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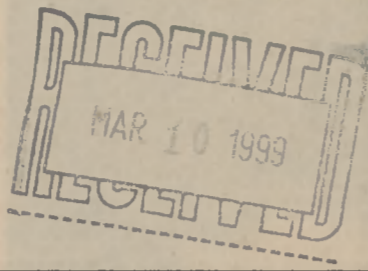
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Todd proposes changes for 1999-2000

Superintendent visits schools to share proposals with parents

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

Gregory Todd believes that every child can learn, in site-based management and in taking whatever steps are necessary to ensure that every student gets a quality education.

The Perquimans Schools superintendent is spending four nights in March dis-

cussing with parents proposed improvements and changes for the 1999-2000 school year that he thinks will make his beliefs reality.

Two of the most notable differences proposed for next school year include the student calendar and bus schedules.

Students will report to class on Aug. 9 if the proposed calendar for next year is approved. Built into the calendar are mediation days at the end of each six weeks grading period. During these two-four day breaks, those students having trouble grasping concepts covered during that six weeks will be encouraged to attend sessions designed to

teach those concepts in different ways.

These sessions reinforce mission statements composed by school staffs stating that all children can learn. Staff development opportunities through the Quality Journey help expand each teacher's capacity to meet the needs of children with a variety of learning styles.

Field trips and off-campus learning opportunities could be scheduled on the days set aside for remediation, meaning that every student in Perquimans County would have the full 180 days of classroom instruction mandated by the state.

The calendar would allow

high school students to take exams the last three days before the Christmas/winter holiday, which would begin at the end of the day on Dec. 17. This would mean that students no longer would return to school after a two-week break facing exams in 7-10 days. Those students performing at standard would return to school on Jan. 6. Staff would be available on Jan. 3 and 4 for those students needing to make sure they mastered skills taught during the first semester.

Also under consideration is changing transportation. Todd is recommending that each school have a fleet of buses that serve only that facility.

While officials acknowledge that the change would mean four buses running routes, preliminary review indicates that students on average will spend no more time on buses than at present. That is because there will be no time spent traveling between schools and waiting for dismissal at another school.

In addition, the plan probably would not increase transportation costs. At present, there are two sets of bus routes, with each set of buses serving a school in Winfall and a school in Hertford. Some buses presently travel through the two towns and across the causeway four times each day picking up and dropping off

students, as well as spend time waiting for pick-up in the afternoon.

If the new plan is adopted, the bus drivers at each site will be supervised by the principal at that school. This management strategy increases site-based decision-making and accountability.

Todd addressed these proposals during Hertford Grammar Schools's PTA meeting last Thursday. He is scheduled to discuss them at Central School on March 16 at 7 p.m., at Perquimans Middle on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. and at Perquimans High on March 22 at 6 p.m.

The school board will meet Monday night.

Pala creates heirlooms

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

The little girl that remains in every woman's heart is touched upon entering Pala Creations on River Drive (formerly Don Juan Road). For sitting and standing around the room are a beautiful collection of porcelain dolls, all adorable and all unique.

It is here at Pala Creations Porcelain Doll & Ceramic Studio that Ricki Pala creates these dolls, many from start to finish. Her husband Frank pours the molds, the Ricki takes over and carefully works with the greenware, fires the pieces, paints delicate features, adds hair ranging from black to red to blonde and tightly curled to straight, and even makes some of the cloth-

ing worn by the finished dolls. Lastly, she gives them eyes.

Pala said that while doll-making can be an expensive hobby, it is one she loves.

"It really isn't hard to do," she said. "It can be quite relaxing. It's enjoyable. It's just so neat when you start putting that doll together and make it come to life. It's just something that's unique, it really is."

Dolls are not the only things that Pala creates. She has a variety of ceramic pieces waiting to be finished. Santas, villages, canisters, figurines — many unfinished pieces sit on two walls of shelves just waiting for someone to come in and turn them into lovely, personalized finished pieces. The shop also sells greenware and bisque kits for doll-making.

Pala teaches doll-making

classes and will offer ceramics classes if people let her know they are interested. She said a friend may offer ceramics for children on Saturdays in the future. She is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. and other times by appointment. Call 426-5972.

Pala's mother started making dolls and in 1993 Pala became interested. In August, she and her husband opened their first shop. He does the heavy work, she said, then she takes over. Occasionally, a family member will lend a hand.

The locally-made dolls have been shown at local craft shows and at dolls shows in Myrtle Beach, Richmond, Roanoke, Wilmington and Greenville. The Palas will take them to shows in Syracuse, N.Y. and Chicago soon.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon cutting for Pala Creations to celebrate their move to a new home on River Road (formerly Don Juan Road) in Hertford. The company's porcelain dolls are handmade, many from start when the mold is poured, to finish when Ricki Pala puts the final stitch in an outfit.

