

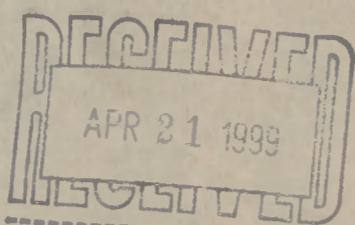
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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



35¢

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Strother's 'Beautiful Morning' helps sell the county

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

In Perquimans there will always be a "Beautiful Morning."

The song, written by Jon Strother, is a reflection of Perquimans County, of who lives here, of what the community is about. The Chamber of Commerce is banking that the song will be a hit with local residents. The group is producing cassettes and CDs of the song.

To further localize the musical endeavor, the Chamber is sponsoring a contest for the cover jacket. Original art and photographs which reflect the words and spirit of the song may be submitted. The winner will receive credit on the jacket.

Entry forms may be obtained from the Chamber office in Hall of Fame Square or the county library. Entries will not be accepted without forms. The entry deadline is May 1.

BEAUTIFUL MORNING

Words and Music by Jon E. Strother

It's a beautiful morning, the sun is peekin' a smile
As the geese take to calling, silhouettes in the sky.
And neighbors are waving, where cotton is king
While the wind on the river, plays a sweet melody

It's a place called Perquimans
The land of beautiful women
The place that we call home

Can you hear the crowds cheering, as the bat meets the ball?
See the Pirates' band marching, over one-hundred strong.
As the Plantation duffers, strolling down seventeen,
See where ospreys have nested...hear the mockingbirds sing (*)

(Key Change at * up one-half step)

It's a beautiful morning
It's a beautiful morning
It's a place called Perquimans
The land of beautiful women,
The place we call home

There's a new day a dawning, can't you feel it inside?
Take a look all around you, with your eyes open wide,
There are people of interest, and places to see
We're a quilt-top of patchwork, sewn in humanity.

It's a place called Perquimans, the land of beautiful women
And best of all, it's the place we call home...

It's a beautiful morning....
There's a new day a dawning....
It's a beautiful morning....

THE BUTLER DID IT, SINGING



PHOTO BY SUSAN R. HARRIS

The Perquimans County High School drama classes recently presented their annual spring musical performance "The Butler Did It, Singing." Cast members included Billie Simmons, Heather Harris, Sarah Knehr, Matt White, Kyle Lawrence, Michael Rowland, Orbel White, Noel Shannonhouse, Kevin Jacobs, Lindsey Ferrell, Jean Simmons, Scott Jacobs, Holley Long, Ashley McCleary and Melissa Terranova. The play was directed by Lynwood Winslow, PCHS drama and chorus teacher. Instrumental accompaniment was provided by Kaye Long at the piano, Chris Whitehurst on percussion, saxophonist Peter Eure and trumpeter Lee Thach.

Work First funds distributed

The N.C. Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Public Transportation Division has distributed \$984,550 in Work First funds to 96 counties across the state. Funds allocated to Gov. Jim Hunt's Work First program are helping move North Carolinians from welfare to work by aiding in temporary transportation needs. Perquimans County received \$3,070.

"Transportation is one of the greatest challenges facing welfare recipients seeking a job," said Gov. Hunt. "That's why it is so important that communities work together to develop innovative transportation projects to get Work First participants to and from their jobs. We need to do everything

possible to make sure every able-bodied welfare recipient is working or in job training."

The Work First funds are part of \$1.75 million in state funds allocated over the past two years to meet transitional Work First and general public employment transportation needs.

The funds are used by local departments of social services and community transportation systems to provide continued employment transportation for Work First participants following the termination of cash assistance. Low income and other individuals who do not receive Work First assistance also are eligible for employment and related transportation needs.

"One of the department's

priorities is helping community officials find transportation for Work First participants," said Transportation Secretary Norris Tolson.

"Transportation is the vital link that connects people with jobs and employers with workers."

Last year the N.C. General Assembly appropriated \$1.75 million for Work First and employment transportation assistance as part of the transit bill that included the recommendations from the Transit 2001 Commission.

The \$1.75 million allocation included \$750,000 for demonstration transportation projects for

Work First participants. Funds are allocated to all 100 counties.

