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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Proposed buoy is unpopular

By TRACY E. GERLACH  
The Daily Advance

State regulations and safety concerns, and not a popularity contest, will determine whether Outer Banks Contractors can place a permanent buoy in the Perquimans River, a state official said Monday.

"Just because there is very strong opposition is not sufficient reason to deny a permit to a proposal like this," said Richard Watts, coastal field representative for the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

The proposal by Outer Banks Contractors to place a permanent buoy in the Perquimans River, however, has raised concerns among those who own property along the river.

The contracting company, which already has a barge landing near Winfall, is proposing placing a dolphin mooring in the area to hold barges. Although it has been discussed, no formal application has been made by the company to the N.C. Division of Coastal Management.

A mooring dolphin is a small, telephone pole like structure placed near the river bottom. Barges are tied to it and allowed to free swing around the piling. "We've had a very quiet, peaceful river — pretty much left in its natural state," said Elliot G. "Pete" Overman, who owns 600 feet of property along the river. "I don't feel it's fair to ask the citizens of this county to look at their junk sitting in the river from now on."

Overman added, having barges tied in the Perquimans River will decrease the value of his and neighbor's property and could possibly damage the environment.

He plans to write a letter voicing his opposition to the project. The Bethel Ruritan Club also voted Thursday to send a letter of opposition, he said.

Dianne Riddick, who also lives near the proposed project, said she is concerned about what it will do to the river.

"I really feel like Perquimans County's asset is its river. We draw retirement people down here," she said. "We don't want to see it commercialized any more than it is."

County Manager N. Paul Gregory and Hertford Town Manager Bill Cox both said they have received a number of calls from residents opposing the proposal.

"No one is in favor of it," Gregory said.

Watts said he has had only pre-application discussions with the company. In order to actually place the small structure permanently in the river, the company would have to go through a rigorous application process, which could take no less than 75 days and as many as 150 days, he said.

So far, the only formal steps taken by the company have been to notify the property owners adjacent to the proposed project, approximately two miles toward the Albemarle Sound down the river from the U.S. Highway 17 bridge over the Perquimans River, Watts said.

Once the company makes a formal application, the Division of Coastal Management would look at traditional recreation and boating activity in the area, the impact on the river's resources, and the comments of all citizens and agencies affected, Watts said.

## Silver anniversary



Members of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad celebrated 25 years of service to the community Saturday evening with a banquet at Perquimans High School. Guest speaker was Sam Mickey of Elizabeth City. (Photo by Susan Harris.)

## Hertford Grammar implements new performance appraisal system

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Teachers at Hertford Grammar School are excited about a new system of charting student progress, a group of school representatives told the board of education last Monday evening.

Principal William D. Tice, assistant principal Susan Winslow and teachers Cheryl Newby and Hollis Williams updated the board on plans to do away with the traditional report card system, and implement a skills assessment performance appraisal.

Newby told the board that the change will reflect the school's philosophy that all children can learn.

"It's more one-on-one assessment, rather than full class or one test (assessment)," Newby told board members.

Under the new system, students will no longer receive letter and/or number grades, a move supported by educators across the state and nation. Instead, teachers will document performance based on skills the students have mastered and those yet to be mastered. The appraisals will correlate with standard objectives set for each grade level.

In the math and communication skills areas, teachers will

"It tells a lot more about a student's progress and what they can do."

Hollis Williams,  
Second grade teacher

mark progress charts with an "M" if the student shows a good understanding of a performance standard most of the time, an "S" for sometimes and an "N" for not yet.

"It tells us a lot more about a student's progress and what they can do," Williams said. She added that the assessment is quite specific, and details progress much more clearly and accurately than the traditional letter grade system.

The assessment will also include statements about progress in the science and social studies areas.

The performance appraisals will also involve parents more closely with student progress, the educators said, as the system calls for parent conferences rather than sending home report cards. Increased parental involvement is a local and state goal of the educational reform movement.

Student performance will be

recorded and parent conferences will be scheduled every nine weeks. Teachers will continue to send home progress reports each Monday which must be signed by parents and sent back to school.

Williams said the teachers will make arrangements to see all parents, and will work cooperatively around employment schedules.

The appraisal system is an outgrowth of site-based management endorsed by the board of education, which allows faculty and administrators at each local school to implement programs designed to improve student performance using innovative methods. Williams said the state endorsed the plan about four years ago, and it has met with positive response in systems where it has been implemented.

## School board approves facilities needs study

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The Perquimans County Board of Education approved spending almost \$10,000 for a facilities needs study last Monday night.

According to schools superintendent Randall L. Henion, the state has required that each school system submit a report outlining projected facilities needs through the year 2002.

