with them — and anyone else who likes to square dance — will join them Friday for a student-level dance.

Hundreds of people have been a part of the Harbor Lites over the years, Casper said.

Each Friday night, the Harbor Lites still swish the crinolin at the Snug Harbor Community Center.

Casper got his start in dancing by taking a class in Elizabeth City. He said he liked that type of dance

music and tradition. The next year, he learned to call.

Calling square dances still keeps Casper on the road, traveling across North Carolina and to South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

Casper has met dancers of all ages, races and backgrounds over the years. At one time, he said, there were a lot of teens dancing, but today, the teen interest has waned.

In fact, the interest in dancing in the Albemarle

area has decreased over the years. Casper said clubs in Ahoskie, Gates and Belhaven have folded, but there are active groups in Currituck and Dare counties.

In addition to dancing, the Harbor Lites have been involved in a number of community service projects over the years. They have danced at festivals, church events and other places over the years.

Casper said square dancing is good, clean fun and provides physical and mental exercise and a social

outlet.

Casper enjoys square dancing so much that he has spent the past few years building a barn on his property where he will be able to hold dances one day. He calls it The Onley Place, the name older people in the Craney Island area call the farm where Casper lives. He said the Onleys in Perquimans County started out there.

Casper and the Harbor Lites hope to dance with lots of old friends and new Friday night.

SPCA makes a difference in the lives of animals

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Just over a year after organizing, the SPCA of Perquimans County has made a positive difference for animals in the area.

The group has worked with county government to improve conditions for unwanted dogs and cats, to provide more services and to educate the public about pet care.

The county abandoned its inadequate animal shelter near Hertford's sewer plant after negotiating with Chowan and Gates counties to buy into the animal shelter already operated by those two counties.

With the infusion of funds from Perquimans, construction is underway at the site to increase its capacity. Workmen at the site said Tuesday that the addition is moving well, but they could not say when it will be ready for use.

Right now, there are 21 kennels for dogs, all of which are full, and some runs house two animals, according to shelter employee Ginny White. Fourteen cats and 12 kittens, most kittens too young to be adopted, are also housed at the shelter.

When the addition is finished, there will be 14 more dog kennels, as well as room for more cats.

White said some of the animals that find their way into the shelter have been abandoned and had to fend for themselves for a long time.

Shelter supervisor Mary Bass does everything she can to find homes for the animals brought to the shelter, White said.

"We hold on to them as long we can," White said. "We try to hold on to anything and everything as long as we can. My supervisor does everything she can for animals to find them a home and to give them that

second chance that they deserve."

Animals may be adopted at the shelter for a \$30 adoption fee, which pays for spay or neuter at Chowan Animal Hospital or Gates Animal Hospital.

The shelter is unable to guarantee the health of any animal, White said, and strongly suggests that those adopting pets take them to a vet for a check-up, shots and appropriate medical care.

In addition to adoptions, some animals are placed with rescue organizations who in turn find them homes.

The local SPCA and the Tri-county Animal Shelter strongly encourage spay and neuter for animals. Both groups say it is the only way to control the population of unwanted pets.

SPCA President Andrea Boone said the SPCA has found a state program that will reimburse the county for spay and neuter for ani-

mals. The SPCA has submitted information on the program to the county, and hopes that it can soon be offered in Perquimans County.

The SPCA had also been very concerned about euthanasia at the Tri-county Shelter. Animals were being rolled into a chamber and gassed without tranquilization. Information the SPCA had gathered on this form of euthanasia indicates that animals suffer physically and psychologically with this type of death.

County Manager Paul Gregory announced at the April county commissioners meeting that the county managers from the three counties, working with local vets, had decided that animals should be tranquilized before going into the gas chamber. That is one of the recommendations of several doctors and animals rights groups to lessen the trauma associat-

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 67
Low: 49
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 66
Low: 54
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 71
Low: 52
SCATTERED T'STORMS