

ADAPC auction, brunch

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Local authors to be honored

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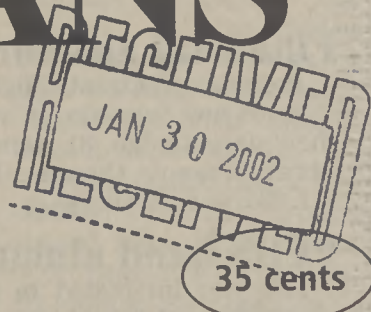
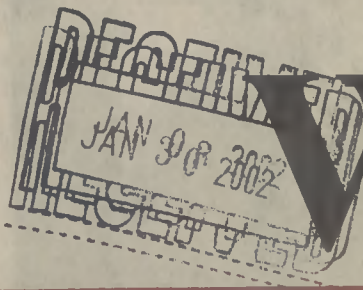
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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



## Counties begin OLF defense

### Navy training field opposed by officials

CHIP ROMANOVICH  
The Daily Advance

Officials from five area counties met Thursday to begin a strategy they hope will keep a proposed United States Navy practice airfield out of northeastern North Carolina.

County commissioners, county and town managers, mayors and support staff gathered at the offices of the Albemarle Commission and began organizing a detailed regional plan against an Outlying Landing Field the Navy has proposed for either Perquimans, Hyde, Bertie, Carteret, Washington or Craven counties.

The group, which includes representatives of Perquimans, Pasquotank, Bertie, Hyde and Chowan counties, formed a committee to guide their actions before and after a scheduled February meeting with North Carolina's delegates in Washington, D.C.

"It didn't take us long to figure out this was bigger than a county issue — this is a regional issue," said Perquimans County Commissioner Charles Ward. "What we want to do is make sure, with the limited resources we have, to make the most of it."

A group of officials, perhaps as many as 10, will travel to the nation's capital Feb. 7 and make their pitch against the practice fields before Sens. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. and John Edwards, D-N.C. Also expected to attend the meeting are state Reps. Walter Jones (R) and Eva Clayton (D).

Thursday's meeting in Hertford generated a steering committee that will examine everything from the proposal's anticipated negative impact to the regional economy, to environmental concerns regarding the Great Dismal Swamp.

Before they appear in Washington, D.C., county leaders will gather as much information as possible and try to keep ahead of the Navy's final decision.

Nearly every county represented Thursday has already begun letter writing campaigns. They agreed, however, that more specific plans were necessary.

The collection of county officials discussed asking for an environmental impact study on the project, along with working with a consultant to develop projections of lost revenue and the impact on the region's tourist industry.

"I think we're just beginning to see how we have to work together as a region," said Pasquotank County Commissioner Matt Wood. "We're just getting organized. I think there's a lot of things we need to research."

Officials will also explore raising funds they believe will be a necessary part of any movement against the Navy.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," Hyde County County Manager Bryan Steen said of the meeting. "We need to be adamant and unrelenting. What is being asked of us is an unfair burden to any county. They call it an OLF — I think it's more synonymous with an outhouse. That's what you get."

