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Bagley Swamp youth learn about hunger while raising money

It is hard for most Americans to imagine what it is like to go hungry. People here are lucky: the day-to-day problems of the great majority of Americans are nothing compared to the starvation that is the lot of millions of people elsewhere in the world.

Even in the worst situations, we usually don't have to consider starving to death as a possibility. Americans go broke, but they seldom go hungry.

For this reason, trying to show Americans the agony that starving people around the world suffer is difficult. Perhaps the best way to give people a glimpse of what it is like to

starve is to have them stop eating for a day or so.

That is exactly what the youth at Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church did last weekend, forgoing three meals from Friday to Saturday evening to gain an appreciation for the starving and to raise money to aid the people of East Africa.

Millions of people are starving in the East African countries of Somalia and Ethiopia due to drought and war between those neighboring nations.

An interdenominational Christian group called World Vision International has sought to help these people by raising money through what they call a "planned famine." Church groups are asked to go 30 hours

without solid food, receiving pledges from local individuals and businesses for each of the three meals the church group skips.

All of the money raised will go to feeding the East Africans, rebuilding their agriculture, and educating them in more modern means of agriculture. According to World Vision, \$66 will feed a family of four for more than a month.

In addition to the planned famine, other members of the congregation give money to the "Love Loaves," loaf-shaped banks used for small donations at each meal. Last year the Bagley Swamp congregation gave more than \$300 to World Vision, and according to pastor Danial LeRoy this

year's donation will be at least that much.

The atmosphere of the planned famine at Bagley Swamp is one of having fun while learning about the less fortunate. LeRoy planned every minute with activities for the 15 kids who took part in the marathon at the church. Along with the usual games of volleyball, ping-pong and frisbee to keep their minds off food, they watched films depicting the suffering in East Africa, and took part in games and skits which help them understand the plight of these people.

Wearing T-shirts that read "Let It Growl," the kids played the "Road to a Well-Fed Village Game," solved

"The Great Donut Crisis," and acted out the skit "How to Live on \$100 a Year." As the titles indicate, the program was light-hearted but instructive.

In addition, there was morning chapel and prayer time, the anxiously-awaited fruit juice breaks, and periodically the youths wrote down their feelings, a sort of diary of how they felt and what they learned.

"We do a lot of fundraisers," said LeRoy, "but I like the idea of doing something they we don't get any direct benefit from."

LeRoy hopes the planned famine will also give the church youth an appreciation of hunger closer to home. "I'm sure there are places within 20

miles of here that are bad. It's good to help people far away, but we shouldn't forget the places nearby."

And LeRoy sees larger issues of hunger for local people. While this country grows more than enough food to feed the world, economics makes it nearly impossible for farmers to sell their crops to the people who need it most. "Most of my congregation are farmers, and I'm kind of concerned about this moral dilemma facing farmers," he said.

LeRoy doesn't expect his church to solve the problems of the world, but they have contributed in a small way, and the understanding they hope to gain of these problems could go a long way to solving them.

Confiscated goods returned

The Hertford Police Department returned approximately \$8,000 worth of merchandise and \$1,100 in cash last Thursday to two Hertford men who had been accused of accepting the items — allegedly stolen — as payment for drugs.

The two men, Fred and George Harvey, were convicted of dealing in hard drugs in recent Superior Court hearings and are now serving time for their offenses. The items were confiscated during an early morning raid of their homes last October, where the two men and several others were charged with dealing in drugs and accepting stolen goods as payment.

According to court records, the charges of receiving stolen goods were dropped in preliminary hearing because the district attorney's office could not prove they were stolen.

Representatives from Thorton's

Furniture Co. in Elizabeth City identified some of the goods as items sold in their store, but because they didn't record serial numbers on their inventory, they could not prove that the items hadn't actually been purchased rather than stolen.

"We had a hard way to go on certain parts of the evidence," said Assistant District Attorney Michael Johnson. "We had a good idea who it belong to, but we couldn't prove it."

Once the items have been returned to the Harveys, it is very unlikely that any other charges concerning those goods would be pressed against them because they no longer have the evidence — the returned items — to make the charge stand in court.

The district attorney's office has pursued the matter further, obtaining a grand jury indictment against the Harveys for another charge, possession of stolen goods.

Four articles, three portable stereo cassette players and a carpet cleaner, were entered as allegedly stolen property on the indictments. The rest of the supposedly stolen goods have been returned to the Harveys by order of Judge J. Richard Parker.