HBA Architects, the firm retained for the Perquimans Middle School renovation project, will perform the study. Henion said consultant William Hargrove will visit each school, evaluate needs and determine how renovation or building projects can best be handled at each site.

"It's a very important study," Henion told the board.

Henion negotiated a fee with HBA not to exceed \$9,800, much less than the market rate for facilities reviews because HBA will already be in the county overseeing the middle school project, Henion said.

The state does provide facilities needs services, but Henion said he does not feel what the state can offer the county would be at the level he thinks is necessary. He said the state has too

few architects on staff to adequately handle the number of systems who will require the service.

HBA will provide information geared to obtaining grants for innovative projects, Henion said.

Board members Walter Leigh and Clifford Winslow expressed concerns about spending such a large sum of money for the study in light of present budget restraints.

Vice chairman Ben Hobbs concurred with the concern, but said, "It ought to be done by people who know what they're doing." He added that administrators and the board must know what facilities needs will be in the future in order to plan for them.

Cliff Towe stated that the study needs to be done now so that the system will be poised to apply for critical needs funds and other state monies as soon as they become available.

Funding for the study will probably come from small schools funds allocated by the state, according to finance officer Frances Hammer.

## Hearing set for electoral plan

### Three submissions to be reviewed

By TRACY E. GERLACH  
Staff writer

How future elections in Perquimans County will be conducted and who will be voting in what district could go a number of different ways following a hearing on the matter Monday.

A biracial electoral study committee, charged with coming up with an equitable voting system for the county, will present its plan to the board of commissioners and the board of education after five years of study. So will two other local groups.

The committee's plan calls for six, instead of five members on both the board of commissioners and the board of education, abolishes all district lines and calls for an at large voting system. Three seats would become vacant every four years, but each voter could choose only one candidate.

If the plan is approved, it would call for each of the boards to appoint a black member to the sixth seat.

However, two different maps, in addition to the committee's plan, are on file in the county manager's office awaiting review by the two boards.

The plans were drawn by the NAACP and the Republican party.

All of the plans are designed to ensure a more equitable election in 1994.

County Manager N. Paul Gregory, also a member of the committee, said the group feels the at large plan would best serve Perquimans County.

"With having black districts all of us felt it could tend to polarize the county. None of us liked that," he said. "The at large system says if you're a good candidate, the majority of the people will support you."

The NAACP plan divides the county into five districts. District one includes the present Parkville township with some parts of Belvidere, the right side of Route 37 up to Belvidere, Chapanoke and part of Woodville. District two includes Meads Trailer Park through Hertford, Harvey Point Road up to Burgess, from Burgess back to Bethel and everything on the right side of U.S. Highway 17.

Districts one and two would be the majority black districts under the NAACP plan.

District three includes the northern part of Belvidere as well as the west side of Route 37 into the Bethel community to Burnt Mill Road. District four would in-

clude Woodville, part of Chapanoke, part of Parkville, Winfall and a part of the West Hertford township. District five includes part of Bethel around Snug Harbor, Holiday Island, Harvey Point Road up to Burgess, crosses the Perquimans River and picks up a portion of New Hope from White Hat Road and Woodville Road to the east up to Little River.

There are approximately 2,100 people per district.

The Republican plan, presented last week, is similar to the NAACP plan with six, instead of five districts.

District one picks up much of district two in the NAACP plan. District two is basically the same as district four in the NAACP plan. District three includes much of old East Hertford. District four keeps much of Belvidere as it is today. District five includes Snug Harbor, Holiday Island, a small portion of Harvey Point Road, Hertford Beach, all the land on the Perquimans River side of Harvey Point Road back to the Town of Hertford, crosses the river and includes part of Winfall, part of the present Parkville township around Mill Run Creek to Suttons Creek. District six leaves much of New Hope township intact.

District one and two are also the majority black districts in the Republican plan.

Perquimans County's electoral system was first questioned in 1988 by the NAACP after the board of commissioners overlooked two black candidates vying for a position on the board and appointed a white candidate.

Members of the NAACP recommended and still favor a five member plan for both boards that would consist of five different districts — two having a black majority. Residents could only vote for candidates within their district.

A seven member plan approved by the committee in 1990 was rejected by the Justice Department.

Following the Oct. 5 hearing, the plan chosen by the two boards will be sent to the state legislature for approval. The U.S. Justice Department will give final approval on a plan. With approval, the new system could be implemented by the 1994 election.



## Shaping leaders

William Paul Stallings American Legion Post 126 Commander Carl Mumm (left) and Boy Scouts of America Troop 155, Hertford scout master Mark Warren seal the Ameri-

can Legion's sponsorship of the scout troop. See page 2 for a related story. (Photo by Susan Harris.)

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CONTEST  
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