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Perquimans AD may soon be non-coaching school position

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

The Perquimans County Board of Education is one step closer to separating the athletic director's position from the school system's coaching jobs.

Monday, the board of education had a first reading on its new athletic director policy. The board will take action on the policy during their July 31 meeting. The meeting date is being changed because of scheduling conflicts.

The policy states it is the board of education's goal to make the athletic director's position separate from coaching positions.

"The Board of Education believes that the duties, time requirements and responsibilities of coaches and athletic directors are very demanding and that a coach or athletic director can be a more effective employee if he is not serving in both capacities at the same time," the policy states.

However, the policy recognizes the school system's size and will make allowances for one person to hold the position. The policy put on the table Monday evening will allow the school's principal to decide if one person should fill both roles.

The principal will make a recommendation to the superintendent who will grant the exception.

This is a change from the first policy statement which said the superintendent would recommend to the board of education that one person fill both roles.

Board Chairman Ben Hobbs said the change takes politics out of the decision making process.

"The policy of the board of education getting into hiring and firing worries me," he said. "If someone get elected with 180 votes and their mission to getting rid of the AD (athletic director), well... that's all I'll say."

Board Member Wallace Nelson agreed, but said the board should not limit itself.

"I think first we should say we prefer them separate but recognize we are small and might not be able to have them separate," he said.

The status of the current athletic director and football coach, Harrell Thach, remains unclear. The first draft stated, "This policy does not prohibit the continued dual role of any athletic director currently serving in the school system prior to the adoption of this policy." The statement was removed in the second draft.

"If we want to change a rule you change a rule with no grandfathering," Hobbs said after the meeting.

Thach's current status will be decided by Perquimans County High School Principal Elaine Pritchard.

"We'll sit down look at it and come up with a decision," she said.

The board also reviewed new procedures for adding, expanding and/or deleting sports programming in the school.

FLAG DAY/A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Some of the 50 World War II veterans from Perquimans County carried 50 American flags onto the field during last Wednesday's Flag Day program sponsored by the Veterans

of Underage Military Service and the Perquimans County World War II Commemoration Committee. About 500 people filled Veterans Memorial Stadium for the observance.

Flag Day is observance of freedom

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It was a day that made folks proud to be Americans, and especially proud to be Americans from Perquimans County.

From the posting of the colors by 50 Perquimans County World War II veterans to the retirement of the armed forces colors, the Flag Day program at Perquimans High School last Wednesday was a moving tribute to veterans of all eras - those who lived to tell the story and those who gave their lives in the fight for worldwide freedom.

The observance was the largest of the events sponsored to date in the county, which has been designated a World War II Commemorative Community. Estimators put the number in attendance at around 500. Flag Day was a joint effort of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Inc. and the Perquimans County World War II Commemoration Committee.

The first spaker of the day was Rodolfo "Rudy" P. Hernandez, a congressional medal of honor recipient from Fayetteville.

"Is it possible to wave the flag too much?" Hernandez queried. "I believe we are not waving the flag enough. Isn't the flag a symbol of the

United States of America? Does it not represent man's greatest, noblest and most supreme dream?"

Hernandez said it is time for 20th century man to rekindle patriotism, and for every home to own and display the American flag, especially on national holidays.

"The great events of our past and present are all wrapped up in our flag," he said. It represents hope and is "a shining beacon of light for the noble and glorious."

James J. Nemer, Cmdr. USN (Ret.) and Director of the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., presented an American flag to Aaron Hoffler, a Navy Memorial Cadet, who in turn presented the flag to Mack Nixon, chairman of the Perquimans County Commissioners.

"This flag is well overdue," Nixon said as he accepted the flag on behalf of the county.

Nixon, a Viet Nam veteran, said the state motto, "To be rather than to seem," is appropriate when remembering veterans.

"God bless each and every one of you," Nixon said.

The program also included the rededication of the athletic field at Perquimans High School, which was built in 1946 as a memorial to World War II veterans with donations received from people and businesses in

Perquimans County. The field was never officially dedicated nor was the name Veterans Memorial Field ever recorded in the board of education's minutes. That oversight has been corrected, said school board chairman Ben Hobbs.

"When you come out to a ball game, don't just say you're going to the field, say you are going to Memorial Field," he urged.