But the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY has learned that the indictment against Fred Harvey may be ruled invalid because it charges him with possessing the same items George possessed. The items were recovered from George Harvey's house, not Fred Harvey's.

A ruling on the indictments won't come until the next hearing of Superior Court. If the indictment against Fred Harvey is ruled defective, it is unlikely a new indictment will be brought against him.

Johnson said that he did not believe the indictment would be dropped against Fred Harvey.



Rev. Stanley Nixon holds a sunrise service Sunday for the Snug Harbor Community Church at Snug Harbor Beach, one of several sunrise services held in the county.

Library has many things to offer

By SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Library will join libraries around the country in next week's observance of National Library Week, according to Anne McMullen Jones, librarian.

There will be no fines charged on overdue books from April 19-24, so return those late volumes to the library and save some money.

Although there will be no special programs to celebrate National Library Week, there are many regularly scheduled events to take advantage of at the library.

Story hour is held every Friday at 10 a.m. for preschool children (ages 3-5). On the second Friday in each month, "Miss Neptune" of the regional

library entertains with puppet shows.

"We like to see them come in young," Jones said. She estimated that 15-20 children enjoy story hour weekly.

On Thursdays, the librarians go out into the community, providing books and movies to shut-ins and to those in nursing homes.

Some children do not read during their summer vacation from school, so the library sponsors a summer reading program to "promote reading and the use of the library," according to Jones.

Rewards and certificates are given to those participants who read the most books over the summer months.

Parents reading to their pre-school children counts in the summer program, also. "We'd like to encourage parents to read to their preschoolers," Jones said.

Teachers may take their classes to the library to gather reference materials for school projects. The librarians can reserve books for them and are able to get references not available in the Perquimans library from other libraries in the Pettigrew region if the teacher will call well in advance.

The bookmobile, one of the library's older programs, is still in existence. Jones hopes to expand its routes in the near future.

"One interesting thing we have right now is the Historical Albemarle Tour slide show," Jones revealed. The presentation includes the Newbold-White house and has been viewed by several organizations, Jones added.

Any book housed in any library throughout the Pettigrew Region is available through a region-wide book loan plan.

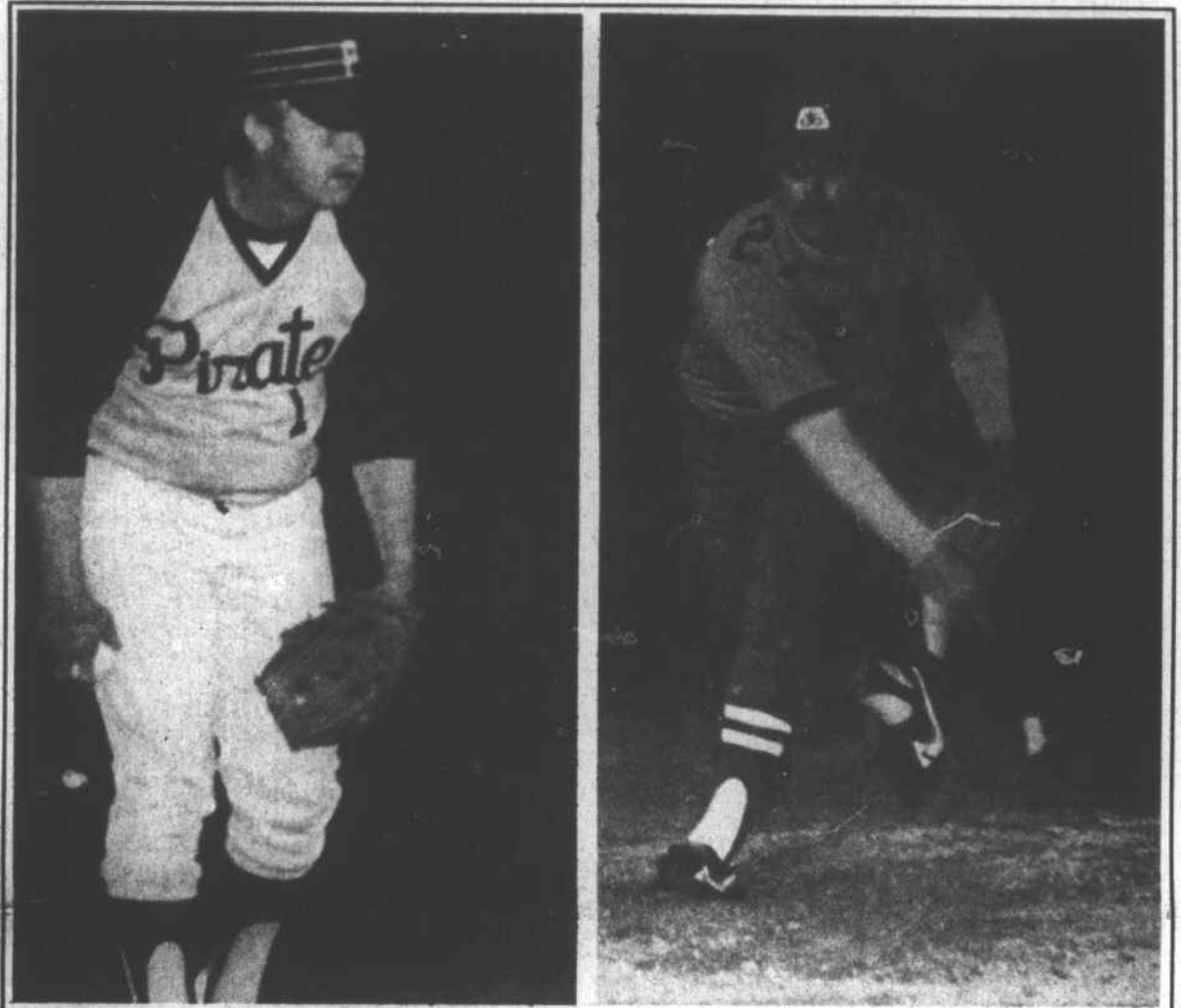
The library can obtain films for groups, and can also lend them equipment with which to view slides and films.

