

Reducing allergies in the yard

Page 4

Raise the Praise comes back

Pages 7

Track teams sprint to win

Page 8

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PCHS principal, senior project honored

Two North Carolina Association of Community Educators awards were recently accepted by Perquimans County Schools staff.

Hans Lassiter was awarded the 2004 Rex Whittington Community Education Award by the association. NC-ACE President Rita Roy commended Lassiter on his ability to foster professional excellence among community educators; his involvement in and dedication to the objective of community education among community leaders; and his ability to foster special contributions of volunteers in support of community education.

"I have implemented what I refer to as the Pillars

of Success program at Perquimans High School, which invites the community to take full advantage of the local high school," said Lassiter.

The primary emphasis for the 2003-2004 scholastic year was to maintain the standards of academic excellence. PCHS has enjoyed steady academic growth as measured by performances on state end-of-course testing.

During the fall semester, Lassiter held the first-ever State of the School meeting where the Pillars of Success were revealed to the community.

In keeping with the desire to involve parents and community friends and neighbors in the affairs of school, a first-

ever and annual Community Visitation Day was held in March. Parents were able to walk about campus and along hallways during the instructional day to see first hand the job that faculty, staff and students were doing. Parents ate breakfast and lunch with students, and observed them as they received instruction.

Lassiter's motto is that the schools belong to the people of the community. He makes an effort daily to make Perquimans County High School an inviting and pleasant place to be.

The question remains, as Lassiter sees it, "Where does school end and life begin?" Lassiter believes there is no distinction between them and that



PCHS Principal Hans Lassiter and schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter accept awards from the North Carolina Association for Community Educators.

school should be a place used freely and informally for all the needs of the living and learning.

Lassiter also accepted a second award on behalf of the students and staff at the high school for the out-

standing senior project program which currently exists. Although the senior project is not a graduation requirement statewide, Perquimans County High School believes that the benefits are too valuable to ignore and does require students to complete a senior project.

Roy commended Lassiter for setting the standard across the state of North Carolina by requiring the senior project.

"By its very definition, civic responsibility means taking a healthy role in the life of one's community," Roy said. "That means that classroom lessons should be complemented by work outside the classroom. NC-ACE commends students in Perquimans County for their efforts."

Old Timers event expands

May brings Mother's Day, and all diamond fans in Perquimans County know that Mother's Day Weekend brings the annual Old Timers event.

A full day of fun, food and competition has been planned by the Perquimans County Athletic Boosters this year for Old Timers Day.

Old Timers softball will get underway at 10 a.m. on May 8, with two teams of former PCHS players returning to the field. The contact person for those wishing to play is Kristie Roberson Thach, 264-5382.

The first pitch in baseball will also be thrown at 10 a.m. when two teams of players from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s face off.

At 11:30, two teams from the 1980s and 1990s will play.

Players will take a break and test their fence-finding skills in the homerun derby from 1-3 p.m. Proceeds from this event benefit the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

Then at 3:30, the winner of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s team will play the 2004 JV team. At 5:30, the winner of the 1980s and 1990s team will play the varsity team.

Contacts for the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s teams are Pete Hunter and Tommie Dale, 297-2255. Contacts for the 1980s and 1990s teams are Matt Hurdle, 264-6103 and Todd Hunter, 426-7180.

Captain Bob's will be catering barbecue plates from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

The Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation will have a tent set up raising money during the day.

All-day admission is \$3, and everyone will pay at the gate, including players. Gate proceeds are used by the Athletic Boosters to support athletic programs at the high and middle schools.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED



Perquimans County Schools honored outstanding individual and organizational volunteers during the system's annual Volunteer Awards Banquet last week. One special volunteer from each school was invited to sit at the head table (above). Among those recognized was Clifford Winslow (left), noted for his long-term commitment to public education and a generous donation to jump-start the Public Schools Foundation.

Schools note importance of volunteers

If the school system is the machine that keeps public education moving, volunteers may be the grease that helps the machine move more easily.

For their efforts to assist in the schools, many volunteers were recognized at the school system's annual volunteer recognition banquet last Tuesday night at the high school.

The evening began with representatives of each school recognizing a Volunteer of the Year at each school.

Honored were Julie White at the high school, Dr. Alan Thoprne at the middle school, Cassie Spruill at Hertford Grammar, and MaeBelle Leigh at Central.

White is a substitute teacher who often works at

the high school, and volunteered to assist teachers as a substitute around the holidays with no pay.

Thorne was noted for his help with special needs students and teacher support at the middle school. He is so committed, he evens calls in when he can't be at the school.

Every Thursday for six years, Spruill has visited Hertford Grammar to read with students. Some students feel so close to her, they call her "Grandma."

In addition to driving a bus full-time and substitute teaching, Leigh volunteers her off-duty hours to help with reading, assisting with special projects and working with students one-on-one.

Superintendent Ken Wells presented Business

and Community Awards. Wells recognized Susan Harris of The Perquimans Weekly, Leo Higgins of the 2020 Vision Coalition, Barbara Gustafson of Communities in Schools, Clifford Winslow of the Perquimans County Public Schools Foundation Inc., Dr. Jack Boone and staff for Give Kids a Smile Day, Dr. Robert Earl Lane and staff for providing sports physicals, Rev. Landon Mason for leadership with the Ministers' Council, and Hattie Sharp of RHEMA Ministries. He also noted that Captain Bob's Restaurant has provided numerous donations and assistance.

PCHS student Lacey Reames provided entertainment for the evening in music.

COA to offer weapons of mass destruction preparedness

Grant monies will fund training pilot

College of The Albemarle's Corporate & Continuing Education Division was recently awarded a \$30,000 Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism Training Development grant to fund a continuing education course for public health professionals. One of six institutions awarded a grant in the state, COA will use the funds to develop and launch a pilot course to provide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Preparedness training for public health professionals particularly those in rural areas.

"The events of September 11, 2001 have proven that in times of crisis or attack, individuals seek assistance at local facilities they consider health-related."

Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, COA VP

The provision of grant funds allows the awarded institutions to test coursework and structure a WMD Preparedness class that meets the needs of a particular community. For COA that entails designing a course to meet the needs of a large geographical area with a relatively small pop-

ulation. The proposed course will offer train-the-trainer instruction so that a cadre of trained professionals will increase the preparedness and response capabilities in such a large geographical and rural region.

Awarded by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, the grant enables COA to develop a course that, if

successful, may serve as a model for training in other rural areas.

"The college is committed to the education and training of our workforce," said Hurdle-Winslow, "when state/local funds do not cover the need, we will actively seek outside funding sources. I appreciate the help of the grant partners to help the college secure critical training dollars."

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 76
Low: 55
SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 77
Low: 61
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 76
Low: 58
ISOLATED T'STORMS