

Pirates, Tigers recognize outstanding athletes at yearly award banquets. Pages 6 and 7

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 61, No.24

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, June 11, 1992

35 Cents

The week at a glance

June	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30					

By TRACY E. GERLACH  
The Daily Advance

## County rebels

Perquimans County is withholding payment of more than \$200,000 owed to the State of North Carolina because officials here believe the county should not be responsible for the bills. One of the bills involves \$193,000 worth of work performed by the state Department of Transportation four years ago to move county water lines during improvement work to U.S. Highway 17. The county is also being asked to pay \$32,000 to the state Department of Corrections for psychiatric care given to prisoners moved to the state system.

## Budget woes

A group of frustrated Perquimans County taxpayers approached the board of commissioners last week to ask them to reconsider the proposed tax rate. Despite a reevaluation process, which was hoped to reduce the tax rate by 50 percent, the rate is expected to decrease only 5 cents, from 77 cents per \$100 of value to 72 cents per \$100. Residents aired concerns about high taxes, tax breaks to farmers and areas in the county budget that should be reevaluated.

County officials, however, are blaming an almost \$500,000 increase in the 1992-93 budget on state and federal officials. Outside of state mandated programs, there were few increases in the county budget, according to County Manager N. Paul Gregory's annual budget address.

## Don Juan workers get second chance

United Peace Dye Works Inc., is currently involved in an on-the-job training program through the Job Training Partnership Act, which could put as many as 10 former Don Juan Manufacturing employees back to work. More than 150 employees were left without jobs as a result of mass layoffs at Don Juan last April.

## Future plans beginning to gel

Long and short term goals were established last Thursday in the final session of an almost 60-member planning committee set up to study the future of Perquimans County. A total of 23 goals were set and each was given a time frame in which to be completed.

And despite skepticism over whether a merger between the towns of Winfall and Hertford would ever gain public support, members of the planning committee set plans into motion to order a feasibility study of the proposed unification.

## School support down

Perquimans County dropped in its state ranking for financial support to local schools. The county was ranked 8th out of 100 counties last year in its overall effort to support schools. This year, the county ranked 34th. Despite the dip, Superintendent of Schools Randall L. Henion said the county is doing all it can to support local schools. He blamed the drop on a declining county tax base.

## Soil appears clean

Preliminary tests of soil surrounding two fuel tanks near the Perquimans County bus garage appear clean, Superintendent of Schools Randall L. Henion told the school board.

## Thatch sentenced to 25 years Monday

### Pleads guilty to voluntary manslaughter, drug charges

By TRACY E. GERLACH  
The Daily Advance

William Loyd "Hawk" Thatch, charged in connection with the 1991 murder of a Hertford man, was sentenced to 25 years in state prison Monday after pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter and two separate drug charges.

Thatch was arrested last July 18 for the murder of Joseph Richard Rogerson Jr. and three other times in the last year on drug charges.

Dressed in a white shirt and slacks, the 43-year-old resident of Meads Trailer Park, stood calmly next to his attorney Michael Johnson as he received his sentence. No witnesses were

**"I would feel a lot better if he would actually serve 25 years, but I know that he won't."**

Aubrey Sample Jr.  
Hertford Police Chief

heard or evidence presented in the case.

Superior Court Judge Napoleon Barefoot sentenced Thatch to 15 years for one count of drug trafficking and 10 years for sale of cocaine. The two sentences will run consecutively.

A 20-year sentence for voluntary manslaughter will be served concurrently with the

other two terms.

Monday's plea bargain resolves all charges against Thatch, Johnson said. Later this week, he will be transported from Albemarle District jail to a state prison facility.

Monday's sentencing also ends a year of waiting for Rogerson's family.

Rogerson's mother LaClaire Anderson said she was glad to

see the case come to a close.

"I'm just pleased that it's over," she said. "Our family's been through so much, to have it behind us is great."

Thatch was arrested Dec. 3, 1991 and charged with trafficking cocaine when Elizabeth City police found 28 grams of cocaine in the jeep in which he was a passenger. He was also one of seven men arrested on drug charges by the Hertford Police Department in September of 1991.

Hertford Police Chief Aubrey F. Sample said Monday he was satisfied with the sentence.

"I would feel a lot better if he would actually serve 25 years, but I know that he won't," Sample said.



William L. 'Hawk' Thatch

## Hobbs, Lavezzo lead class of '92 academically

Matthew Wallace Hobbs and Susan Jennifer Lavezzo lead the list of honor students who will graduate from Perquimans High School Friday evening.

Hobbs earned the highest academic average in his class and was named valedictorian. Lavezzo, whose average was second highest, will serve as salutatorian.

The two students have attended Perquimans County schools during most of their academic careers, and said they are glad they had the opportunity to be educated in a small school system.

