

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PIRATES FUMBLE AWAY GAME TO RAMS/P. 7

"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

35 cents

SAT scores for PCHS fall 13 points

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Fewer Perquimans students took SAT tests last school year and those who did received lower tests scores.

According to the 2009 figures released last week by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, only 37 Perquimans students, or 38.9 percent, took the tests. Those students averaged 478 on math and 445 on critical reading, for a test total score of 923.

In 2008, 53 students at

Perquimans High School (PCHS) or 51 percent took the nation's leading college entrance exam, scoring 480 in math, 456 in critical reading, totaling 936. In 2007, 62 students or 52.5 percent took the tests, scoring 485 in math, 440 in critical reading, totaling 925.

DPI says the scores reflect the most recent SATs taken by public and private school graduating seniors in 2009.

Local school officials point out that the number of students taking SATs reflects only the students who take the test while juniors at

PCHS. Some local students take the tests while sophomores don't retake it the following year. Sometimes, students may also wait and take the SATs during their senior year instead.

"Consequently, although these students have tested, it doesn't show up on the official SAT report," said Brenda Lassiter, public information officer. "We need to have more of a focus on students taking the SAT as a junior (rather than a sophomore or senior) to get a true picture."

While the SAT is not a re-

PCHS SAT Scores

	2009	2008	2007
# of students	37	53	62
Percentage taking test	38.9	51	52.5
Math	478	480	485
Critical Reading	445	456	440
Math & CR	923	936	925

SOURCE: NC DEPARTMENT OF INSTRUCTION

quired test, it is one taken by college-bound students.

Participation statewide is around 63 percent. Across the nation, the SAT participation rate is 46 percent. North Carolina's average score is 1,006. The national average

score is 1,016.

Perquimans students' math scores have fallen each year since 2007.

In addition to reading and math, the SAT also includes a writing component although it is not usually reported as

a part of the combined SAT scores. Perquimans students scored 429 in writing in 2009, 423 in 2008, and 433 in 2007.

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings says the PCHS administration is committed to supporting the efforts of those students who plan to take SATs and encourage others to take the test if they plan on attending a university.

"In the past, they have also encouraged students to take the ACT as a preparatory requirement for entrance

See SAT on Page 9

Mayor's panel addresses utilities

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Participants say the first meeting of a mayoral commission created to open discussion on the town's utility costs was both productive and educational.

The 13-member Mayor's Commission on Utilities met Aug. 25 with all appointed members attending except one, Town Manager John Christensen said. The group discussed various issues regarding the town's utility costs, the town's participation in Electricities, and concerns from local residents who protested high utility bills a few weeks ago.

A group of residents calling themselves HELP (High Energy Low Pay) picketed in front of the municipal building last month and then addressed members of town council Aug. 10, complaining of high utility bills after the town cut off electricity to dozens of residents for non-payment. The commission was created afterwards to help both sides understand problems, the ins and outs of utility costs and collections, and to promote conservative utility usage.

"It was a good open discussion," said Christensen. "There are always a few

See UTILITIES on Page 9

Fit to a 'T'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 1945 Perquimans County High School football team was the first high school team in the region to use the "T" formation.

PCHS '45 squad first in area using the 'T'

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

When the local high school football season starts each year, players eagerly take the field after weeks of hard practice, learning new plays, and honing individual skills.

Sixty-four years ago, however, the 1945 football squad for Perquimans County High School (PCHS) started their season with a secret weapon.

The local boys surprised their opposition when they switched their offense from single wing to the previously unknown "T" formation. PCHS's use of the "T" formation is believed to be the first time the offensive formation was used in this region.

"We scored before they even knew what was happening," re-

"I never hit the ground so hard in all my life. All I could see was black with stars twinkling. He asked me how I was and I said I was alright. He said if I could survive that, I could survive anything."

Cecil Winslow

recalling being tackled by a 250-pound Navy man

membered 83-year-old Dan Berry, who ran the formation as halfback against opposing teams. "You could tell by their reaction to the play that they didn't know what was happening. I don't think we lost a game."

Max Campbell, a former editor of The Perquimans Weekly, volun-

teered to coach the team as well as the boys basketball team during World War II when teacher-coaches went into service. Charlie Skinner, a local historian who wrote a weekly column for The Perquimans Weekly back in the 1980's, remembered in his writings that Campbell was introduced back then to Lieu-

tenant Andy Pilner, a Navy officer stationed at the time at what was known then as the Harvey Point Naval Air Station in Perquimans County.

Pilner was an All-American for Notre Dame, Skinner wrote, who showed the local boys how the "T" formation worked. Playing for the Fighting Irish, Pilner is credited with bringing the Irish offense alive in the second half to win 18-13 over the Ohio State Buckeyes in 1935 in what was termed the greatest football game of the century.

"He brought five boys from Harvey Point to work with us," Berry said. "They were on leave every weekend, so they came and worked with us. It wasn't bad. The "T" formation was very simple. We

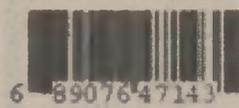
See FOOTBALL on Page 9

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 84 LOW: 69
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 86 LOW: 70
SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 58 LOW: 70
SUNNY



6 89076 47143 5

Unemployment rate decreases in July Resident pays bill but has no sewer

The unemployment rate for Perquimans County dropped .1 percent in July, according to figures released recently by the state's Employment Security Commission.

In July, 575 people out of a workforce of 5,472 were unemployed giving the county an unemployment rate of 10.5 percent. The county's rate was 10.6 percent in June.

Statewide, unemployment rates dropped in 59 counties in July, increased in 29 counties, and remained the same in 12.

"Employment growth

was modest in many of our counties in July," said ESC Chairman Moses Carey Jr. "The coastal counties traditionally experience rate decreases due to tourism and the need for summer workers. The rest of the state has not had as much summer hiring compared to previous years, but there was enough to drop the rates in more than half of the state's 100 counties."

North Carolina had 48 counties which were at or below the state's unadjusted unemployment rate of 11.1 percent.

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

For years, Tommy Jones has paid water and sewer bills for a property that doesn't even have water and sewer in the house.

Jones purchased the property located at 110 Edenton Road Street in 2000, and has been paying utility bills on the property until the service was cut off back in October 2008. The house has no bathrooms, no sinks, no water or sewer inside at all, he said. The house does have a water faucet outside.

Town Manager John Christensen said a town employee inspected the house Friday and confirmed that there

was no sewer service in the building at all. The town will reimburse Jones for three years of payments, he said.

"That's the town's policy," Christensen said. "We can't go beyond three years."

Jones says he told town officials right after he bought the property that the house did not have sewer service. No one would listen to him, he added.

"They just kept telling me that if water's going in, sewer's coming out," he said. "They charged me a lot of money for services they didn't give me. It's like being robbed without a gun."

Finally, at last week's Mayor's Commission on Utilities meeting, someone finally lis-

tened. Christensen said Jones spoke about his property at the Aug. 24 commission meeting. A town inspector visited the house on Friday.

Jones will be reimbursed for charges occurred from September 2005 until October 2008.

Jones showed a print-out of his utility charges dating back to August 2004.

"That was as far back as they could go," he explained.

Charges on the print-out show Jones was charged more than \$800 in sewer charges during that time-frame.

Contact Cathy Wilson at cwilson@nccox.com

Swindell Funeral and Cremation Services Traditional • Cremation
509 Dobbs St, Hertford Green Funerals • Biker Funerals
426-7311 Veterans Funerals • Pre-Arrangements Over 57 Years of Service to the Community