

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

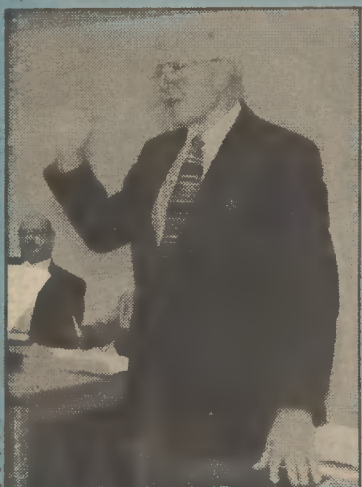
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Bert Hayes is county's newest commissioner. What do you do?

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Worship in Perquimans will return next week on page 5

Perquimans County an All of Us Care Community

April's theme:

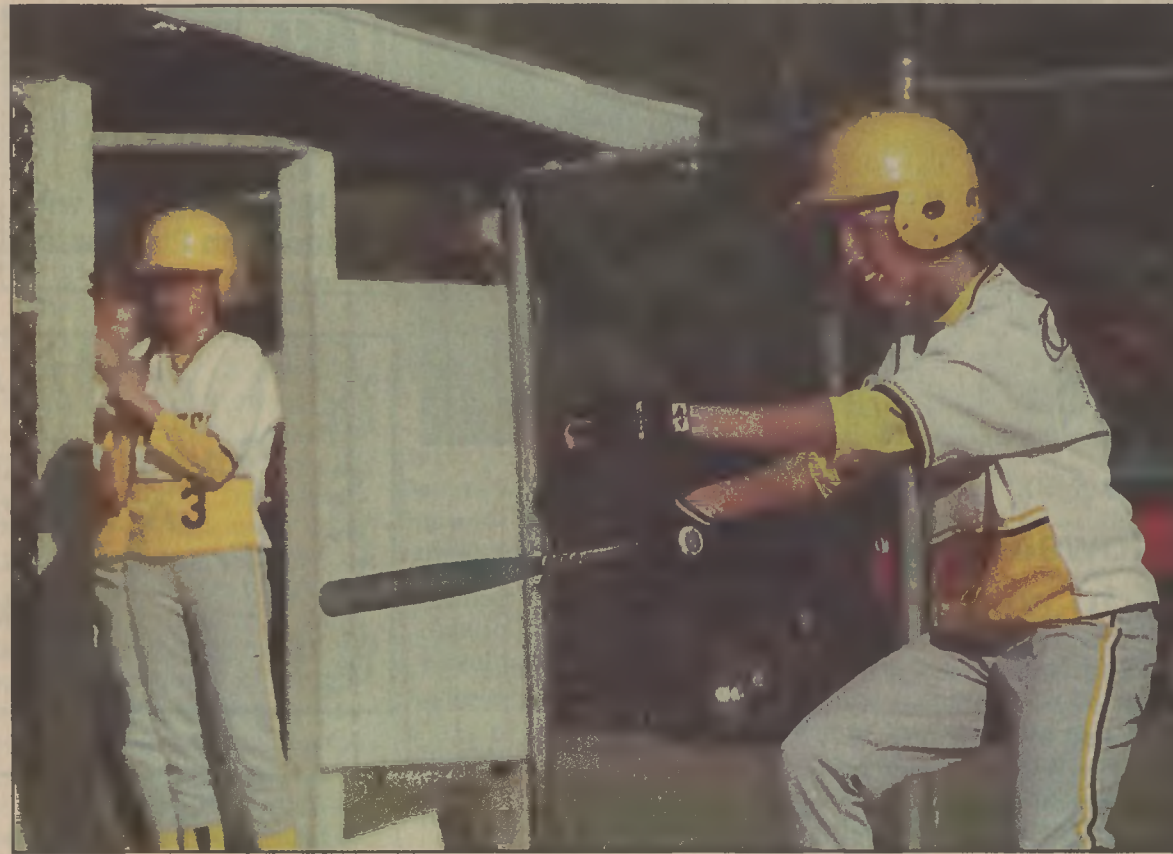
Value and enjoy our environment focusing on

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Conserve resources

Incorporate these Healthy HABITS into your daily life and help make our community a better place to live!

For All of Us Care information, contact Dr. Randall L. Henion, Perquimans County Schools 426-5741

DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND



DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO

Perquimans infielder April Owens runs to first base as pitcher Ingrid Higgins looks on from the dugout during Friday's game at Camden. Both the softball and baseball teams suffered losses to the Bruins. For sports information, please turn to page 7.

Perquimans student wins national poster contest

Bryan Nixon gets trip for three to Florida

A Central School student earned a trip to Sea World in Florida with his winning entry in the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's national "Save the Reef" poster contest.

Bryan Daniel Nixon, a 9-year-old third grader, created the winning poster at the kindergarten through third grade level. His poster accurately depicted many animals that depend on the coral reef for food and lodging.

"This poster was visually stunning and the text contains important messages from the animals' perspective," commented Martin Kratt, co-host and co-creator of the award-winning PBS children's wildlife series "Kratts' Creatures." "It is their home and we humans should be careful to keep it safe."

Nixon's poster was submitted to the National Contest as the regional winner from the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

When he's not attending school or doing homework, Nixon enjoys reading, "Goosebumps" books, drawing and practicing his ventriloquist act.



Bryan Nixon, a third grader at Perquimans Central School, recently won the grand prize in the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's national "Save the Reef" poster contest. His poster was won of over 5,000 submitted nationally.

