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PHOTO BY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN, THE DAILY ADVANCE

Lady Pirates (left to right) Brenna Lothian, Kimberly Stallings and Amber Curles watch as their teammates fight to the finish against the top-ranked Lady Redskins of Roanoke in the East Regional Championship game Saturday in Greenville. Perquimans fell, 54-41, but not without giving Roanoke a great ball game. Perquimans earned the runner-up title.

Lady Pirates are No. 2 in the East

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The rollercoaster ride that has been the Lady Pirates season ended Saturday. The final stop was a sudden jolt, but the ride was the most exciting a Perquimans basketball team has ever taken.

The Pirates were what some might have called unlikely participants in the circus known in basketball circles as March Madness. They dropped both their games in the Daily Advance Holiday Basketball Classic in December. They must have set a record in taking games down to the final second. They lost to No. 1 conference finisher Camden after completely dominating the first half and tallying a 16-point lead. They lost to Williamston after a dazzling come-from-behind drive that fell one-point short when two free throws were missed with no time remaining. They lost to Gates in the game's final seconds. They were knocked out of the conference tournament in the second round.

Then the Lady Pirates' second season began. The team that seemed destined to lose the glass slipper during regular season suddenly became Cinderella.

On March 4, Perquimans defeated Creswell, 43-29, in round one of the state playoffs. Two days later, the team



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Lady Pirates had tons of home-town support Saturday at the Eastern Region Semi-finals. Coach Tanya Turner said her team's fans, like her team, are great.

would knock off Northhedcombe, 54-29, in round two. On Saturday, March 9, the ladies erased the ghosts of losses past at North Pitt High School to become Perquimans' first sectional champions with a cardiac 30-29 win over Gates County. Back in Greenville on Wednesday, the Lady Pirates won again, 35-33 over Pamlico, to remain one of only four teams left alive in 1-A girls basketball in the state. After four wins, the Lady Pirates finally ended the season with a 54-41 loss to No. 1 ranked Roanoke in the state semi-finals. Perquimans now holds the title of East Region Runners-Up, the number two 1-A team in the eastern half of the

state. The team did not go quietly.

After falling behind 14-0 five minutes into Saturday's game, the Lady Pirates put nerves aside and showed Roanoke that getting to the 1-A Final Four wasn't just a fluke. The gutsy hoopsters from Hertford played even with the Lady Redskins, who were making their third appearance in the semi-finals in as many years, the rest of the way. But Perquimans could not overcome Roanoke's initial run.

"They could have folded," Perquimans coach Tanya Turner said of her team. "That shows the guts my girls have. The guts and determination and heart they

have. They didn't want to leave this game embarrassed and I don't think anybody can leave this game saying we didn't give them a game. My girls have nothing to hang their heads about."

Freshman Dysheba Jennings led the Perquimans offense with 12 points, most collected on shots over the head of Roanoke's huge center. Senior Stacy Caswell scored nine, including a three-pointer. Celena Sheard and Danita Whidbee tallied six each; Kristie Roberson, five; Alison Boone, two; and Michele Thomas, one.

Whidbee, a junior, was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Please see page 6 for more Lady Pirates coverage.

Winfall sewer system gets favorable nod

By JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance and
SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The public hearing on the proposed sewer system in Winfall last Wednesday night should have answered many of the questions residents have about the system, and hopefully quelled the rumors.

While Eugene Boyce said he has clean well water and a working septic tank, he believes the sewer system will benefit the town.

But he, like many of the 40 Winfall residents who crammed into the town's fire station for the hearing, had questions about the \$4.2 million project.

"We've got people living with privies and with bad soil who haven't been able to afford better septic systems. How are they going to afford this," Boyce asked.

Sherri Williams echoed Boyce's concern, asking if Winfall's "great percentage of people on fixed incomes" will be able to afford the sewer system's initial hookup cost and \$19.25 minimum monthly charge.

Mayor Fred Yates, whose primary political and social goal for the town has been finding a way to build an affordable sewer system, responded to residents' questions.

"Yes, it's mandatory that you'll have to hook up," he told Boyce. He also told Williams that there is consideration being given to elderly residents and those on fixed incomes who need help paying the hookup cost.