The Veterans of Underage Military Service held a wreath laying ceremony. One wreath was in honor of all veterans, the other in memory of those veterans listed as M.I.A. or P.O.W. The wreaths were accepted by Jack Hoffler of Woodville, State Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, Richard Hartman and Harry Myer, the only living survivors aboard the US LST 512 on June 6, 1944 when Normandy was invaded. The wreaths were presented by Harrell Johnson and Paul Nelson of Elizabeth City, both Veterans of Underage Military Service.

The wreath laying ceremony was followed by two buglers with the U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Division Band echoing taps.

The 82nd Airborne Division Chorus stationed at Fort Bragg presented a program of patriotic songs. During a medley of the theme

songs of all branches of service, veterans on the field and in the stands rose when they heard the familiar refrains of the branches in which they served.

On hand for the occasion was Dewey C. Spencer, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We must always take time to honor veterans' service," Spencer said.

He emphasized President Bill Clinton's support of the protection of veterans' benefits.

Spencer said the day was a time to "pause and reflect on how great it is to be an American."

The program also included a military aircraft fly over courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City, a performance by the Northeastern High School Air Force Jr. ROTC Drill Team, and a concert by the U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Division Band.

Jack Overman, president of the First Flight Chapter of the Retired Officers Association on the Outer Banks, said he was glad he had taken the time to attend the ceremony.

"It was great," Overman said. "I was very impressed with it. I felt that Hertford did itself proud in the way it was put on. I enjoyed it immensely."

\$600,000 grant aids Winfall sewer plan

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

WINFALL — The dream of sewer service for residents here is one step closer to becoming a reality.

The Town of Winfall received \$600,000 from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance to install sewer lines in the community. The money comes from a \$32 million Community Development Block Grant.

"It's a piece of the pie," Winfall Mayor Fred Yates said.

Winfall officials have spent two years trying to secure \$4.2 million in funding to install a sewer system. Winfall's approximately 600 citizens currently use septic systems. If a sewer system is built it will serve at least 315 houses plus Perquimans County Middle School and Central Grammar School.

Town officials want to secure a \$3.15 million loan from Rural Economic and Community Development Services (formerly the Farmers Home Administration) to pay for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant. The \$600,000 grant, plus a \$100,000 grant from the N.C. Rural Center, will pay for sewer line construction, Yates said.

Yates, other town officials and Wooten Company engineers will meet this week to work on a system design to present to the Winfall Town Council June 26. The council must develop a fee schedule that will pay back the loan but not be too expensive for the users.

"Sixty percent of our town is elderly people with fixed incomes so we're not out to give them something they can't pay for," Yates said.

If the loan cannot be secured, Winfall will petition the state for permission to use the money on other projects, Yates said.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 80s Low: 60s CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 80s Low: 60s CHANCE OF RAIN	High: 80s Low: 60s PARTLY CLOUDY

Boy, 9, slightly injured when car hits bicycle

By GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Advance

A 9-year-old boy suffered only minor abrasions and a bump to the head when his bicycle was hit by a car Monday morning on West Grubb Street.

The boy, who's name is not being released, was riding east on a sidewalk with another child when he jumped the curb and starting riding in the street.

However, the child moved into the path of a car driven by Rachel

Jordan of Route 3, Hertford, Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy said. Jordan was also traveling east.

"Jordan immediately slowed down, blew her horn and swerved left," Murphy said. "The child, hearing the horn, looked back, saw the car and moved to the curb. However, the car caught his back tire." The child was thrown from the bicycle into the street. The child was not wearing a bicycle helmet.

The rescue squad transferred

the child to Albemarle Hospital where he was treated and released, Murphy said. No charges are being filed against Jordan.

The accident illustrates the extra care motorists need to take in the summer months, Murphy said.

"A child that age should be riding with supervision but it's summertime and kids are going to be on their bicycles and sometimes they don't pay attention," he said. All bike riders should wear a helmet.

"If they are on the sidewalk they need to stop and look both ways before crossing a street or pulling onto a street," he said.

Murphy also reminds parents that bicycle riding on Church Street sidewalks between Grubb and Market Streets is illegal.

"We've been stopping a lot of kids and telling them not to ride their bikes on the sidewalk," Murphy said. "We have a lot of senior citizens and we don't want anyone knocked down."