

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Basket for Band Day

A friend appears to be admiring Jeffery Modlin's jumper as he arches one at Band Day. As a matter of fact, Modlin

himself seems pleased with the swisher, which just might have won him a prize.

For more on Saturday's Band Day, see page 2.

## Bloodmobile set June 24

The ARPDC Building in Hertford will be the site of a community-wide American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, June 24, according to county blood chairman Geneva Sawyer.

All types of blood are needed, particularly types 'O' and 'B' blood.

Scheduled from 12 noon to 6 p.m., the drive is sponsored by the Jaycees and has a goal of 75 pints of blood. A successful drive will ensure that the county

reaches its annual goal for the fiscal year which ends June 30, according to Mrs. Sawyer. Additional information on the drive can be obtained from Mrs. Sawyer at 426-7648.

Annual goals for each county are based on that county's population. Goals set for blood drives in eastern North Carolina and eastern Virginia scheduled in the late spring and summer are critical since the summer months are traditionally

months of greater blood usage and fewer donations, according to Mrs. Sawyer.

The 58 hospitals in eastern North Carolina and eastern Virginia receive all blood and blood components from Tidewater Regional Blood Services, headquartered in Norfolk, Va. The blood service region encompasses 56 counties and 2.5 million residents in North Carolina and Virginia.

## Maps contested, but land use update gets nod

Despite one county commissioner's objections to what he views as faulty mapping, a Coastal Area Management Act land use update was approved by the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

By a 3-1 vote, the board adopted the update, which must now have final approval from the Coastal Resources Commission.

Commissioner Marshall Caddy opposed the update because it reflects information from federal flood insurance maps that classify much county land as lying in flood-hazard areas.

Planner John Ferren, however, said that the update points out in several different areas that the county is dissatisfied with its flood maps, and is attempting to get them redrawn.

He said that if he did not utilize the flood maps the state would not approve the plan.

Caddy was also concerned about areas designated for conservation on land classification maps included in the plan.

"Knowing what I know, 90 percent of the land along the Perquimans River is designated conservation, and it shouldn't be," Caddy said.

He said the land is entirely suitable for development.

A representative of the office of coastal management, the staff arm of CRC, responded that the conservation designation is not intended to prohibit development. It simply means that an area is worth taking a closer look at, he said. "If it's developed there should be a more detailed review," said John Crew.

Edward Winslow, a Pasquotank County resident and a member of the Albemarle Home Builders Association, attended the meeting to offer his association's assistance in coming up with adoptable flood insurance maps.

"I lost a chance to build a nice home here because Perquimans County thought it was getting the shaft," Winslow said.

Carson Jackson, who ran against the flood insurance problem in a recent home purchase, also expressed concerns about the need to get moving on the matter.

Crew said he would contact persons who could explain the flood insurance program to the board, and Caddy leaped at the suggestion.

"We'd love to talk to anybody who knows anything about flood insurance (mapping), what it means, how it was developed and how the hell we can get it changed," he said.

Crew said Perquimans is one of the few counties that is not participating in flood insurance because of disputes over mapping. "In my humble opinion, there is some advantage to participating whether you agree with where the lines are drawn or not," he said.

If the flood maps show a piece of land to be lying in a flood hazard area, a federally insured loan cannot be issued for development, unless the builder has flood insurance.

The county cannot participate in the flood insurance program unless it adopts maps. Though he was reluctant to express an opinion, Crew maintained that it might be better to go ahead and adopt the maps and continue efforts to have them redrawn.

He said the county has emergency maps that do not account for vertical rises in the land, and that the Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding with efforts to revise the maps.

Commissioners Welly White and Lester Simpson, however, countered that adopting the maps now would require builders who might not fall in the flood hazard areas on revised maps to utilize more restrictive and expensive con-

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## Area schools to cater to vocational needs of learning impaired

The Perquimans County School system will initiate a program next year designed to meet the vocational needs of the learning impaired in grades 7 through 12.

Paul Ward, Title IV-C and county testing coordinator, met with the school board Monday night to explain a program geared toward career counseling and placement for handicapped students in the tri-county area, including Perquimans, Chowan, and Gates Counties.

The goals of the project are to increase the number of LD and EMH students who will find jobs or who will enroll in technical school training; to assist parents in helping their children make such choices; to lower the drop out rate; and to increase the counselor's competency in assisting students with these decisions.

According to Ward, the key to the success of the program centers around a micro-computer, which will free counselors from clerical work so that they can devote more time to actual counseling.

The county school system has already

obtained such a computer with some \$33,000 awarded the project as a planning grant.

An additional \$55,000 has been received to purchase similar micro-computers for Gates and Chowan County high schools.

Computers will be programmed to list up-to-date job listings, vocational information, as well as store transcripts, grade point averages, etc.

