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Perquimans County an All of Us Community

September's theme: **Have patience and listen**

Hopeline fights domestic violence

Albemarle Hopeline joins other agencies nationwide this month to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Every nine seconds, a woman in this country is abused, according to Hopeline. Domestic violence fills emergency rooms and morgues, contributes to juvenile delinquency and destroys families. About one-third of the children who witness battering demonstrate significant behavioral and/or emotional problems. Of adolescent boys who commit murder, almost two-thirds murder the men who were beating their mothers. To report a case of abuse in your own family or in another family, call Albemarle Hopeline at 338-3011. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days each week from trained volunteers.

Lieutenant governor visits Hertford

Wicker presents awards for area civic group

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker traveled to Perquimans County High School Saturday to present 17 community activism awards on behalf of the Eastern North Carolina Civic Group during the organization's 21st annual banquet.

Wicker was introduced by state Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety William Dudley.

"I just want to let you know that I've examined him (Wicker) and what I've seen had been good," Dudley said. The secretary characterized Wicker as a family man who believes in community service, faith in God, and has a vision for North Carolina. He has a desire to make a difference in the lives of children,

Dudley said.

Wicker said he believes in what he coined "the North Carolina promise." The promise is that if you focus on your strengths, recognize your weaknesses and work hard to overcome those weaknesses, North Carolina will give you every opportunity to succeed.

Wicker said he understands the value of a good education, especially after spending his childhood working on his family's tobacco farm. He said the importance of a good education is one reason the state must pay teachers well and in exchange hold them to high standards.

Wicker also said the state needs to look at the condition of some school buildings and help fund capital projects.

"Surely to goodness if we can find the money to build prisons in this state, we can find the money to build schools," he said to applause.

Wicker touted the importance of technology in the classrooms and safe schools. He said he introduced an ini-

tiative recently to get drugs and alcohol out of the state's schools, focused at the middle school level. In the last decade, drug use is up 500 percent in North Carolina, he said. This year, the state's schools have already suspended numerous students for drug violations.

He said the initiative will give special training to teachers and principals on dealing with youth drug use. Today's youth will become tomorrow's drunk drivers, drug addicts and prison residents unless action is taken now, he said.

Another part of Wicker's North Carolina promise is to strengthen the community college and university system to give North Carolinians the resources they need to succeed economically.

"We must make sure the promise is fulfilled," Wicker summed up his comments.

The lieutenant governor then presented the community awards on behalf of the civic group. Among the recipients was Estelle Felton of Perquimans County, president



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County resident Estelle Felton receives a community service award presented by Lt. Governor Dennis Wicker on behalf of the Eastern North Carolina Civic Group.

of the local NAACP, and a dedicated volunteer in both church, civic and school programs in the county.



The Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates have kicked off a busy October, chocked full of performances. In September, the group performed at four home football games and the annual Perquimans County Indian Summer Festival.

October busy for PCHS band

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

October will be an especially busy month for the award-winning Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates Band.

The 92-member group began the month with a performance at the PCHS open house on Oct. 1.

Two competitions are scheduled for the Marching Pirates. Saturday, the group will participate in the Peanut Festival in Edenton. Two weeks later, the band will compete at the Colonial Classic in Washington. Perquimans has brought home numerous awards from both competitions over the years.

The band has been invited to participate in homecoming festivities at both Elizabeth City State University on Oct. 11 and East Carolina University on Oct. 25.

October will end for the Marching Pirates with a special halftime performance during the annual PCHS homecoming game.

Already this season, the band has performed at four home football games and at the annual Indian Summer Festival in downtown Hertford.

October schedule

- Oct. 1:** PCHS open house
- Oct. 4:** Peanut Festival
- Oct. 11:** ECSU homecoming
- Oct. 18:** Colonial Band Classic
- Oct. 25:** ECU homecoming
- Oct. 31:** PCHS Homecoming

1997 is a milestone year for the band and director David Ziemba. Ziemba came to Perquimans County in 1977 to begin an instrumental music program. Since that time, the Marching Pirates have earned numerous awards and honors at competitions, festivals and parades for their outstanding performances up and down the East Coast.

They have performed at Disney World, the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day parade, and the presidential inaugural parade for George Bush, among other places.

This year's show is titled, "A 20-Year Celebration." Included in the program is music that has been an

important part of the band's history.

The opener, "In The Stone," is from 1983, the first year Perquimans was named Band of The Day in competition. "On Broadway" was part of the 1982 show, the year the band won its first First Place in Class honor. The drum solos goes back to 1989 when the band was honored with its invitation to the presidential inaugural parade.

The show closes with "I'll Be There," made famous by Michael Jackson and the Jackson Five.

Audiences at both football games and the festival indicated their positive response to the 1997 show with applause and cheers.

The band is sporting some new instruments this season, including percussion and brass equipment. Band Boosters spent \$35,000 replacing aging instruments.

Senior Summer Warden is serving as drum major this season. She earned grand champion designation at drum major camp at Wake Forest University this summer. Understudies Justin Beamon, Kim Stallings and Natasha Vlasaty also attended the camp. All four Perquimans students earned superior ratings.

Flu shots can stop needless deaths

Flu, pneumonia 5th leading causes of death for elderly

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

Senior citizens in the Albemarle area are dying needlessly.

"Pneumonia and influenza is the fifth leading cause of death in the Albemarle area older adult population," said Virginia Bailey of the Perquimans County Health Department. "Although many of these deaths can be prevented by vaccinations, these potential killers continue to pose a major health problem."

Bailey added that senior adults are more likely to develop life-threatening illnesses from pneumonia and influenza than the general population.

The PPCC District Health Department will participate in Senior Vaccination Sunday on Oct. 12 as part of a statewide campaign to prevent deaths from these diseases. In Perquimans County, clinics will be held at the senior center, and New Hope and Bethel fire departments from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Arrangements have been made with Medicare Part B so most Medicare consumers will have no out-of-pocket costs for the vaccinations. Those taking advantage of the clinics should take their Medicare cards to the sites.

For information, call Bailey at 426-2113 or Jill Jordan at PPCC District Health Department at 338-4483.

What started the program

In 1995, more than 2,400 North Carolinians died of influenza and pneumonia, of whom 88 percent were age 65 or older. Many more had to be hospitalized due to complications or more serious illnesses arising from the flu.

Yet, among people age 65 or older who are covered by Medicare Part B, only 45 percent of whites and 22 percent of African-Americans got flu vaccinations that year. Less than 30 percent of all adults over 65 received pneumonia vaccinations.

In 1996, the Division of Health Promotion, Medical Review of North Carolina and a coalition of 40 organizations and agencies launched the state's first campaign to increase the rate of influenza and pneumonia immunizations among people age 65 and older. On Nov. 3, 1996, nearly 55,000 vaccinations were given on Senior Vaccination Sunday across the state.

The shots do not cause influenza or pneumonia and are very safe and effective with few side effects. Health officials say the risks from the diseases outweigh any reaction to the shots.

Outside

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
High: 70s	Low: 60	High: 70s	Low: 60	High: 70s	Low: 60
DRY		DRY		DRY	