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Hertford, North Carolina 27944

State asks for education input

The North Carolina School Improvement Panel wants your two-cents worth on education.

The panel has scheduled a public forum for Nov. 21 in Edenton to listen to the public's ideas on school improvement.

Chaired by State Board of Education member Lowell Thomas, the panel has spent the last year focusing the state's educational reform initiatives into a single, longrange, multi-year plan for continuous school improvement. The panel has examined reform programs already in place and how these programs align with one another, and has recommended additional efforts needed to fill in any gaps.

to the School Key Improvement Panel's plan is engaging the public in sustained dialogue to open communication about education reform. To accomplish this, the panel plans a series of issues communications seminars, public education forums and community feedback meetings across the state.

Since August, the panel has hosted six education seminars with business leaders and educators to highlight the key issues surrounding education reform in the state.

Next, the education forums seek input and feedback from a variety of people, including parents, teachers and civic leaders to help spread the message even closer to the grass roots of North Carolinians. Among the tops the forums will address are the role of the school, the quality and professionalism of the teaching force, questions of time and money, and the need for community partnerships to commit themselves to improving their local schools. These are crucial issues as public education moves forward into the 21st century, according to panel members. The final step in the engagement campaign will be a series of community meetings to start in early 1997. These community meetings will provide the training and tools needed to establish a way to gain public input about education reform in every school district in the state. For addition information, contact Brenda Lassister, **Public Information Officer for** Perquimans County Schools, at 426-5741.



Claude Brinn was honored Friday night during the grams. Brinn was accompanied to midfield by his daughters Perquimans-Camden football game for his 33 years of volun- Beth Whitehurst and Claudia Bunch, his sons-in-law, Gary teer service to the Perquimans High School athletic pro- Whitehurst and Buck Bunch, and grandson, Drew Winslow.

DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO

Brinn starts clock for last time

PCHS press box veteran retires after 33 years By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Claude Brinn was chilled

to the bone by the cold, wet

rain that poured onto

Memorial Field at halftime

Friday night. But his heart

was warmed by the awards

and kind words he received

from those who braved the

weather to thank him for his

Editor

many years of service to Perquimans High School athletics.

Hero Award from the North service. In addition, the club Whitehurst and Claudia Carolina High School announced the initiation of a Bunch, sons-in-law Gary Athletic Association, pre- Claude Brinn Athletic sented by Perquimans High Scholarship. Co-presidents School Athletic Director Edgar Roberson and Susan Harrell Thach. Thach also gave a plaque of appreciation to Brinn on behalf of the high school. Brinn's hat, which Thach said was famous among Perquimans football fans, was retired. It will be housed in the athletic trophy

case at the school.

Athletic Boosters presented Brinn with an athletic afghan Brinn received an Unsung in recognition for his years of ly, Harris represented the Boosters. On hand for the occasion were four members of the 1963 Perquimans High School football team — Mack Nixon, Archie Miller, Paul Gregory and Sid Eley. The quartet represented the first football

The Perquimans County team for which Brinn kept the clock.

> Members of Brinn's famidaughters Beth Whitehurst and Buck Bunch, and grandson Drew Winslow accompanied Brinn on the field. Brinn was escorted on the field in a classic Chevrolet convertible by its owner, Douglas Layden.

County voter turnout heavy

By SUSAN R. HARRIS Editor

Perquimans County voters raised their voices loudly last Tuesday, as 59 percent of those registered cast ballots in the general election.

Of the county's 6,971 registered voters, 4,088 showed up to vote.

Even with the high number of voters, Elections Supervisor Eula Forbes said there were few problems during the day.

"It was great," Forbes said. "Everything has just gone wonderfully well."

Other counties in the state reported long lines and hours spent waiting to vote, but waiting time in Perquimans rarely exceeded 15 minutes, Forbes said. Poll woekrs reported heavy voting when the polls opened at 6:30 a.m., again at lunch time and then after people got off work. Polls in all seven precincts closed on time.

There was also little problem with DMV registrations, a concern in other counties, according to-state election officials.

Forbes credited provisional ballots with helping to keep voting lines moving and problems at the polls to a minimum.

When poll workers could not find a voter's name on the

records in the precinct where

Schools to Monday

Perquimans County Schools students will have a short day next Monday, according to school officials.

Students in all four schools will be released early to allow time for planning of the School Improvement Plans under the New ABCs and other staff development activities.

Scheduled release times are: Hertford Grammar School, 12:45 p.m.; Perquimans Central School, 1:10 p.m.; Perquimans Middle School, 12:50 p.m.; and

Perquimans High School, 12:30

p.m.

Winfall The Department received a grant check for \$5,129.87 from the N.C. Department of Insurance this month. The money is from the Volunteer Fire Department Fund set up by Insurance Commissioner Jim Long to assist fire department all over the state.

feel so strongly that this fund \$20,000 and must show need is needed is that it frees up the based on a set of objective critime of these fire fighters for teria. further training," Long said. "Without this grant, fire fight- ly fortunate to have an out- fire fighter.

The Marching Pirates had practiced for weeks on a musical tribute to Brinn, "In The Mood," but did not perform due to the pouring rain.



OVERCROWDED Two double-wide mobile units were delivered to Perquimans Central School recently to help ease the load of overcrowded classrooms. Capital needs in Perquimans County include the replacement of Perquimans Central School. The school system is projected to receive in excess of \$4 million to help meet capital needs with the passage of the Nov. 5 school bond referendum.

Accident victim in guarded condition

The 9-year-old boy hit by a truck in Hertford on Halloween night remains in guarded condition at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

The child, whose name has not been released, is breathing without the aid of a respirator, according to Hertford Police Chief Bennie Murphy. He underwent surgery last week on his two broken legs. He said doctors still do not know if the child has any neurological damage.

The boy allegedly, ran into the path of a truck operated by Christopher Lee Dail of Tyner. No charges have been filed.

the voter showed up to vote and other precincts where the voter might have been registered could not be reached, voters were given provisional ballots. Each voters' ballots were sealed in an envelope, marked with the voters' names, and turned in with ballots and abstracts to the elections board Tuesday night. Election officials checked registration records for the names, verified registration, and counted all verified provisional ballots.

Forbes attributed Tuesday's high voter turn-out to public interest in the presidential and gubernatorial races, and the fact that county commissioner candidate Bert Hayes canvassed door-to-door in his successful election bid.

The outcome of the vote in Perquimans did not change Friday when the county canvas was held by election officials. Forbes said the verification and canvas process was made easier and more efficient thanks to the computer programming work of John Jennings, a former elections board member and present chief judge for the Bethel precinct. Jennings has been instrumental in setting up county files, Forbes said.

close early Winfall fire department receives state grant funds

ing too much of their time fund raising just to keep departments afloat.' The fund was established in 1988 and has granted nearly \$22 million through 1996. To qualify for a grant, the fire department must be a volunteer organization, must be able "One of the reasons that we to match the grant for up to

"North Carolina is extreme-

Fire ers would be forced into spend- standing network of highly trained fire fighters protecting life and property, " Long said. "Providing these fire fighters with better equipment will further help public safety and keep fire insurance rates as low as possible."

The new Winfall equipment was inspected by Kay Bennett, Deputy Director with the Eastern Regional Office of the Department of Insurance. Bennett presented the check to Kelvin Roberson, a Winfall

Outside SATURDA THURSDAY FRIDAY High: High: Low: High: Low: Low: 50s 30s **30s** 50s 30s 50s PARTLY CLOUDY **PARTLY CLOUDY** FAIR