## HONORING EMPLOYEES

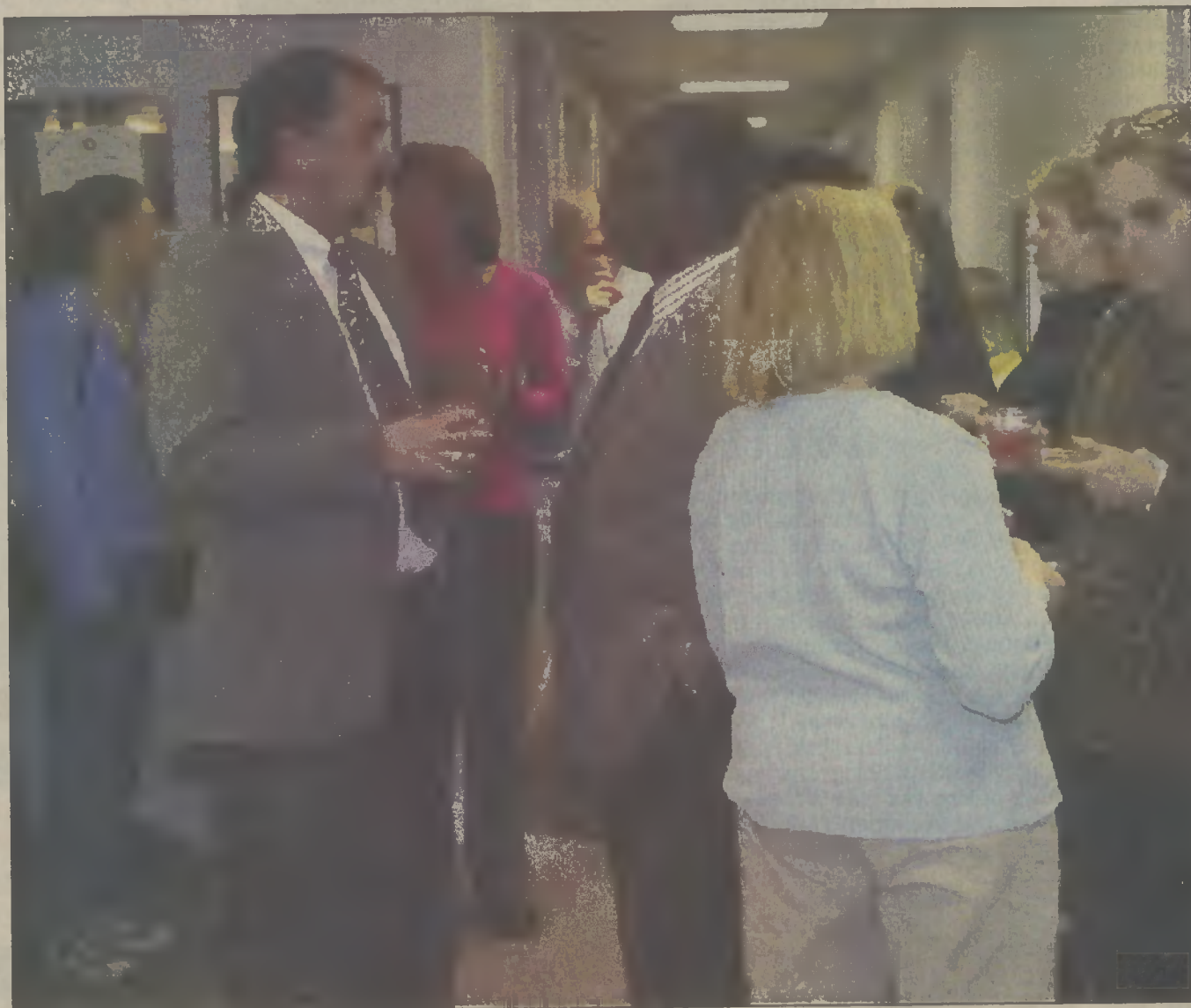


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

The Board of Education recognized the achievements of several of its employees Monday night with a reception prior to the board meeting. Honored were Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter recently earned a North Carolina Public Relations Association Blue Ribbon Award for Photography. Teachers Tracy Gregory and Linda Mewborn earned National Board Certification. Dianne Winslow was named Bus Driver of the Month for January. Sadot Mendez was recognized as an Olympic torchbearer.

## Landmark presents plan

SUSAN R. HARRIS

About 80 people listened and reviewed the 5-year plan for downtown Hertford during a public presentation by Landmark Design Group last Wednesday evening hosted by the Hertford Main Street Program.

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley said the plan is a "snapshot in time," and its flexibility will allow the town to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. It is an extension of "A Vision for Heritage Tourism," planning done when Hertford was designated a Heritage Tourism Pilot Community in 1998.

Major components of the plan included business development, planning and zoning, utilities removal and relocation, streetscapes, courthouse grounds, Academy Green and Dobbs Street, signage and identity, parking improvements and waterfront improvements.

The plan addresses facade improvements downtown, installation of appropriate signage to guide people through town, renovation and development of properties, consideration of a design review process, financial considerations, phasing in utilities improvements, streetscapes — including the new street light project already underway, enhanced gateways to the community to draw people into the business and historic areas, more parking, and taking advantage of the waterfront with enhancements at Missing Mill Park, pedestrian piers, water-oriented gateways such as a marina and dock, waterfront walkways and island improvements.

The plan may be reviewed at the Hertford Main Street Office in the Visitors Center on Market Street.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Chris Lane, president of the Perquimans County Restoration Association, Chair of the Heritage Tourism Development Council and a Hertford Main Street Board member, discusses the 5-year plan for downtown Hertford with the staff of Landmark Design Group at last week's public presentation.

## New addresses must be used after Feb. 4

From Staff Reports

If you want to get your mail, make sure your address is right.

Most Perquimans County residents were assigned new addresses to be used with the enhanced 911 emergency response system. Gone are the rural route and box numbers. Each residence now has a street name and number address.

Hertford Postmaster Billie Simpkins has notified residents

served by that post office that effective Feb. 4, mail not addressed with the street name and number may be returned to its sender. If the sender requested address service change, the sender will be notified of the new address. If not, the mail will be returned stamped "No such number."

Simpkins added that the post office is obligated to deliver mail to both addresses for 12 months dur-

ing a change like Perquimans has undergone. The Hertford Post Office delivered to both addresses for 18 months.

Those who have not notified everyone of the new mailing address should do so immediately.

For information on official addresses, call the county tax office at 426-7010. The county assigned the new addresses as part of its mapping, E-911 project.

## Mold still plagues Central

ANNA GOODWIN  
MCCARTHY  
Correspondent

Perquimans Central School students may have to wait until next year before the mold and mildew problem at their school is fixed.

"It is time for us to take action," said Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Kenneth Wells.

Parents have been concerned about the health of their children, Wells said in his Superintendent's Report to the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night.

Wells said some parents had statements from their children's physicians and the results of asthma and allergy tests stating that the children were allergic to mold.

All of the carpet in the school will have to be removed to significantly reduce the mold, said Wells.

Separation in the school's tile is another result of the moisture in the school. Repairs will also have to be made to the tile.

"Timing is going to be critical."

Wells said they would probably have to wait until this summer when the students and teachers are out of the building to remove the carpet.

Improvements will be made throughout the remainder of the school year. Expansion joints will be filled in on Feb. 15.

The carpets are cleaned "sporadically" during the school year using the hot water extraction cleaning method, said Wells.

Wells said that it was a costly endeavor that will certainly have an impact on the budget.

The Board of Education will consult with the Board of Health and the Perquimans County Commissioners before the next board meeting on Feb. 25 to decide what action is appropriate for this matter.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's website, "studies show that one-half of our nation's 115,000 schools have problems linked to indoor air quality."

The website also states "failure to respond promptly and effectively to poor indoor air quality in schools can cause severe consequences," and, "these include an increase in short- and long-term health problems (leading to more absenteeism), a greater risk that school rooms or buildings will have to be closed and students and staff temporarily relocated, and potential liability problems."

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/moldresources.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/moldresources.html) or <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/moldresources.html> or <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/moldresources.html>.