"We found out there is a program through Farmers Home Administration that will pay for hookups for people who have incomes less than \$10,000 to \$12,000," Yates said.

Yates also confirmed rumors that the section of town known as Old Winfall is being considered for free hookups. That's because the \$850,000 Community Block Grant monies Winfall receives from the state Department of Commerce requires free hookups for citizens identified as low- and moderate-income.

"I can't sit here tonight and tell you that I can pay for your hookup. But my goal is to get everybody in this town hooked up for free. I've just got to start some place," Yates said, referring to Old Winfall.

Even if some residents have to pay the estimated \$75-\$125 hookup cost, the town won't require payment all at one

time, Yates said. He said the town can allow payments to be made over a period of time.

Yates also reminded residents that the minimum monthly charge has been dropping steadily as new grants were secured. When Yates took on the project, the monthly cost was \$33, now it's \$19.25.

Yates said the project should not impact ad valorem taxes because the sewer system would be self-supporting.

"Your taxes will not go up, because like your water system, user fees will pay for the system," Yates said. "The minimum charge is \$19.25, but the more you use (over 2,000 gallons), the more you will pay."

Years of Yates' looking at every possible avenue to pay for a sewer system have yielded huge financial rewards. The mayor has been able to secure \$3.7 million in grants, which represents 88 percent of the projected project cost. Monies will come from the Department of Commerce, Rural Economic and Community Development program (formerly Farmers Home Administration) and the Rural Economic Development Center.

The rest of the \$4.2 million project will be paid for with money borrowed from the sale of municipal bonds, if voters approve the sale by referendum on May 7. The town will need to borrow about \$500,000. The Local Government Commission has qualified the town to borrow up to \$1.8 million, based on its financial health.

Bucky Moore, the town's project engineering consultant, also tried to reassure residents that the town will be able to pay back the borrowed funds.

"The Local Government Commission has to approve any sale of bonds," Moore said. "As overseers of the project, they are not going to let the Town of Winfall sell bonds they can't pay for."

Moore estimated construction on the sewer system could begin by early spring of 1997 if voters approve the referendum May 7. He said it should take 10-12 months from that point to complete the system.

Yates also put an end to rumors that building the sewer system would require the town to add an affordable housing complex for low-income people. "That is nothing but rumor," he said. "This sewer system can go in the ground tomorrow and (there wouldn't) have to be any more houses built here."

Morris takes top honors at PAL show

Outside

An appreciative audience viewed the Perquimans Arts League's premiere Members Show and Sale at the event's kick-off reception Friday evening at the Perquimans County Library.

Over 70 items, ranging from paintings to photography to needlework to jewelry, are available for show and sale through April 15.

The three judges deliberated for hours over the quality fine arts submitted by PAL members before hanging ribbons on the winners.

Bear Swamp artist Linda Morris captured the Best in Show designation for her acrylic titled Sunflowers.

Earning honors were: Drawing - F-15 Eagle, Kevin Jacot, first place; Two Moons, Kathy A. Johnson, second place. Watercolor - Indians!, Rebecca France, first place; Petunia Faces, Marie Lynn Stuart, second place; Quiet Contemplation, Rebecca France, third place. Acrylics - Sunflowers, Linda Morris, first place; Ebb Tide, Doris Grubbs, second place. Oils - Perquimans Morning, E. Duffield, first place; Arizona Sunrise, Pat Seaman, second place; Compassion, Doris Grubbs, third place. Photography - Silence, . Oltman, first place; Passing Time, J.E. Taylor, second place; Miles to Go, John V. Matthews Jr.,

third place. Crafts - Sanderlings in Flight, Erik VandeBogart, first place; Chippendale Chair, Benjamin Hobbs, second place; Nantucket Basket, Julie Ottesen, third place; Silver Ring, Barbara Gustafson, honorable mention. Fiber - Jewel Box, Ruth Kemp, first place; Magnolia Welcome, Eda VandeBogart, second place; Pillow #2, Sadie Sue Ferguson, third place; Owls, Charlotte Bunch, honorable mention.

All visitors to the show may cast a ballot for the People's Choice Award. The show is being hosted by the county library, and those who wish to view it may stop by during regular hours.

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 50s	Low: 30s	High: 50s	Low: 30s	High: 50s	Low: 30s
PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY	