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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 28, 2009

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

Springhill School Relocation

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Springhill Elementary** School is being **relocated** to the Board of Education tomorrow, Wednesday, **July 29, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.** It will take about two hours to move the old school from its current location on Highway 41 at Rehoboth Baptist Church to its new site, the Herman Ragin Center in Perry.

In September 2008, Perry High School's Technology Specialist Ellie Loudermilk presented a proposal to the Board of Education to relocate the Spring Hill School building to property south of the board's central office. The board approved the move with the understanding that various community partners would be responsible for the expense and upkeep of the building.

The committed parties include:

- Perry Historical Society – fundraising, utilities, relocation, maintenance, repairs and staffing;
- Parrish Construction and Terrell Smith House Moving– relocation; and
- Board of Education – provide site at the Herman Ragin Center.

The building is reportedly 104 years old. According to a Georgia Department of Education 1915 booklet, "Educational Survey of Houston County, Georgia," the one-room schoolhouse was originally built three miles north of Perry. It was valued at \$700 when built, and maintenance cost \$400. When in use, the school had one teacher, Miss Laura Talton, who taught six different grades to 28 students. At some point, the school was expanded to four rooms. The school closed in 1925.

The building is located on Beckham Circle behind the Herman Ragin Center. Once ready, the building will be used for historical purposes and possibly as a community meeting house. For more information, contact Loudermilk at (478) 988-6200, extension 21566.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 27, 2013

(Release #2012/13 – 2XX)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

Springhill School Ribbon Cutting Mar. 6

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Board of Education and Perry Area Historical Society announce the opening of Springhill School. A ribbon cutting will take place on **March 6, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.** Ellie Loudermilk, retired educator and Historical Society President, will give an overview of the restoration and the availability of Springhill for educational purposes. A tour of the school will follow.

On July 29, 2009, Springhill School was relocated to the site of the legendary 1926 Perry Panther gym. This came about after Loudermilk presented a proposal to the Board of Education in September 2008 to relocate Springhill to property south of the board's central office. The Perry Area Historical Society, the Board of Education, and many community sponsors have worked diligently to bring this project to fruition.

The building was constructed in 1905. According to the *1915 Educational Survey of Houston County, Georgia*, the one-room schoolhouse was originally built three miles north of Perry. It was valued at \$700 in 1915 with annual maintenance costs of \$400. In 1915 the school had one teacher, Miss Laura Talton, who taught six different grades to 28 students. The school closed in 1925.

With the restoration, Springhill may be used for educational purposes such as school fieldtrips. The renovated one-room school now provides handicap access and restroom facilities. Located on Beckham Circle behind the Herman Ragin Center, parking is available on Beckham Circle and at the Board of Education.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 7, 2013

(Release #2012/13 – 254)

Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390 ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

Springhill School Opens for Educational Use



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County Board of Education and Perry Area Historical Society held a program to announce the opening of Springhill School on March 6. A ribbon cutting culminated the program in which Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines shared the school's history. Ellie Loudermilk, President of the Historical Society, also gave an overview of the restoration and introduced supporters. Entertainment was provided by Morningside Elementary under the direction of music teacher Paula Jo Powell.

Dr. Hines opened the program with the following remarks: "This building has a very interesting history, and I want to tell you its story. Springhill School first opened 108 years ago in 1905 as a one-room schoolhouse. It became a two-room school house when a partition was added sometime after 1915. The building was used as a school until 1925 when it closed with the opening of Perry Consolidated Schools, which now houses our central office. Several years after its closing, Springhill was sold to a former student, and it served as their family home until 1980. It found a new purpose when it was sold to the Rehoboth Baptist Association and became the first home of the newly constituted Rehoboth Baptist Church. In 2008, Springhill was given to the Perry Historical Society."

MORE

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According to the *1915 Educational Survey of Houston County, Georgia*, the one-room schoolhouse was originally built three miles north of Perry. It was valued at \$700 in 1915 with annual maintenance costs of \$400. In 1915 the school had one teacher, Miss Laura Talton, who taught six different grades to 28 students.

Fast forward to July 29, 2009 - on that day, Springhill was relocated to the site of the legendary 1926 Perry Panther gym. This came about after Loudermilk presented a proposal to the Board of Education in September 2008 to relocate Springhill. The Perry Area Historical Society, the Board of Education and many community sponsors worked diligently to bring this project to fruition.

During the program to announce the opening, Loudermilk told the crowd about the four-and-a-half year project and introduced major supporters. Margie Daniel and Doris Wicks, family members of the former owners, were recognized. Platinum sponsors who contributed at least \$1,000 were: Parrish Construction Group, JMA Architects, Perry Area Historical Society, Flint Energies, Georgia Power, Cherokee Brick, Myers Construction Company, Balvaunuca Club, Dr. and Mrs. William Jerles, Perry High School Class of 1955 and Bill and Ellie Loudermilk. Gold sponsors include: the Sogadera Club, Kiwanis, Beltista Club, Akikta Club, Leadership Perry 2010, Laura Anderson, Randall and Terre Walker, Paul Bulloch and Matthew Arthur. Many volunteered their time and energy, to include: Perry Volunteer Outreach, Brad Pope, Charles Parker, Floyd Gregory, David Loudermilk, Dave Corson, Paul Musick, Ken Minor, Dave McMahan, Will McMahan, Phil Smith, Jeremy Bennett, Lou Heath, Kurt Eckman and employees of the Houston County Board of Education.

Others contributed furnishings: a slate board from a one-room school in Ohio—Lori Caldwell; vintage desks—Bridget Howard, Jim Lewis, and Randy Lanier; 42 chairs for seating—CVB; wood stove from a one-room school in Warm Springs—Paul Bulloch; paint—Sherwin Williams; and lumber—Charles Parker, Dave McMahan, Phil Gentry, Bill Loudermilk and Tolleson Lumber Company.

“Many have asked how the Historical Society plans to use the building,” said Loudermilk. “It is only proper and fitting that a school should be used for educational activities. In the short term we have been approached about Student of the Quarter award ceremonies, class reunions of area schools, musical performances and storytelling. In the long term only God knows the future.”

Springhill will be managed by the Historical Society and all events must be scheduled. To request use of the building, please call the Perry Museum at 478-224-4442. Springhill is located on Beckham Circle in Perry, behind the Herman Ragin Center at the Board of Education central office.

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