"I like the school," Hobbs said. "I wouldn't want to go to a big school."

Lavezzo, who attended school in the Washington, D.C. area for one year, echoed Hobbs' sentiments. She cited knowing most of the student body and individualized instruction as two of the hallmarks of a small system.

The pair agreed that they have been well-prepared by the faculty at the high school.

"We've got plenty of good teachers," Hobbs said. "They've challenged me as much as I wanted to be (challenged)."

"Certainty at Perquimans is a good education," Lavezzo added. "The classes here have been challenging."

Lavezzo said the teaching staff is professional and dedicated.

"I think they (teachers) work really hard," she said. "They have a tough job. They're really dedicated to their jobs."

Lavezzo said that the diversified courses, including those added under the Tech Prep program, help students to make career choices. She said she found the offerings at Perquimans of good quality and diversity.

Hobbs will attend Princeton



Matthew W. Hobbs



Susan J. Lavezzo

University next year where he will major in civil engineering. He said he chose that field because he has a desire to see how and why things work. He added that engineering is logical and he believes he is well-suited to a field involving logical order.

Lavezzo will head to Duke University in August where she will major in political science. Her goal is to concentrate in international relations.

In 10 years Hobbs sees himself as a practicing civil engineer, and hopes to be able to locate in North Carolina, or at least in the South.

Lavezzo hopes to be working abroad for an American business concern.

While both see marriage and a family in the future, they said they choose to be established in their careers before embarking on that path.

Both had sound advice to give those students entering high school next year.

"Don't get upset if something doesn't go your way. Just try and do your best."

Department and Snug Harbor Community Church choir.

Lavezzo is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lavezzo. At Perquimans, she has been involved in Beta Club, Spanish Club, Math and Science Club, Student Council, Quiz Bowl, Drama Club and as statistician for the basketball and football teams. Last summer she attended summer school at Harvard University, taking courses in political science and economics. While her family was stationed in Jordan, she was class president, on the soccer and track teams, nominated to the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, participated in Model U.N. and was a member of the Music Club and jazz band. Her community activities include volunteer work and membership in the Hertford United Methodist Church youth choir.

Other graduation candidates who earned inclusion on the grand honor roll were Ruston Howell, Kaye Long, Barbie White, Stephanie Stallings, Tanya Kuno, Lynette Williams, Kim White, Wendy Hudson, Lisa Lane, Traci Harrell, Matt Hurdle, Jason Frank, Darlene Walton, Tammy Harrell, Malkia Brown, Tamika Robinson, Stacy Whitley, Bridget Twine and Stella Talmadge.

Serving as marshals will be Ryan Willis-chief, Dena White, Karen Stone, Michael Clinkscales, Angel Cartwright, Alex Chobot, Christopher Gregory and Ebony Harris.

Graduation is set for Friday evening at 8 p.m. at the Perquimans High School athletic stadium. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Walter Leigh.

## Board will sponsor summer meals

The Perquimans County Board of Education will participate in the Summer Food Service Program for Children. The program is available to all children 18 years or younger. Handicapped children over 18 years who participate in a school program are also eligible. All children will be served the same meals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicap.

Lunches will be available June 22-July 24, except Friday, July 3, at the following sites: Belvidere, home of Marian Frier-son-12-12:45; Chapanoke, Porter's Chapel-11:45-12:30; First Baptist Church-11:45-12:30; Holiday Island Park-11:30-12:15; Missing Mill Park-11:45-12:30; Snug Harbor Community Church-11:45-12:30; Southern Shores Park-12-12:45; Winfall, Ellis Temple-11:45-12:30 and Wynne Fork Courts-11:30-12:45.

Adults may purchase lunches for \$2. All meals are to be eaten on site. Serving times are subject to change.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write to: Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, 3101 Park Center Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22302.

For further information, please contact LaClaire Anderson at 426-5741.



D. Richard Tobin Jr.

## Tobin promoted

D. Richard Tobin Jr. has been promoted to senior vice president at Centura Bank in Hertford, where he serves as city executive.

A Bailey native, Tobin joined the bank in 1980. He received a bachelor of technology degree in Business Education from Appalachian State University. He is a graduate of the NCBA Mid-Management School of Banking at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tobin is business chairman of the Perquimans County American Heart Association, a director of the Albemarle Area Development Association and the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Hertford Rotary Club.

Tobin is married to the former Amy Eason of Wilson.

## Marshals chosen

Eight students at the top of the freshman, sophomore and junior classes will serve as marshals for graduation Friday evening. In order to be selected as a marshal, students must earn the top grades on their grade level. This year's marshals are (left to right) Alex Chobot, Michael Clinkscales, Ryan Willis-chief, Christopher Gregory, Angel Cartwright, Ebony Harris, Dena White and Karen Stone.



Photo by Susan Harris