



# Happy New Year!

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER FOR AND ABOUT PERQUIMANS COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE

013165 110101 01 \*\*C001  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
110 W ACADEMY ST  
HERTFORD NC 27944

Lady Pirates are 7-0;  
Holiday Classic is this week

Page 7

Two honored by RC&D

Page 2

December 28, 2000

Vol. 68, No. 52 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

## School board OKs \$40M plan

### New high, middle schools in long-range needs plan

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

There are more zeroes in the number than most people in Perquimans can fathom.

After months of study and exploring options, the Perquimans County School Board approved a long-range facilities plan that approaches \$39.6 million over the next 20 years — and that may not include the price of land needed to fulfill the plan.

The first item on the needs list to be tackled by the school board will be the selection of sites for a new high school and middle school and to secure the land through purchase or option to purchase. The board plan indicates that they will continue to look for property during this fiscal year.

Next on the agenda is four projects for 2001-2002. The largest need in that time-frame is building a track and football field, hopefully near the high school, with lighting, fencing, seating, press-box, scoreboard, PA system, concession facility and restrooms. The price tag for this facility, to be used by both high and middle school athletes, is \$1.7 million.

Perquimans presently has a track program that has sent athletes to the state finals for the past several years, but cannot host meets because there is no track facility. A new stadium would allow for the expansion of track and field, as well as provide a separate location for football and baseball, which presently share a field. It would also move soccer off of the softball field, which is too small to allow a regulation size playing area.

Board members also said county residents have brought up the need for a secure place for the community to walk and jog.

Vocational facilities needed to expand offerings at the high school are estimated at \$300,000, while a new roof coating at Hertford Grammar carries a \$125,000 price tag.

Included, but not priced, for next year is the development of site plans for the high and middle schools.

The big-ticket need for 2002-2003 is a gymnasium at the high school, a \$2 million project. The 1949 building is in poor repair, and several renovations over the years have failed to bring it up to par because of its structural problems. The wood floor needs to be replaced because it cannot be sanded again. Further sanding would crack the thin tongue-and-groove boards because they have been sanded several times. The locker rooms are also inadequate, and the original ones are in extremely poor

condition. The roof at the middle school will also need to be recoated that year at a cost of \$172,000.

The remainder of the high school roof will need to be replaced with modified bitumen in 2003-2004. That project will run almost \$500,000.

The plan calls for no major construction in 2004-2005. The next two years, however, would see a \$20 million high school built.

The original part of the high school was built in 1929, with major additions and renovations in the 1970s and 1990s. There has also been significant work done over the past 10 years. The facility is filled to capacity, with at least two hallways having been walled off to create additional classrooms. The curriculum cannot be expanded because there is no space that can be turned into more classrooms.

Another concern at the high school is the lay-out created by adding on to the original facility. The gym, auditorium and cafeteria cannot be used without opening up the entire school. The open floor plan means people can wander throughout the building when any activity is held after hours, whether school or community related. School officials try to monitor the movement of those events at the school, but it is difficult with no means to erect physical barriers.

Once the high school is complete, the board plan calls for renovating the high school for use as an interim middle/grammar school. The \$2 million project would be done in 2007-2008.

Next on the list is moving Hertford Grammar School to the high school in 2008-2009 to allow for renovations at Hertford Grammar at a cost of \$1.8 million. Although Hertford Grammar received renovations and an addition two years ago, there are still needs at the facility, including heat and air work, a new roof and interior and exterior renovations that could not be done while it was in use.

In 2000-2001, Hertford Grammar would move back home, and the middle school would use the former high school building until the 2018-2019 school year. In 2017-2019, a new middle school would be built at a cost of \$11 million.

The school board did not approve the plan without considerable study. The plan has been on the board's monthly agenda for several months, and several options were studied. In the end, the board chose the plan approved at its regular meeting in December.

There has also been discussion about what to do with the existing high and middle schools. Although the board felt it was not feasible to continue using the buildings as schools, there has been discussion about the possibilities of their use as community centers or for other purposes.

## Teachers earn national certification

Three Perquimans County Schools teachers have earned National Board Certification.

