

Congratulations, seniors

Page 4

Honor students

Page 7

Senior activities

Page 10

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## Liverman tapped for PCMS AP post

SUSAN R. HARRIS

More changes at Perquimans Middle School were approved by the school board Monday.

Jamie Liverman was named the school's assistant principal effective July 1 and Linda Mewborn will move into the position of instructional specialist on July 31.

Instructional specialist



Jamie Liverman

Sandra Hooker, counselor Margie Lane and language arts/social studies teacher Teresa Wheeling all resigned effective June 4.

On May 19, the school board accepted the resignation of middle school principal John Dublin, who had served only one year of his two-year contract, and hired Melvin Hawkins to fill that slot.

The board also re-assigned assistant principal Lisa Mills Perry to a math teaching position, although it has not been determined at which grade level she will serve.

Liverman earned his B.S. in education from Elizabeth City State University in 1996 and his masters in school administration and supervision from East Carolina University in 2003.

He has served as a special education teacher.

Over the last year, Liverman has worked under the supervision of principals and assistant principals at the high school, middle school and Central School as a North Carolina Principal Fellows intern.

He believes in high expectations for students and staff, and that a shared vision and collaboration enhance student learning.

"I will promote the success of all students by acting with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner," Liverman said.

Mewborn earned her bachelors degree from Elizabeth City State University and her masters from East Carolina University. She is certified to teach K-6, and also holds academically gifted certification and is a peer coach. She is a National Board certified teacher.

She is currently enrolled in the George Washington University administrative degree program pursuing a certificate of advanced studies.

## GRADUATION NIGHT



Members of the class of 2003 turn their tassels during commencement exercises at Perquimans County High School Friday night.

## 98 graduate from PCHS

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Ninety-eight students at Perquimans County High School earned diplomas Friday night during the school's 78th commencement exercises.

Class salutatorian Megan Lynn Stallings gave the graduation address.

"When I first began thinking about what I wanted to say tonight, things that I have learned while in high school came flooding back into my memory," Stallings said. "...The things that you will remember the most when you look back on high school one, five, or even ten years down the road will be the relationships you formed, the tears you cried, and the happiness you experienced."

Stallings outlined the top 10 things she learned during her four years at PCHS: give compliments freely, get involved, it's okay not to take life too seriously, be a real friend, stand up for your beliefs, tell your parents you love them, don't let society dictate who you are, find a mentor, love someone and listen to your teachers.

"Go out and make the most of the opportunities given to you, and when you see none on your horizon, go out and create your own," she concluded her speech.

Stallings also used her time at the microphone to pay tribute to her father, Dwayne Stallings, who was also her high school principal.

"Over the past few years, I've had a lot of people ask me, 'What's it like to have your dad as the principal?'"

Stallings said. "I have always replied, 'I love it.' And it's true.

"For the past three years, I feel that I have been very blessed to have my dad serve as our principal," she continued. "Being a high school principal is not a job just anyone could handle. It takes dedication, persistence and a very level head...."

"My dad has always been an inspiration for my life, but I know that I am not alone in that. If you have looked to my dad for a positive inspiration at any time, you can attest that he motivated or inspired you.

"His strong faith and love for each student makes him strive for excellence in both his personal and professional life."

The farewell address was presented by Erin Christine France, class valedictorian.

France said she had always wondered why adults said high school years are the best years of life.

"I think I understand now why it's said," she said. "They don't remember it correctly; they don't remember the headaches and heartaches and disappointments as clearly as the successes, friendships and optimism. This is exactly what I wish for the class of 2002: Remember the good times, forget the bad...."

"I doubt anyone will remember what's I've said in five or ten years; some of you might not even remember what I've said tomorrow, but that's okay. I hope that all of you can look back on high school in a few years and think 'Yeah, high school was a pretty good time in my life' regardless of whether you can say it

## County tax rate may rise

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans County boasts a lower ad valorem tax rate than any of its neighbors.

And it will even if county commissioners approve the 2 cents tax hike recommended by County Manager Paul Gregory.

In his budget message to commissioners Monday, Gregory said that the county has not raised its tax rate in eight years, and actually lowered it two years ago against Gregory's recommendation.

But keeping the tax rate low, coupled with capital projects and loss in revenues over the past three years, has stressed the county's fund balance. Gregory said.

The county must by state law keep 8 percent of its annual budget in its fund balance. Last year, commissioners were able to budget for over \$1 million to be moved from the fund balance into the budget. But the fund balance has decreased to the point that only \$250,000 can be moved for next fiscal year.

Perquimans' present tax rate is 61 cents per \$100 valuation, while Chowan's is 69 cents; Camden's, 75 cents; Gates', 81 cents; and Pasquotank's, 86 cents. Gregory recommends that Perquimans go to 63 cents, still lower than any of its neighbors.

There are no new capital projects in the proposed \$9.66 million budget.

Gregory recommended that the schools receive an additional \$100,000 in capital outlay funds. The system lost about \$35,000 in state low-wealth money last year because of the state formula for dispersing funds which takes into consideration that the tax rate has not risen in the county and that the county has not increased its funding to the schools.

A public hearing on the budget will be held on June 16 at 7 p.m. The budget is on review during business hours at the county manager's office.



Michelle Rogers, James Caddy and Josh Lassiter perform "I Hope You Dance" at graduation.

now or not."

Class members Michelle Rogers, James Caddy and Joshua Lassiter played and sang, "I Hope You Dance."

In addition to Stallings and France, honor students Jay Rountree, Kimberly Rucker, Gena Harrell and Joshua Lassiter had parts on the program.

Principal Dwayne Stallings announced that the class had received \$262,475 in one-time and renewable scholarships. Next year, he said, 51 percent of the graduates will be enrolled in a four-year college or university and 33 percent in a two-year program. About 12 percent enlisted in the military and the other four percent will go directly into the workforce.

## Middle school holds promotion exercises

SUSAN R. HARRIS

One hundred sixty eighth graders officially became high school freshmen last Wednesday when the middle school held its annual promotion ceremony.

Todd Tilley, chief magistrate of Perquimans County, presented the promotion address.

Valedictorian Callie Guthrie presented the farewell address, while salutatorian Caitlin Shotwell introduced the speaker.

Honor graduates Keisha Wynn and Cody Gregory also took part in the program.

Music was provided by eighth graders Sydney

Baggett, Shalonda Fletcher, LaShona Hunter and LaToya Garner, as well as the eighth grade band.

Principal John Dublin recognized the grand honor roll for the class. Earning inclusion on the honors list were Guthrie, Shotwell, Gregory, Wynn, Kelsey Copeland, Starla Newton, Alyson Rose, Christopher Forbes, Jasmine Bryant, LaSandra Kee, Heather Perry, Brian Frierson, Tonishelle West, Jennifer Harris, Bailey Tilley, Anniessa Overton, Justin Gray, Paul White, Daniel Eaves, Kyle Formo, Takeshia Johnson and Kaela Lester.

Seventh grade honor students assisting with graduation were Mary Allen Guthrie, Jessica Lewis,



Eighth graders file into the gym at Perquimans County Middle School last Wednesday to celebrate their promotion to high school.

Kelli Lassiter, Candice Gregory, Antrone Burke, Nixon, Eric Rountree, Faith Everett and Clarice Brandon Miller, Tamara White.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 76  
Low: 58  
PM T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
High: 75  
Low: 58  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 77  
Low: 66  
ISOLATED T'STORMS