School superintendent Pat Harrell said the computer could also be utilized for other school-related matters, such as inventory.

In another matter, Ward announced that the county had received the results of this year's achievement tests. Although Harrell said he could not authorize publication of the actual results until the county received the statewide summary from Raleigh, he did note that he was "pleased" with the results.

Ward called the scores the "best (test scores) I've seen in four years."

Scores showed a marked improvement in grades one through six, and then

began to drop somewhat in grades seven through nine.

Harrell announced that teacher allocations could not be figured until fiscal matters on both the state and federal levels were finalized.

"We still don't know how much money we're going to get next year," said Harrell. "I predict it will be the middle of July before we know (about state and federal budget cuts) and can make definite plans."

In other business, the board: \*learned that the summer migrant program had received a grant in the amount of \$28,000, and that the program would begin June 29 at the high school; \*approved a food service contract with the Olive Branch restaurant, which has agreed to provide lunches for students enrolled in the migrant program at a cost of \$1.75 per meal;

\*discussed capital outlay projects at the high school, including the addition to the gymnasium, and restroom facility improvements at the athletic field;

\*and finally, moved to buy a half page advertisement in the high school yearbook annually at a cost of \$50.

## Snakes

### 'Tis the season to be wary of those coiled, crawling creatures

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Late last summer a woman was sunbathing in a rubber raft along the Hertford waterfront when what she thought was a water moccasin decided to join her.

Needless to say, she wasn't tickled with the idea.

There have been other reports of water moccasins rushing towards people when alarmed. "They may not always be shy and retiring," said Jessie Perry, curator of extension programs for the North Carolina Museum of Natural History.

But Perry, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Perry of Hertford, has never had that experience.

He's happened upon poisonous snakes many times in his backwoods walks, and has even caught a few, but has never been bitten.

Still, Perry has heard enough accounts of aggressive water moccasins to believe that it may be a possibility.

"I wouldn't want to stay in water

where there was one," he said.

Snakes, however, won't always bite when they have the opportunity. Perry said he was doing some pruning on his father's grape vines on one occasion when he pulled back the leaves and saw a water moccasin coiled 8 to 10 inches from where his hand had been.

The opportunity was there, but it wasn't taken.

Most snake bites, Perry said, occur when a person steps on a snake, or during efforts to kill a snake.

"You can cut one in half and the front half can still bite," he said. "A snake can be mortally wounded and still live a long time."

Contrary to popular thought, water moccasins can bite underwater, Perry said, but they do it mostly to kill prey.

Lunch for a water moccasin might be

fish and frogs, or perhaps birds, turtles or little mammals, he said.

The sight of a snake's head popping out of the water sends a quick chill down the spine, but not all of them are water moccasins, said Perry. "There are many different kinds of non-venomous water snakes," he said.

For instance, those monsters that reportedly hang from the trees are probably not as dangerous as they look. "Almost all of the snakes you see drop out of trees are brown water snakes," Perry said.

Probably the best way to avoid getting bitten by a water moccasin is to avoid his habitat. "They generally stay back up in creeks and cypress swamps, areas with heavy vegetation," Perry said.

The snake likes to crawl out on a quiet bank to digest its food, he said.

Where to swim where snakes are not? "A bare, open beach would be a good safe bet," Perry said.

A bite from a water moccasin may not be as deadly as some people think, though Perry said a bite could be lethal if untreated but that it's generally not something to worry about too much.

Anyone who spends much time in snake infested areas, however, would do well to check the second edition of STANDARD FIRST AID AND PERSONAL SAFETY, published by the American Red Cross, for detailed instructions on treatment.

Among other things, the guide advises "Keep a snake kit handy for all outings in primitive areas."

If you're going for a nature walk in a snakey area, it's a good idea to dress the part. "I would walk anywhere in long,

loose pants and sturdy shoes," Perry said.

If the path is covered ahead, it's a good idea to carry a walking stick and probe ahead with it to frighten away any snakes that might be lurking in the underbrush.

Exercising a little caution is the best way to keep from becoming one of the estimated 45,000 Americans who are bitten by snakes each year. "You have to be careful," Perry said. "If you run around wild and barefoot the chances that you will get bitten are a great deal more."

Perry acknowledges that fear of snakes is one of the number one paranoias, and considers fear or respect for them to be healthy.

But precautions and common sense reduce the risk of snake bites considerably.

### This week

Band Day was a sweltering success — see page 2.

Hertford's reigning umpire fathered Babe Ruth baseball here — see page 3.

N.C. State researchers may have found a use for what were once throw-away peanuts — see page 11.

### Weather word

Warm and fair weather Thursday through Sunday, except for a chance of showers or thundershowers Saturday. Highs in the 80s, lows in the upper 60s to low 70s.