Crime victims get help from SAVAN

Richard Moore, secretary of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety (CCPS), and Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright recently announced the arrival of SAVAN, the Statewide Automated Victim Assistance and Notification system in Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates, Currituck, Chowan, and Camden counties. The system gives victims of crime round-the-clock access to information on the status of the offenders who victimized them.

"In the past, victims have

had to rely on good-hearted jailers or court officials to remember to call them when an offender got out of prison," said Secretary Moore. "With SAVAN, victims have 24-hour-a-day access to the most up-to-date information available about offenders."

Moore and Cartwright were joined in the announcement by Perquimans County Sheriff Ralph Robinson and other area officials. Pasquotank, Perquimans and Camden counties share the Albemarle District Jail in Elizabeth City.

With the SAVAN notifica-

tion system, victims can take precautions to protect themselves from potentially dangerous offenders who might otherwise show up announced.

SAVAN makes information available about offenders in any county jail or state Department of Corrections facility anywhere in North Carolina.

Computer terminals at each facility relay offender information to the SAVAN call center in Louisville, Ky., within 15 minutes of a jail or prison official entering the updated information.

Property owners face 12 percent insurance hike

Average costs will go from \$578 per year to \$647

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Perquimans County property owners could see up to a 12 percent increase in their homeowners insurance due to a settlement reached recently between Insurance Commissioner Jim Long and the insurance industry.

The average statewide increase is 4.3 percent. Homeowners on the barrier islands will see a 20 percent jump. Counties lapped by the ocean or sounds will rise 12 percent.

The heart of the state - except for Wake, Durham and Orange counties - were approved for a 10 percent hike. The Triad rates will only go up 5 percent, even though the three counties are completely surrounded by the area approved for a 10 percent increase.

The price of an HO-3 policy on a frame home valued at \$130,000 will go from \$578 per year to \$647.

The insurance industry originally requested rate increases averaging 15.6 percent statewide. The territory increases requested ranged from 1.7 percent for Greensboro and Winston-Salem to 50.3 percent for Bladen, Columbus and Robeson counties. The industry's request for the territory including Perquimans was 28.5 percent.

That would have increased premiums in the sample policy from \$578 to \$743. Long said the negotiated settlement will save the state's homeowners \$78.5 million in premiums.

"Since the last rate increase in 1993 2 percent, North Carolina insurance companies have paid out more than \$1.8 billion in storm damage claims," said Long.

"We realized that an increase was inevitable. However, I'm confident that my department has done an outstanding job by keeping a careful balance of protecting the consumers with fair insurance rates yet still maintaining the solvency of insurers who do business in this state."

Most companies write homeowners insurance at discounted rates - rates below the

maximum set by the Department of Insurance. Recently, however some companies have been reducing the discounts they offer, thus lending to the perception by policyholders that rates have increased since 1993.

"Obviously, we don't like to see anyone's insurance rates go up," said Long. "But our main concern for those counties along our coast is convincing insurance companies to write these essential homeowners policies in eastern North Carolina."

"It is vital to the state's economy that our citizens east of I-95 be able to find an insurance company willing to write those coverages which are necessary for home loans," Long added.

Of the 164 insurers licensed to sell coverage in North Carolina, less than 30 companies are actually writing business along the coast.

For those homeowners who are not able to find coverage through the voluntary market, insurance can be purchased through the Beach Plan. Created in 1967 by the General Assembly, the Beach Plan is funded and operated by the insurance industry.

All insurers who write property insurance in North Carolina are required to participate in the plan.

"This facility which was intended to be an insurer of last resort, now writes a majority of the policies along the coast," said Long.

"When the plan suffers excessive losses, it assesses its members to make up the difference.

"Policyholders of the Beach Plan may have coverage, but unfortunately they pay more than double what the average homeowner does for insurance coverage.

The Department of Insurance is working hard with the industry and the legislature, to ensure that fair and proper coverage is offered to all North Carolina citizens.

In addition to the rate settlement, the Department of Insurance has ordered the insurance industry to advise their policyholders that flood coverage is not offered on a homeowners policy.

Insurers must include notification that protection from flood damage can only be obtained with an additional policy through the national Flood Insurance Program.

Weekend Weather

Thursday

High: 80s Low: 60s Partly Cloudy

Friday

High: 80s Low: 60s Partly Cloudy

Saturday

High: 70s Low: 60s Chance of Rain