

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County, school board: Voters have choices

From staff reports

Five people have filed to run on their party's ticket for seats on the county's board of commissioners in the May 6 primary.

According to Gail Daneker, assistant to the director of the county's Board of Elections, Democrats Shirley Wiggins, Neil Trueblood, Mack Nixon and Tommy Lyn Riddick, as well as Republican Sue Weimar have filed to fill three county commissioner seats up for grabs in November.

Wiggins, Trueblood, Nixon and Riddick will all appear on the Democratic ballot in May. Each person who votes on a Democratic ballot will be able to choose one candidate. The top three vote-takers will then be candidates in November's general election.

Weimar, the lone Republican running, will automatically make it to the November ballot.

In November, all voters will be able to choose one candidate. The three with the most votes will earn seats.

Filing for the three available seats on the nonpartisan county board of education were incumbent Gail Hill, and newcomers Dianne Layden, Lula Eason, Susan Cox, Arlene Yates, Amy Spagh, and Pam Modlin-Hurde.

However, Tuesday morning, Layden withdrew from the race, citing health reasons.

The school board election is not a primary. The top three vote-takers on May 6 will be seated in June. Each voter will be able to vote for one candidate.

The county commissioner seats currently held by Nixon, Wiggins, and Weimar are up for election this year, as are the board of education seats currently held by Hill, Helen Shaw, and William Byrum.

Shaw and Byrum did not file to seek re-election.

County Register of Deeds Deborah Reed, a Democrat, was the only one to file for that post.

Deadline to register is April 11. You may register to change parties or register to vote. You must be 18 by the general election in order to register.

To register to vote, pick up an application at the elections office, at any public assistance agency, or at the public library. You can also print out the application on the Perquimans County website, or on the State Board of Elections' website. Just fill out the application and mail it in.

One-stop voting will begin on April 17 and end on May 3. Details on where ballots will be available will appear in a later issue of this newspaper.

HAND-PAINTED HISTORY



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

A MURAL DEPICTING THE historic relationship between local Quakers and the Underground Railroad was unveiled Friday night at the Newbold-White House (above). The mural was painted by fifth graders at Hertford Grammar School and will hang in the school. The art project was led by Tunde Afolayan as part of his Underground Railroad Mural project. Also on hand for the unveiling were teacher Corrie Kemp and Superintendent Dwayne Stallings.

Photo courtesy PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

AFOLAYAN TEACHES STUDENTS THE art of mural painting (right).



Art brings history to life

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Fifth grader Joy Spittler painted the tops of trees, leaves, and some of the cypress nuts in the trees. Lexis Saunders helped paint the sky and the slave's shirt. Trevon Moore dabbed color into the woman's dress.

They, along with the rest of Hertford Grammar School's fifth graders in Corrie Kemp's class, painted a wall mural depicting local history of the Quakers' involvement in the Underground Railroad in observance of Black History Month. The mural, under the direction of artist Tunde Afolayan, was unveiled Friday night at the Newbold-White House, a historic 1730 Quaker home-stead.

The brightly colored mural depicts two Quakers standing near the house at the river's edge, greeting two black slaves traveling the road to freedom.

"It was fun to paint," said Spittler. "I learned that slavery was not always such a bad time for the Quakers. They helped the slaves."

Fifth grader Ashley Ginn said painting was relatively easy after Afolayan showed them how. Moore agreed, adding he draws inspiration from the vibrant colors. Saunders excitedly added she would like to paint the mural all over again!

Afolayan, who was born in Nigeria, first began the Underground Railroad Mural project in 2004 during an Art in Education residency at Trigg Community School in Elizabeth City. There, he led students to paint a mural about the Great Dismal Swamp's connection to the underground railroad.

The local elementary students kicked off Black History Month by visiting Newbold-White, and learned from various speakers the local connection between the Quakers and the underground railroad.

"Integrating arts with curriculum is something I take very seriously," said Afolayan, adding the students in HGS were great to work with. "They pooled their energies together. I give the kids a lot of credit for being able to respond and stay motivated. The students were prepared every day and ready to go."

The students thanked Afolayan by giving him a booklet containing writings by the students detailing their experience while working on the project.

Ken Henshaw with Page Development Company gave Kemp a plaque naming all the students who worked on the project.

The mural project was funded in part by the Perquimans Arts Leagues Grassroots Grant provided by the North Carolina Arts Council. Additional funding came from Page Development Company and the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

PAL remembers Haste with gallery dedication

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer



SUZANNE TOWE HASTE WAS a lover of the arts, and a major worker with the Perquimans Arts League. The gallery area at the PAL gallery will be dedicated to Haste this Friday night.

Haste's husband, Erie, said his late wife was always a lover of the arts, and before they married, would spend months in Paris en-

joying the arts there. She even commissioned a painting of herself and one of her mother done in the city where many artists dream of studying.

When Haste died, donations in her memory streamed into the PAL and that money has been used to spruce up the gallery area as well as create scholarships that will be given to local high school students who will focus on the arts in college. The Suzanne T. Haste Merit Award will honor two high school seniors who will major either in music or art in college. The student's work will also be exhibited in the PAL gallery. The scholarships will be given without regard to financial need.

"We wanted to honor her by giving a gift that will

keep on giving every year," Russell explained.

In addition to her support of the arts, Haste was co-owner with her husband of Hertford Hardware in historic downtown Hertford, and often volunteered to help with community and business events in her hometown.

The dedication will be held in conjunction with the opening of the 13th annual PAL Members Show, which will hang in the gallery through April 2.

The juried show features the work of PAL artists, whose media and styles are as unique as the artists themselves. Charcoal, pen and ink, oils and pastels depict images of life and the imagination, and hang beside photographs, fabric art, sculpture, carving and more.

Schools beef recalled

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Students at three of the county's four schools may have consumed some of the beef listed in a nationwide beef recall that began last month.

According to Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for the county schools, Perquimans Central, Hertford Grammar and Perquimans High School received beef crumbles that have been recalled by the United States Department of Agriculture. The crumbles, used in soups, chilli, spaghetti and beefaroni, were provided to the school system from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for use in the school lunch program.

Fifteen cases of the recalled product were received by the school system's Child Nutrition department on Nov. 8, 2007 with an additional 15 cases received Jan. 18. Lassiter said seven and a half cases (between 20-40 pounds) of the crumbles were used by the schools before the product was recalled. Most of the beef crumbles (22.5 cases) remain in inventory and have been identified and marked to be picked up by the USDA.

No illnesses have been reported with any of the recalled beef products so far, Lassiter said.

Child Nutrition Director Donna Harris was notified of the recall by email last Wednesday morning and immediately took appropriate steps to pull the recalled beef crumbles from the school system's inventory by contacting all principals and child nutrition managers at each school. The recalled beef product was marked for discontinued use.

Beef products made from cattle slaughtered at Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Co. in California were recalled back in February after the USDA determined the slaughter house slaughtered cows that appeared sick or unable to move on their own without notifying a public health veterinarian. The recalled beef is labeled as a Class II recall, meaning a potential health hazard situation in which there is a remote probability of adverse health consequences from eating the food.

Parents with questions may contact Child Nutrition Services at 426-5741.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 49
SUNNY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 64 LOW: 41
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 32
PARTLY CLOUDY