

The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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Perquimans County
an
All of Us Care
Community

June's theme:
Get out of a rut

All of Us need a little change to get out of a rut. Write that long overdue letter or make phone calls to folks you haven't spoken with in a while. Try something new. Start that project or stop that bad habit. Get involved in a new organization or activity in our community. Plan a new adventure. Take a different route to work. Check out a library book or an unfamiliar subject. Try something that you haven't done in a long time. Stop and smell the flowers. Take a walk along the river or go fly a kite. Visit someone who could use some company.

For information, contact
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County budget projects no tax increase

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Perquimans County taxpayers will pay the same tax rate they have paid for the last four years if the Board of Commissioners approve the budget presented to them Monday by county manager Paul Gregory.

"The FY 1997-98 County Budget can be viewed as representative of our Current Economic Climate, we have only 3 percent unemployment, a strong economy and this is the fourth consecutive year

with **NO COUNTY TAX INCREASE.**" Gregory wrote in his budget message to commissioners.

Gregory stated that the budget is strong and carefully planned.

"Every department, agency and/or unit deriving funds from the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners has been thoroughly reviewed and in many cases, planned for a mid-year Budgetary Review," Gregory wrote.

Ad valorem taxes are based on county property assessments of just over \$4.61 mil-

lion. At a tax rate of 78 cents per \$100 valuation with a collection rate of 94 percent, the county anticipates bringing in over \$3.38 million in ad valorem revenues.

There is some good news in the county social services budget. Gregory stated that due mainly to the Work First Program, the county's financial requirement for social services program has decreased. AFDC funding will drop by \$19,000. Special assistance to the aged and disabled will be decreased by \$10,000. Although Medicaid will increase by

\$20,000, Gregory said that increase is significantly less than in past years.

A 3 percent across-the-board salary increase for all county staff is included in the budget, along with one-step merit increases for up to one-third of the county staff.

The budget includes the purchase of a new ambulance to take the place of the oldest one presently in service, minor renovations at the extension building, and a new base station at the Winfall Communications Tower.

"Perquimans County is

moving forward in a very positive direction," Gregory concluded his budget message.

"Financially, the county is sound. With continued progressive leadership and everyone being of 'one mind' to make Perquimans County the 'Best That It Can Be,' we will do just that."

A public hearing on the budget is set for Monday, June 16 at 7 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room. Prior to the hearing, a copy of the proposed budget can be reviewed by contacting Gregory at the county manager's office.

Lady Pirates are state championship-bound

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

They're going to Raleigh. For the second time in as many years, the Lady Pirates are one of only four 1-A teams statewide to earn a slot in the state slow-pitch championship tournament scheduled for this weekend at Walnut Creek in Raleigh.

Entering the playoffs as the No. 4 seed out of the Albemarle Conference, the expectations weren't so high for the team with a 7-5 record. The relaxed atmosphere worked wonders for Perquimans.

"When it comes to playoffs, everybody is 0 and 0," said Lady Pirates head coach Karen Booker. "We were a No. 4 seed. The pressure wasn't on us, it was on the other teams."

"I told the girls to go out and have fun and play the best you can. We were just happy to be in the playoffs. We weren't expected to win. We weren't expected to do anything and without the pressure, we started to play like we should play and you know experienced teams play well in the playoffs."

Play well Perquimans did, knocking off three higher seeded teams to earn the championship berth.

With Midway and Roanoke in the win column, only conference champions Williamston stood between the Lady Pirates and Raleigh. On Friday, Perquimans used an early lead and solid defense to take a 4-1 win against a strong Lady Tiger squad.

With bases loaded and no outs in the first inning, clean-up batter Tiffany Baker sacrificed to score April Owens. Next batter Kim Stallings sent a three-base blast to deep right to score Mindy Roberson and Amber Curles. Millicent Whitehurst followed with a sacrifice to score Stallings. The Tigers fell in order in the bottom of the inning.

In the third, Williamston mounted its first offense chal-



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Lady Pirates celebrate their 4-1 victory over a tough Williamston team in round three of the state playoffs Friday. With the win, Perquimans earned the right to advance to the state 1-A softball championship tournament in Raleigh this weekend.

lenge. Two singles and a bawled grounder loaded the bases. With the ball coming from the outfield to Whitehurst at shortstop, the runner on third stepped off the base as if headed for home. Whitehurst faked to home and tagged the unsuspecting runner at second who had stepped off the bag toward third. The next batter flied out to end the inning.

"She's (Whitehurst) done that four times in the playoffs," Booker said of the fake to home.

Again in the sixth Williamston threatened to rally. Starting the inning with its No. 1 batter at the plate, Williamston used a single, a walk and a second single to

score one run and put runners on first and second. The clean-up hitter sent one to right field. Perquimans' Stallings caught the fly ball and sent a bullet to Kesha Harrell at third, picking off the baserunner attempting to advance on the long ball. A one-out, two runners in scoring position situation was knocked out from under the Lady Tigers. The inning was put to rest on a fly ball.

The Lady Pirates were not finished flexing their defensive muscle. In the bottom of the seventh, the first Williamston batter singled and was held at first when left fielder Amber Curles caught a fly ball and quickly got the ball back to the infield. The third

batter sent a line drive just above ground level back to relief pitcher Tiffany Baker. Baker turned her body, made a back-handed catch and calmly threw the ball to Roberson at first. Not sure whether Baker had trapped the ball or caught it, Roberson tagged the bag and the runner, who stepped off the base toward second, not sure whether to stay on first or go to second.

Both teams and benches froze for an instant until the plate umpire shouted, "That's the game." Baker was on her feet just a few more seconds before being swarmed by her team as the large contingent of Perquimans fans cheered.

Unlike last year when the Lady Pirates were undefeated

in the Albemarle Conference and were expected to be big contenders for the state crown, expectations for the 1997 team—playing both slow- and fast-pitch ball—weren't so high.

"I think they are really getting to savor this one," Booker said. "The first time around everything was so busy and so crazy and so pressure. The kids and coaches are really getting to appreciate this one more than last year because it's so hard to get back. There are some really good teams that never make it once."

Perquimans will face Jamesville at noon Saturday in round one of the double-elimination state championship tournament.

Hertford Lion receives most prestigious state award

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

He spent his career in education, but the most important lesson John Biggers has probably ever taught is the example of service to the community he has set.

In recognition of his many years of community service through the Lions Club, Biggers was presented with the Jack Stickley Fellow Plaque on his 90th birthday, March 20. The Stickley Fellow is the most prestigious award given by the North Carolina Lions Foundation. The award

was presented by Luther V. Creel, president of the North Carolina Lions Foundation at a special meeting in Hertford.

"Congratulations," Creel told Biggers. "You have been made a Jack Stickley Fellow. Your interest in your community, your devotion to the betterment of mankind, and dedication to the principles of Lionism are sincerely appreciated by all who know you."

"As a Jack Stickley Fellow, your name will become a permanent part of the records of the North Carolina Lions Foundation, and you will be so

recognized at many future meetings of the Foundation. Wear your Jack Stickley Fellowship pin with pride so that all might be reminded of the accomplishments of this great Lion."

Biggers became a Lion in 1946 when he joined a club in Greenville. He transferred to the Hertford club in 1948, when he accepted the position of superintendent of Perquimans County Schools. He served as president of the club in 1952, and treasurer for 42 years, a job he still holds.

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Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 70s	Low: 60	High: 70s	Low: 60	High: 70s	Low: 60
PARTLY CLOUDY		PARTLY CLOUDY		MOSTLY CLOUDY	