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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

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## Tradition cancelled for 2005

Old Timer's games should return next spring

ERIN RICKERT

Though several residents are hopeful for its return, Perquimans County's annual Old Timers baseball game, a Mother's Day weekend tradition for more than 20 years, will take the season off this year.

"I hate it is not happening," said Helen Hunter, wife of former New York Yankees pitcher and the event's creator Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter. "It's just been a great time of fellowship together, but we've been blessed to have it this long."

In early March the Athletic Boosters, who have hosted the game for years, were forced to discontinue their involvement with the event.

Susan Cox, Perquimans County Schools athletic director, cited lack of manpower as the main reason the boosters gave it up but also said other reasons she could not mention factored into the decision.

Two longtime participants in the game, Tommie Dale and Edgar Roberson, would later offer to take charge of the event — though not in time to coordinate everything for the May game.

Not since 1981 when the hall of fame player, Helen and the members of the 1963 state championship team started the event, have ball players young and old not taken time out to participate in the Old Timers Game to raise money to purchase equipment for use in school athletics.

This year's game would have marked 24 years current Perquimans County High School ball players and former ball players, out of the game for 15 years or more, were together in competition.

Yet even though the game will not take place this year, the tradition is expected to return in 2006.

Roberson, a member of Bear Swamp Beech Springs Ruritan Club, and Dale, a member of the Parksville Ruritan Club are currently working to elect members in both clubs for a committee whose sole job would be to organize the Old Timers Game.

"I just didn't want to see it die," Roberson said. "It's a legacy. We want to keep it going."

Traditionally, a game between the varsity baseball team and former ball players takes place — the only game at the event for the first seven years.

The event later grew to include games between the former players and members of the junior varsity baseball team as well as the softball team.

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## Warren remembered

Erin Rickert

Shakim Rolon Warren's smile could light up a room. Now it's only a memory in the pictures that pepper shirts, necklaces and pins worn by hundreds of his classmates, friends and family.

The youngest of five boys, Shakim was a talented athlete with a sense of humor that made him hard not to like.

"You could not find one person that did not like Shakim," said his brother Travis Warren. "He was special and he will be missed."

Saturday, more than a week after

his shooting, the 17 year-old was laid to rest after a service in the Perquimans County High School gymnasium.

During the service several speakers shared fond memories including his girlfriend of close to a year, Jaleesa Privott, who read a poem she had written that talked of their relationship and the future they had dreamt about together.

In attendance were more than 500 friends and family who paid tribute to the Hertford teenager who had a profound love for basketball.

Fellow varsity ball players Kelvin Linton and Kwabena Skinner, who

had played ball with Shakim since middle school, said the star point guard was someone the team could always count on in a pinch.

"He was a great leader," Linton said. "The floor general. Whenever we needed that shot at the end he got it. It was all about basketball."

The Friday after Shakim's death April 14, the AAU basketball team Shakim was to travel with attended an away game in Concord, near Charlotte — a game Shakim was looking forward to playing in.

Though Skinner said each game was dedicated to their fallen team

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## Growth will force schools to deny pre-k applicants

ERIN RICKERT

Due to growing numbers of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students in the area, the Perquimans County School system is now facing a registration dilemma that will mean denial of service to nearly a third of pre-kindergarten students that have registered for the 2005-06 academic year.

"We will not be able to provide pre-kindergarten services as we have in years past," said Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth W. Wells. "We may have as many as 30 students we will not be able to serve. We just can't afford to operate under the level we have in the past."

Wells said records from two years ago show this year's registration is already up nearly 60 students and climbing.

As of Monday afternoon, 79 children had registered for the 72 slots Perquimans Central School is able to offer pre-kindergarten students. This is in addition to several other transfers and students of school staff already on a waiting list.

Though registration will only remain open until Friday, Wells said the school system could see as many as 40 more students register late or apply as transfers during the summer months.

"This is the largest dilemma we are facing for next year," Wells said. "Bigger even than the construction."

Wells said by law the school system is required to provide students who meet age requirements with kindergarten services, but they are not required to provide the community with pre-kindergarten services.

As a result, Wells said pre-kindergarten services would suffer to provide the extra section needed to accommodate the 126

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## SPRING VISIT



PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Virginia Beach natives Margaret Lowrance and Kimberly Voight take a rest from sight seeing during a Fun Tour Thursday. Accompanying the two in period clothing are Newbold-White House Site Manager Sarah Parr and Hertford Mayor Sid Eley.

## School board approves principal changes

ERIN RICKERT

The School Board voted unanimously Monday evening to accept the superintendent's recommendations to reassign two school administrators after the resignation of Perquimans County High School's principal last week.

The decision will move Perquimans Middle School Principal Melvin Hawkins to the high school and Jamie Liverman, the assistant principal of the middle school, to that school's principal position effective July 1.

"I am excited about Dr. Wells decisions," Hawkins said. "I am excited that he noticed that there are good and capable school leaders in this system and that he did not have to look outside to find something that was already here."

The reassignment comes after PCHS Principal Hans Lassiter submitted his letter of resignation last Tuesday to take a similar position at Southern Lee High School in Sanford near Raleigh.



Hans Lassiter

"I am proud of the opportunity that has come before him [Lassiter]," said Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth W. Wells. "He has served us well."

Lee County school officials approached Lassiter and urged him to apply for the position at a Closing the Achievement Gap conference held April 4-6 in Greensboro where he was one of the keynote speakers.

Lassiter declined, but when he returned to school April 7 there was a message from a Lee County School official urging him again to



Melvin Hawkins

apply for the position.

"Reluctantly I finally sent them my information," Lassiter said. "And as they say, the rest is history."

Twelve days, three panel and two telephone interviews later, Lassiter was chosen out of more than 71 candidates to head the new facility when it opens August 2005.

The facility, built in response to an overcrowding problem in Lee County's 14-school system, will accommodate 1,400 students.

"This was a tough decision," Lassiter said. "Not too long ago I remember



Jamie Liverman

when I could not get a chance. These folks gave me that chance."

During the two years Lassiter was principal at PCHS, 89 of the 107 graduates in last year's class went on to attend two or four year colleges.

Student proficiency on end-of-year tests also increased from 71.2 percent to 75.5 percent during the 2004-05 academic year.

Lassiter's also received several honors that include both the 2004 and 2005 Triple "S" School Award and the Rex Whittington Community Educator of

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 72  
Low: 52  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 71  
Low: 58  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 78  
Low: 58  
ISOLATED T'STORMS