

# The Perquimans Weekly 35¢

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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, long-range, 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.

Key to the School 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 topics 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 additional information, contact Brenda Lassister, Public Information Officer for Perquimans County Schools, at 426-5741.

## Schools to close early 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.

## CLAUDE BRINN RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE



DAILY ADVANCE PHOTO

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

## Brinn starts clock for last time

### PCHS press box veteran retires after 33 years

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

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

many years of service to Perquimans High School athletics.

Brinn received an Unsung Hero Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, presented by Perquimans High School Athletic Director 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.

The Perquimans County Athletic Boosters presented Brinn with an athletic afghan in recognition for his years of service. In addition, the club announced the initiation of a Claude Brinn Athletic Scholarship. Co-presidents Edgar Roberson and Susan 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

team for which Brinn kept the clock.

Members of Brinn's family, daughters Beth Whitehurst and Claudia Bunch, sons-in-law Gary 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.

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.

## Winfall fire department receives state grant funds

The Winfall Fire 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.

"One of the reasons that we feel so strongly that this fund is needed is that it frees up the time of these fire fighters for further training," Long said. "Without this grant, fire fight-

ers would be forced into spending 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 to match the grant for up to \$20,000 and must show need based on a set of objective criteria.

"North Carolina is extremely fortunate to have an out-

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 fire fighter.

## Outside

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s PARTLY CLOUDY	High: 50s Low: 30s FAIR