Nixon is the son of Dan and Ann Nixon.

"We are so proud of him," Ann Nixon said last week.

The family is also excited about the grand prize trip for three to Sea World. They are waiting for trip details.

Thirty-seven zoos and aquariums in North America from Hawaii to Bermuda sponsored regional poster contests to introduce elementary school students to the plight of coral reefs. Regionally, over 5,000 individuals posters were entered; 2,000 of those were from Hawaii. The regional winners were submitted to the

National Contest and were judged in early April by a panel representing the environmental, media and conservation communities.

The "Save the Reef" contest is just one of many activities that have been designated to create public awareness of the plight of the coral reefs during 1997, the International Year of the Reef.

AZA was founded in 1924 and currently represents 180 zoos and aquariums in North America. Its mission is to support membership excellence in conservation, education, science and recreation.

Goose Nest Lane primed for water

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

One year after Goose Nest Lane property owners kicked off a concentrated effort to get county water in the subdivision, a spokesman told county commissioners the group is primed to accept the county's financing offer.

"The bottom line is we are ready to do the water line. ... We are committed to the project and we are reay to accept

your 50 percent offer that's on the table to us," said Goose Nest Lane property owners spokesman Vern Hammons during April's county commissioner's meeting.

Hammons said 11 of the community's 29 property owners attended a meeting recently and each committed \$1,000 to help pay for water line installation. He said four more have indicated they will pay \$1,000 each. Property owners out of the area have been sent certified letters asking for \$1,000 each by the end of April, Hammons said.

The funds are being requested so that the group can accept an offer issued by the county in September regarding extending county water lines down Goose Nest Lane. In a September letter sent to Goose Nest Lane property owner William Beck, the county offered to pay one-half the cost of installing water lines to the community. Engineer Bill Diehl estimated the cost of installing water lines in April 1996 at \$35,000, which includes engineering services of \$3,500.

Hammons said one of the Goose Nest property owners is a certified engineer and has offered to perform site work at no charge to help contain the cost of the project.

Commissioner Mack Nixon expressed concern that the cost of the project may have risen since September, based on development projects with which he has been involved over the past few months. A building contractor and developer, Nixon said he has seen the cost of installing water lines rise by 20-25 percent in some areas recently.

"We want to give you the water at 50 percent just like we offered," Nixon said, adding that he wanted to make sure the property owners understood that material costs may have risen since the September estimate.

The commissioners voted to

move ahead with the project if Goose Nest property owners present the county with a check representing half the projected cost of the project by the commissioners' May 5 meeting. The commissioners also asked county manager Paul Gregory to review the project cost estimate with Diehl immediately after the April meeting to see if Diehl projected any significant price increases. The subdivision residents were told they would be responsible for raising half of Diehl's new projection.

Subdivision residents have until May 5 to submit their half of the \$37,500 water project to the county.

Gregory said this week that Diehl recommended raising the estimate to \$37,500 to accommodate any price increases.

In addition to paying 50 percent of the cost of installing the water lines, each property owner will be responsible for a tap fee, which is presently \$450.

Later in the meeting, the commissioners approved a new policy regarding the extension of county water lines. In the future, if funds are available, the county will pay 50 percent of the total costs of extending water lines to established subdivisions platted and recorded prior to Oct. 2, 1978, not including tap fees, but will not pay for any lines on private property. The policy will go into effect on May 6 and will invalidate "all previous offers, options, quotes, etc." on that date.

The October 1978 date was placed in the policy because it was the effective date of the revised subdivision regulations adopted by the commissioners. The regulations address the installation of water lines to residential developments.

The new policy could make it significantly more expensive for Goose Nest Lane residents to get county water should they not be able to raise the \$18,750 they must deliver to the county by May 5 because 4,245 feet of the 10,755 feet of water line required to service the community must be laid on private property. If the deadline passes and the matching funds are not presented to the county, the residents would be responsible for paying 100 percent of the costs of installing the 4,245 feet of water line and related requirements such as hydrants, if deemed necessary by the county's engineer, on private property.

Health agencies to vacate county buildings

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

The Perquimans County commissioners approved a resolution on April 7 that could result in more space for county employees.

The board okayed a resolution allowing Albemarle Mental Health and P.P.C.C. District Health Department to own 3.5 acres of land behind the Albemarle Commission building. The resolution paved the way for the entities to buy the land and build offices.

With the mental health and health departments in a new facility, county departments could move into county-owned buildings presently occupied by the two agencies, one on

Grubb Street and one on Charles Street.

County manager Paul Gregory said when the agencies move, he will recommend that the Department of Social Services move into the former health department headquarters on Charles Street. This would allow all DSS employees to be back under one roof. It would also allow the county to stop renting office space to house some DSS employees in Winfall at a cost of about \$800 per month.

Gregory will also recommend that the building inspector and economic development director move into the Dobbs Street offices presently occupied by DSS.

These are the only changes in department locations Gregory said he could foresee recommending to the county commissioners for their approval in the immediate future.

The county manager said the two health agencies have already gained the approval of their boards to build new offices. Both have recently constructed new headquarters in Camden County, and Gregory said officials with both agencies told him they will probably build similar offices in Perquimans.

The county had at one time anticipated building offices at the Church Street Extended location to ease overcrowding.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 60	Low: 40	High: 60	Low: 40	High: 60	Low: 40
CHANCE OF RAIN		CHANCE OF RAIN		DRY	