Marcia Dickman, Linda Harrell and Freda Nelson were among 4,694 primary and secondary teachers from across the country to earn the highest professional credential in the field of teaching. They join Robin Ward-Dassler, the first teacher to earn the certification in Perquimans County Schools.

Dickman is an exceptional children's teacher at Perquimans Central School. She earned Teacher of the Year honors last year at the site.

"This is an impressive level of achievement for Marcia Dickman," said Central School Principal Billy Stallings. "I am proud of her dedication and commitment to the teaching profession and to the students, parents and co-workers at Perquimans Central School. Ms. Dickman demonstrates her commitment to her profession daily in the classroom, during home visits, and by serving on various school com-

mittees. In order to truly appreciate the value of her teaching, you need to visit her classroom."

Nelson and Harrell are both assigned to Hertford Grammar School, where Nelson serves as instructional facilitator and Harrell as art teacher.

"I am proud of Freda Nelson and Linda Harrell for successfully completing their National Boards," said Hertford Grammar Principal Edward Williams. "their intensive work and determination make them more competent and skillful in their instructions. Other staff and students will benefit from their knowledge and abilities at Hertford Grammar School. I hope this is the beginning for us in having many teachers obtain their National Board Certification."

National Board Certification, a voluntary process established by NBPTS, is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. Through the assessment process, teachers document their subject matter



Linda Harrell helps one of her Hertford Grammar School students create a work of art.

knowledge, provide evidence that they know how to teach their subjects to students most effectively, and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning.

North Carolina led the way

in teacher achievement of National Board Certification for 1999-2000 with 1,115 earning the status. Florida had 699; California, 440; Mississippi, 389; South Carolina, 331; and Ohio, 319.



Freda Nelson prepares plans for remediation and acceleration at Hertford Grammar School.



Marcia Dickman uses a variety of instructional methods to help her students reach their full potential.

## Harris promoted to Weekly publisher

Susan R. Harris has been promoted to Publisher of The Perquimans Weekly newspaper effective Jan. 1.

The announcement was made last week by The Daily Advance Publisher Tim Hobbs, who oversees the Perquimans Weekly for Cox North Carolina Publications, headquartered at The Daily Reflector in Greenville.

Harris joined the newspaper as Editor in December 1988. The Perquimans Weekly became part of Cox Newspapers in 1997 along with The Daily Advance.

"Susan will continue to serve as editor for the newspaper and assume the title of Editor and Publisher," said Hobbs.

"She is now respected as a community partner throughout the Hertford area," Hobbs continued. "The Perquimans Weekly is considered the primary source for news and information in Perquimans County. Over the past several years, she has been instrumen-

tal in leading the charge to completely redesign and paginate the newspaper."

Her accomplishments also include strong financial performances year-over-year and being recognized among her peers with several NCPA News, Editorial and Photojournalism Contest awards, Hobbs added.

A Perquimans County native, Harris graduated from Perquimans County High School in 1976. She attended East Carolina University, where she studied English and journalism. Her first forays into journalism were as business manager and editor of her high school yearbook, The Galleon. She also served as a correspondent for the ECU newspaper, The Fountainhead.

Harris' first full-time career was in the financial services industry. She left her loan offi-



Harris

cer position at Home Savings and Loan in Elizabeth City, now New South Bank, to accept her position with The Perquimans Weekly. She had worked briefly as a part-time copy editor and reporter at the newspaper in 1982.

Harris, 42, lives in the Bear Swamp community of Perquimans County with her husband, Phil, an electrician at International Paper in Franklin. The couple have three children: Andrew, a sophomore at UNC-Chapel Hill; Courtney, a freshman at Meredith College; and Holly, a sixth grader at Perquimans Middle School. She is the daughter of Garland and LaClaire Anderson of Elizabeth City and the late Joe Rogerson.

In addition to her job and family responsibilities, Harris was recently elected to the board of directors of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and is active in Anderson United Methodist Church.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 37  
Low: 30  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
High: 49  
Low: 32  
RAIN

SATURDAY  
High: 45  
Low: 29  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY  
High: 43  
Low: 29  
PARTLY CLOUDY