Jones stated that one of the most popular book types is popular fiction. These books are available in the library and throughout the county on the paperback racks located in various communities.

The number of patrons in the Perquimans County Library is outstanding for such a small county, Jones said. Last month, 1484 people visited the facility. The average is anywhere from 1200 to 1400.

The library opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday. It closes at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the library closes at 8 p.m. The library is open until 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

The library staff, Jones, Addie Keegan, Margaret Brewin and Elizabeth Thach, encourage all county residents to visit the library and see what it has to offer.



Pete (left) and Jimmy Hunter (right) on the mound during Friday's game.

A real baseball event

In what was probably the biggest baseball event around here in recent memory, the Perquimans High School Indians team of 1964 beat the 1982 Perquimans Pirates 5-2 Saturday night before a crowd of well over 800 people.

The big Easter holiday crowd had a chance to see former major league pitcher Jimmy Hunter pitch on the high school field for the first time since he led his team to the state playoffs in 1964. The game also had the air of a family get-together, as old-timers who hadn't heard much from each other, much less played together, for years settle down to the game they like best.

The scene after the game was almost as big as the game itself, as folks home for the holidays hung

around the ballpark to talk about this-and-that long after the game was over.

The best news about the whole thing is that the parties involved are planning to make it an annual event, perhaps closer to summertime and maybe with a pig-pickin' beforehand.

The high school made about \$800 off the event, the money to be used for the school's athletic program.

The young Pirates hit fairly well, considering what they were up against. The Pirates scored all of their runs in the first inning against Hunter, Melvin Coston doubling, John Winslow tripling to drive in Coston, and James Bunch reaching on an error to score Winslow. Percy Davis hit a single against Hunter in the seventh, while Scott Dizon doubled and

Doug White singled against Francis Combs, who relieved Hunter in the fifth and sixth innings.

Pirate coach Pete Hunter, who pitched the first four innings for his team, can think of one throw he would like to take back: a pitch his brother sent sailing over the right center field fence for a two-run homer in the first inning. He added two more runs in the third on a sacrifice fly that drove in Freddie and Francis Combs. The Indians added another run in the fourth on a single by John Stallings.

Jimmy Hunter struck out 11 batters in the game. Combs four. Pete Hunter had five Ks, and reliever John Winslow threw three in two innings, and Jim Underwood three strikeouts in the seventh.



Six young men (from left, Clint Winslow, Benjamin Waters, Jason Smith, Matt Hurdle, Jason Hurdle and Billy Bentley) anxiously await their turn to show their stuff at Buddy Hollowell (below right), and the first and second grade winners were Michelle Peede and Benjamin Waters (below left).



This week
County handicapped children hold their Special Olympics. Turn to page three.

Weather

Partly cloudy and warm through Saturday, highs in the mid-70s, lows in the low-50s

