

P11/C5
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
110 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1306

RECEIVED
JUL 28 2004

Farm tour planned

Page 3

Vending machine warnings

Page 6

Obituaries

Page 7

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

July 28, 2004

Vol. 72, No. 30 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

35 cents

TEACHERS AS STUDENTS



Teachers who will be faculty members in Perquimans County Schools for the first time this school year attended New Teacher Orientation Monday. All staff members will return on Monday, Aug. 2 for the annual Opening Day Convocation, which is open to the public. The convocation will begin with an 8 a.m. breakfast and continue with introduction of faculty, reports from principals and administrators, entertainment and an address by Dr. Kenneth Wells, who will serve as this year's speaker.

Schools expect good grades from state

Preliminary results show all schools with growth

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County Schools recently got its unofficial report card for the 2003-04 school year, and it was filled with good grades.

Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Wells anticipates that Perquimans Central and Hertford Grammar schools will be named Schools of Distinction and Perquimans County High a School of Progress when the State Department of Public Instruction releases official ABC results next month.

Although the middle school is not expected to earn special recognition based on ABC guidelines, that site also raised its overall test scores.

At Hertford Grammar School, the composite test scores rose from 87.8 percent to 88.7 percent, while the middle school increased from 85.4 percent to 87.5 percent. Overall scores at the high school grew from 71.7 percent to 75.5 percent.

Eighth graders take a computer skills test, and that score was 93.6 percent, up from 86.7 percent the year before.

Fourth, seventh and tenth graders take a state writing test. Fourth graders scores at 37.3 percent proficient, up from 26.9 percent; while seventh

graders were at 37.5 percent, three points over the 34.5 percent the year before. Tenth grade scores fell from 50 percent to 23.4 percent.

Tenth graders also take a high school comprehensive test. Perquimans dropped from 56.93 percent to 54.25 percent in that category.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind standards, Perquimans County Schools also performed well. The two Title I schools, Central and Hertford Grammar, met 100 percent of AYP target goals, as did the middle school. The high school met 16 out of 17 targets, for a 94 percent compliance rate.

For AYP purposes, test results are broken down into scores for subgroups, not just considered overall. Each subgroup must make the required progress in order for the school to meet AYP. A subgroup must contain 40 or more students who have been in membership the full academic year. Locally, the performance subgroups reported include the school as a whole, white students, black students, students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students.

Wells said that efforts are underway by teachers and administrators to continue the positive academic growth shown in all four schools.

As is required by the No Child Left Behind legislation, Wells sent letters detailing test score information to parents of all students enrolled in Perquimans County Schools.

James opens new chapter in life with new book store

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Melanie James has always loved books. Now, she's surrounded by them everyday.

James opened a book store, M. James Bookseller, in part of a commercial building at 117 Market Street recently renovated by her and her husband, Derrick, to house their business offices.

"I've always wanted a book store," James said. "We started working on the building and laying out space and I realized there was more space than we needed for offices, so why not do something I've always wanted to do?"

The store has been popular with locals and tourists alike since opening in mid-May.

"We get a pretty steady amount of traffic and people are buying books," James said. "I think there was probably some pent-up demand."

James stocks a lot of children's books, as well as books about Perquimans County, cruising in coastal North Carolina and other subjects of local interest.

While books on many of these subjects are new, James also offers a wide



variety of used and unique books. And what she doesn't have in stock, she can usually special order and is most willing to accommodate customers in finding the title for which they are looking.

James' stock is eclectic and inclusive, with hard backs, paperbacks, new, used, fiction, and nonfiction titles. Books can be

found for as little as 50 cents and run through more costly collectibles.

Most popular have been children's titles, which James said many customers have bought as baby and birthday gifts.

M. James Bookseller will host a children's story time during the Indian Summer Festival.

James grew up in

Hertford, the daughter of Don and JoAnn Morris. She earned her undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, then her juris doctorate at Campbell University.

After years of working for large law firms in metropolitan areas, James said she was ready to come back to a quieter lifestyle.

"I was over the big city in a major way," James said. "I came back for quality of life issues."

She opened her law practice, which specializes in real estate, and soon met her husband, Derrick. The couple renovated a home on Front Street, and have since welcomed the arrival of their daughter, Mariah, now 4.

Last year the Jameses purchased the Market Street property which formerly housed an antique store, and began renovations to house her law office and Derrick James' real estate appraisal company, Bay View Appraisal. Finding space for the book store has been an added, delightful bonus for Melanie James.

The book store is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sid Eley often dons his colonial lord mayor's costume to greet the entourage and act as a tour guide. When she can, Chamber Assistant Sylvia Wyatt also dresses in colonial attire and assists with the guided tours.

Sites generally visited include the shops of downtown Hertford; the Newbold-White House, a Quaker Homestead; local restaurants; historic sites in walking distance of the chamber office and Layden's Supermarket.

Brochures on the county's overnight accommodations, antique stores, restaurants and rich history are provided to tourists.

Eley said day tourists spend an average of \$40-\$50 each, and usually arrive in groups of 25-55. The county averages over 20 groups each year.

The annual Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House will

Festival plans underway

Plans for the annual Indian Summer Festival are underway.

Historic Hertford, Inc., the town's Main Street Program, has adopted the sponsorship of the festival this year after the Historic Hertford Business Association gave notice that its members could no longer sponsor the event. Diane Stallings and Susan Harris are event co-chairs.

Entertainment for the Sept. 11 festival will include the U.S. Atlantic Fleet Jazz Band, the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates, bands, balladeers and dancers.

The Perquimans County Restoration Association will celebrate the arrival of the periauger, the 18th century work boat built at the Maritime Museum, during the festival. A flotilla will escort the periauger to the Hertford Municipal Docks to the strains of the PCHS Jazz Band. A ceremony and tours of the boat are planned.

The annual Hearth & Harvest Festival at the Newbold-White House will

begin after the periauger celebration.

Also at the waterfront will be kayak and canoe rides.

Over in Winfall, Donna Mummert is again planning a day of fun at Winfall Landing Park.

Vendor applications for the Indian Summer Festival are available by calling 426-1425.

Tourism draws variety of people to Perquimans Co.

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Tour buses are becoming a common sight in Perquimans, as the county becomes well known as a day-tour destination.

When notified in advance of the arrival of a tour group, Hertford Mayor

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 85
LOW: 73
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 88
LOW: 73
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 89
LOW: 74
ISOLATED T'STORMS