

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PIRATES ROUNDUP
Lady Pirates rally after NHS defeat — 9

"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 - SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

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Winner to sing with the Rhondels

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A seven-piece band will grow to eight this Friday when a guest is brought in to sing a song with The Original Rhondels in downtown Hertford as part of the 32nd annual Indian Summer Festival.

Historic Hertford Inc. is running a contest on its Facebook page to pick a winner. The drawing will be held Thursday and whoever is picked will get to sing one song with the band.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

See page 6 for schedule of festival events and activities.

That's something new, said Rollie Ligart, who was with the band in the 1960s when they first started and still performs on trumpet and vocals.

"This is the first time we've done that," Ligart said last week.

The only rule is the song has to be something the band knows and something the crowd will like, he said. That could easily include "May I", "I've Been Hurt", and "What Kind of Fool Do You Think I Am." All three of the songs made it to the top 10 on the charts when they were introduced and they remain hallmarks of the Rhondel's sound.

The festival kicks off Friday at 6 p.m. with disc jockey Adams Evans and follows at 7 p.m. with The Original Rhondels.

The Saturday events start at 9 a.m. with the presentation of the colors by American Legion Post 126. The event includes games for kids in the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot and a wheeled vehicle show behind Hertford Town Hall. The festival concludes at 4 p.m.

Ligart said the band had a good time at the Hertford festival last year and is looking forward to coming back.

"We had a wonderful experience and we're happy to be visiting with our friends in Hertford. They were so receptive last year."

But Ligart admits he never thought he'd still be performing in 2013 when he started in the 1960s.

"We laugh about it. Personally you never envision any kind of end to your career, you're always looking forward to the next gig. I don't think anybody looked at retirement. I figure as long as you get up in the morning and have reasonably good health and you enjoy it, that's great. We enjoy performing for the fans."

The band performs about

See RHONDELS, 6



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GROUPS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH ON WASHINGTON



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Marjorie Rayburn (top) and Pastor Arthur Manigault pull the rope to ring the bell at Hertford United Methodist Church last Wednesday. The bell rang in 1901 to mark the assassination of President William McKinley and again in 1945 to celebrate the end of wars in the Pacific and in Europe. It was used again to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington D.C. Manigault is pastor of Spirit and Truth Ministries and Rayburn is a member of Hertford United Methodist.

CHURCH BELL RINGS AGAIN

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Arthur Manigault was just a few months old when it happened. He's black.

Marjorie Rayburn was caught up in preparing for college life in 1963 and missed coverage of it on TV.

She's white.

Yet the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington drew the two together last week so they could ring the bell at Hertford United Methodist Church to honor the moment.

The event was one of a handful held in Perquimans County to mark the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. One was held on the courthouse green.

The bell of Hertford UMC has chimed on other big events in the past. The church dates to 1901 and on Sept. 14, of that year, the bell was tolled to mark the assassination of President William McKinley.

"It has been rung to celebrate the end of world wars, and the death of national leaders," said Pastor Larry Bowden. "Most recently, it pealed 27 times to remember the victims of the Newtown, Ct. shooting."

See REMEMBER, 6



The hands of Walker Rayburn (top) and Pastor Manigault pull the rope to ring the bell at Hertford United Methodist Church last Wednesday.

Scores highlight reading problem

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans school officials were fully prepared to see a decline in their average test score when they offered the ACT exam to every high school junior — not just the college-bound ones.

What they saw instead was a slight increase.

Numbers released last month showed the average ACT rose from 17.3 points to 17.5 points. That came despite the fact that 121 students took the exam in 2012 vs. just 12 students the year before.

"We're comfortable in knowing that 109 more students took the exam and our composite score went up, but we still have work to do," said Assistant Superintendent James Bunch.

Most school systems saw their scores drop as the result of mandatory testing. In Camden, the score fell from 22.3 to 19.6 and in Pasquotank they dropped from 19.6 to 16.7. In Chowan county, the rate plummeted 8.5 points to 17.3

Statewide the rate declined by 3.2 points.

Where mandatory testing has been adopted it's been normal that scores would decline.

"You'll see scores drop and then they start to improve," Bunch said.

While the Perquimans scores did improve, they lagged behind the state average. The state in turn ranked last in the nation in terms of performance. The national average was 20.9, 2.2 points higher than North Carolina's.

Bunch said there remains plenty of work to do.

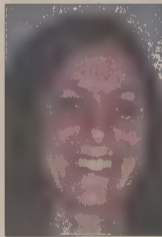
"Overall we feel good about the direction we're heading academically, but we need to constantly assess what's going on in the classroom and the school district."

"What is the difference

See SCORES, 5

Teacher helping to build 'STRONG' students

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



BEARDSLEY

When school ends in June, most teachers look forward to a summer without having to deal with students.

Not Teresa Beardsley. For the second year in a row, the science teacher at Hertford Grammar School worked

with students for free. She designed a program called STRONG to help some of her students who have either made the transition to middle school or soon will.

And this year she's doing it and juggling master's degree classes at Elizabeth

See 'STRONG,' 7



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Tobious Porter (right), a sixth-grader at Perquimans County Middle, visits a resident of The Bryan Center this summer. Porter is part of a group called STRONG, which provides summer projects for students.

Congressman visits high school, gives civics lesson

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS



US Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-NC, speaks to leadership students after school at Perquimans County High on Monday, Aug. 26.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The fact that a select of Perquimans County High School students got a civics lesson last week probably isn't news.

The fact the lesson came from a sitting member of Congress was notable.

Rep. G.K. Butterfield met with a dozen students for more than hour in the

media center at the high school after the first day of school on Monday. The Democrat from Wilson talked about how Congress worked — or didn't — and urged the students be an active.

The students did some talking of their own. The issues they brought largely were state funding issues — something Butterfield said can't control because

See BUTTERFIELD, 7



Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford

CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, BEER GARDEN & MORE

Free Street Dance Friday Night - The Rhondels

Sept. 6th, 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Sept. 7th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.