Commissioners give prizes for landscape beautification contest

April designated Clean-Up/Fix-Up Month by county, town councils

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

Editor

When company's coming, most folks spruce up in preparation.

Well, company's coming in May, and local officials have designated April as Clean Up/Fix Up Month. The Perquimans County Commissioners and Hertford Town Council both declared April Clean Up/Fix Up Month. Winfall's board will meet Wednesday and Mayor Fred Yates said council will discuss a declaration for Winfall at that time. He said there will definitely be a contest with prizes for Winfall residents, which he will announce after the meeting.

Representatives of the federal agencies through which locals hope grant funds will be funneled due to Hertford's designation as a pilot heritage tourism community will visit on May 6, along with state and regional economic development and cultural resources agencies. County commissioners chairman Charles Ward

said during the commissioners' regular meeting last Monday that individuals and businesses should do what they can to present the area in a good light.

In addition, the May 8 Old Timers Game will mark the kick-off of the Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation. Former high school, American Legion and professional baseball teammates and associates, state and federal elected officials, members of Hunter's extended family, and hundreds of friends and fans from across the country are expected to arrive in Hertford for the ceremony honoring Hunter and related activities during the day.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners and Perquimans County Extension Center have joined forces to sponsor a landscape contest to encourage county residents to take pride in their county by investing time to beautify the landscape of their homes and businesses. Residential lawns will be judged in two areas — best and most improved. Extension Director Lewis Smith said it is hoped that all county businesses can be observed during the contest.

Smith said he is working closely with Tom Dyson, Extension Specialist, Horticulture, to write guidelines for the contest and to

seek qualified judges. Smith said those who wish to have their lawns judged should complete an entry form which will be available at the Extension Center by March 31 and will be printed in The Perquimans Weekly on April 8. Those planning to enter the most improved category will probably be required to submit photographs of the site before improvements, Smith said.

Three commissioners, in what is probably an unprecedented move, obligated themselves personally to provide first-place prizes for the two residential categories. Ward was first to step forward and offer a \$100 savings bonds for the lawn declared best kept. After Shirley Yates suggested that perhaps a most improved prize would encourage even more residents to participate, Bert Hayes said he would help sponsor a prize. Yates agreed to join him. Together, Hayes and Yates will sponsor a \$100 savings bond for the most improved lawn winner.

Later, Ward reported that Albemarle Plantation had agreed to sponsor prizes for a business category — four complimentary dinners at Soundside Grille. In addition, Smith said Farmers Feed & Seed will sponsor runner-up prizes for the residential contest. The Perquimans Weekly

will participate by donating advertising space for the entry form.

Although Hertford joined the county in designating the clean-up month, council took no action on monetary awards, although it was indicated on Monday's meeting agenda that awards would be discussed.

In addition to cleaning up, the town has a project underway to replace the trees in the town park adjacent to the county library. The trees were cut down due to disease. Volunteer project chairman JoAnne Morris said that a price list of suitable species is being composed and should be available at the town office immediately. Native species such as dogwood, red and white oaks, and a variety of hollies are being recommended for planting.

Morris said donations are being accepted for trees. Trees may be planted in honor or in memory of someone, or simply donated to help beautify the town and improve the environment.

Sandra Smith, Chamber of Commerce executive director, said she is excited about the cooperative clean-up efforts, and hopes there will be good participation by both residents and businesses.

For contest information, call Smith at 426-5428.

County courtrooms beef up security

At the request of both Clerk of Court Gail Godwin and Sheriff Ralph Robinson, the Perquimans County Commissioners last week approved purchasing both walk-through and hand-held metal detectors for both county courtrooms.

The sheriff told commissioners that court security is a focus of his department. He said that he tries to schedule two armed officers and a bailiff for each court date. However, he said in months like March, when court is scheduled to be held 12 days, it stretches his manpower. On those days when court is being held in both courtrooms simultaneously, scheduling suffi-

cient staff to deal with security can become almost impossible.

County Manager Paul Gregory said that it will cost about \$3,000 per courtroom to purchase the metal detectors that will beef up courtroom security. He said the funds are available through court facilities monies.

While Gregory said Perquimans has not had a great amount of problems with security, increasing caseloads and simultaneous courts call for action.

"I think it's time that we do that (install the metal detectors)," Gregory said.

Robinson said judges and court personnel will appreciate the county's action.

Weekend Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 50s	High 50s	High 50s
Low 40s	Low 30s	Low 30s
Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy