

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JUNE 29, 2011 - JULY 5, 2011



Former PCHS standout Pettaway is excited about her future at Clemson, 7

50 cents

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2011

Commissioners pass budget, tax rate hike

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners passed a \$12.2 million general fund budget Monday night that includes a two-percent increase in the ad-valorem property tax rate.

Officially a 6-0 vote, commissioners approved raising the tax rate from 42 to 44 cents per \$100 valuation.

Commissioners Tammy Miller-White, Ed Muzzulin, Janice Cole and Sue Weimar cast the yes votes

with Ben Hobbs and Mack Nixon not voicing a vote, which, by board policy, equates to a yes vote.

County Manager Bobby Darden, in his earlier budget message, said even with the tax increase, Perquimans would still have

a very favorable tax rate compared to other counties in Northeast North Carolina.

Darden said the new tax rate would up the typical county homeowner's taxes by about \$35 annually.

Only one person spoke

during Monday night's public hearing.

Alan Barnes, a senior citizen from the Snug Harbor area, said his income has gone down so he tries to live within his means.

"What is your plan to live within yours?" he

questioned the board.

He voiced concerns over paying higher tax rates on property that was last reassessed when real estate saw its highest peak values.

See BUDGET, 4

HURRICANE DRILL: BE READY



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Hertford and county officials work together during a hurricane tabletop exercise in preparation for hurricane season, Thursday night.

Prepare for loss of public services

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

If there was one overall message heard during a hurricane preparedness tabletop exercise for emergency management officials here Thursday night, it was this: Residents need to be ready to evacuate the county when officials give the order.

If not, be prepared to take care of yourself with no public services for five to seven days.

Nearly 100 representatives from a variety of agencies, organizations, fire departments, and local government officials converged on the Albemarle Commission to work through a make believe scenario depicting a hurricane hitting Perquimans County after first making landfall on the Outer Banks, then making its way up the Albemarle Sound to Hertford.

Each group of participants ranging from certified emergency response teams in subdivisions to nursing homes to Harvey Point to county officials were asked to work together to determine what actions would be taken if such an event ever occurs.

Participants were encouraged to respond as if involved in a real life event.

"With the weather events we've



Michael Cartwright, with the Intercounty Fire Department (left), and Jimmy Spivey, of Durants Neck Fire Department, discuss how fire departments will conduct search and rescue efforts following a local hurricane.

heard about across out nation in the recent months, weather events are certainly on everyone's minds," said Christy Saunders, emergency management coordinator from Pasquotank County who helped facilitate the drill.

"This exercise is to remind us of what is in our plan and how we would

respond," added Ashley Stoop, preparedness coordinator for Albemarle Regional Health.

Local firefighters, who are charged with the responsibility of first clearing paths to sites of destruction and

See HURRICANE, 8



THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

A memorial for Miles Shipman was placed near the site of the June 22 fatal vehicle accident that took his life on U.S. Highway 17 Bypass in Elizabeth City.

Holiday Island child killed in U.S. 17 accident

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A 10-year-old Holiday Island boy was killed last Wednesday afternoon when the vehicle he was riding in overturned after swerving to avoid a farm tractor on U.S. 17 Bypass in Pasquotank County.

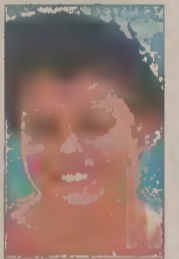
According to the N. C. Highway Patrol, Miles Shipman, of West Island Trail, was ejected from the 2000 Ford Explorer driven by Kimberly Johnson, 39, of Virginia Beach. Six other people, including Johnson, were injured and taken to area hospitals.

Police say Johnson was traveling south on the bypass when she encountered a farm tractor ahead of her in a curve. Johnson swerved to miss the tractor and then overcorrected, the patrol said. The Explorer flipped over and came to rest upside down off the roadway.

The large John Deere tractor was driven by Eddie Cartwright and was displaying proper slow-moving equipment placards, police said.

On Monday, state police charged Johnson with misdemeanor death by vehicle in connection with the accident. She faces an Aug. 18 date in Pasquotank County District Court, Trooper J.N. Wood said.

Wood said Johnson also is charged with driving with a revoked North Carolina driver's license and also noted Johnson was driving with a suspended Virginia driver's license.



Shipman

See ACCIDENT, 8

Schools seek waiver for teacher workdays

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools will keep their 2011-2012 school calendar as planned despite a new state law that requires students to add five more instructional days during the school year.

Members of the Perquimans Board of Education voted Monday night to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education to use the additional five days as teacher workdays that are already scheduled in

this year's school calendar.

A new state law that goes into effect July 1 requires students to receive 185 instructional days a year rather than the current 180 between August 25 and June 10. However, because the law goes into effect so close to the beginning of the next school year, school systems across the state may apply to the SBOE for a waiver seeking to use those five extra instructional days as teacher workdays for this school year only.

"Of course, there is no guarantee we will get it," Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said.

Stallings said the only way

July 4th fireworks show is Sunday

From staff reports

Pack up the lawn chairs or grab a blanket and head to the local Fourth of July and Unity Day celebrations in Hertford and Winfall on Sunday, July 3.

Sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce in Hertford, an old-fashioned family celebration is planned at Missing Mill Park and will feature food vendors, live musical entertainment, periauger rides, and of course, plenty of fireworks.

The celebration begins at 5 p.m. with a children's foot parade from Hertford Baptist Church parking lot to Missing Mill Park. Decorated tricycles, bicycles, carriages, wagons, and anything else pedal-powered may take part in the parade. Children are encouraged to participate.

Among the food vendors planned at the park that evening are hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages, cotton candy, homemade ice cream, and more tasty choices.

In addition, two book signings are planned.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

You don't know what you might see at the children's parade through Hertford during the Fourth of July celebration on Sunday.

See FIREWORKS, 8



6 89076 47144 2

See WAIVER, 4