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Campus tobacco use may be banned

Board may change policy to ban smoking, chewing in ball parks

SUSAN R. HARRIS

There will be no more lighting up on county campuses if the school board approves proposed changes to its Smoking and Tobacco Products policy in July.

Citing new laws, the threat of a loss of Safe and

Drug-Free Schools money and keeping policies in line with curriculum, Superintendent Ken Wells told the board that the proposed policy changes are the right thing to do.

Wells acknowledged that some parents and community members may react negatively to the proposed changes, but said schools across the state are revising policy in order to keep their Safe and Drug-Free Schools allotments. He added that health curriculum at all grade levels warns against the dangers of tobacco use, and that banning tobacco use from campuses makes system policy in line with system teaching.

The old policy, adopted in 1992, prohibited the use of tobacco products in any school building at any time and on school grounds during the school day.

It further stated that system employees could not use any tobacco products while on duty or in the presence of students on school property.

To support employees in their quest to stop using tobacco products, the policy included a provision for the system to offer after-hours cessation clinics for employees.

The proposed policy is much more specific and bans the use of tobacco products on school property.

To keep in line with state laws passed since the old policy's adoption in 1992, the proposed policy disallows the possession, display or use of tobacco products by students at any time. It even applies when students are on the school grounds as visitors or spectators.

It would also ban the use of tobacco products in or on the grounds of any facility owned or leased or contracted for by Perquimans County Schools. This would include smoking outside buildings or in ball parks before, during or after school functions.

"For the purposes of this policy" the policy states, "tobacco product" is

defined to include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuf and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. 'Tobacco use' includes smoking, chewing, dipping or any other use of tobacco products."

It also contains provisions for offering cessation classes.

Wells told board members to think about the new policy over the next month, to discuss it individually with other board members and to discuss it with people in the community.

The second reading of the policy is set for the July board meeting, at which time the board will vote.

Second Summer Breeze Concert July 20

The Summer Breeze Concert Series continues on Sunday, July 20 with the music of "Los Saxofonistas," a saxophone quartet from the North Carolina School of the Arts. The concert is free and begins at 5:30 p.m. on the beautiful grounds of Hertford's historic 1730 Newbold-White House.

Dinner plates from Tommy's Restaurant will be available to eat at the concert or to take home. Plates include barbecue, potato salad, coleslaw, roll and ice tea and sell for \$6 each. Plates must be reserved by Friday, July 18. Call 426-7567 to place an order.

A huge hit during the 2002 Summer Breeze Concert Series, "Los Saxofonistas" performs a wide variety of music and presents an energetic performance designed to appeal to a wide audience.

The Summer Breeze Concerts are sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association and Perquimans Arts League and made possible with support from Ferguson Enterprises and Crossroads Music.

There is no fee for concerts, but donations will be accepted. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Newbold-White House Visitors Center.

The Summer Breeze Concert series concludes on Sunday, August 10, with the music of George Higgs. Higgs, a 1993 North Carolina Folk Heritage Award winner, is recognized as one of the finest musicians in the Piedmont Blues Tradition. The concerts last about one hour.

Bring blankets, lawn chairs and a picnic for this casual outdoor concert.

The Newbold-White House is open for tours on Sundays from 2 — 5 p.m. The grounds will open at 5 p.m. for the concerts.

For more information call the Newbold-White House at 426-7567 or nbwh@inteliport.com.

Restaurants donate to school supply program

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Locals can beat the heat of the kitchen and help a good cause at the same time over the next few weeks.

Four county eateries will participate in the project to help provide school supplies to county children, donating 10 percent of their profits on specific days to the effort.

Captain Bob's will kick off the restaurant support on June 26. Tommy's will participate at the Northeast Dragway on June 28 and at Missing Mill Park during the 4th of July festivities there. On July 17, Soundside Grille at Albemarle Plantation will make donations.

The project is a cooperative effort by Communities in Schools, the Department of Social Services, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and Frankie's Hertford Cafe. Several local merchants and civic groups are also participating in the project.

According to Barbara Gustafson, Director of Communities in Schools, and Carlyn Brown, Social Services project representative, there are many families — perhaps 250 or more — in Perquimans County who find it financially challenging to provide school supplies for their children.

Some agencies have provided support in the past,

but that support was far from adequate in meeting local needs.

In addition to the restaurant component of the project, school supplies may be dropped off in donation barrels at Woodard's Pharmacy, RBC Centura Bank, Food Lion, Dollar General, Perquimans County Senior Center, Layden's in Winfall and Belvidere and the Snug Harbor Club House.

Cash donations are also being accepted. A \$20 donation will fill a backpack with school supplies for one child.

Donations may be sent to Communities in Schools of Perquimans County, P.O. Box 12, Hertford, NC 27944.

Donations may also be given to Fr. Ralph Clark of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Carlyn Brown at the Department of Social Services and Barbara Gustafson of Communities in Schools.

The Perquimans Weekly will donate \$5 for every new subscription purchased through July 20 to the project.

Families who need assistance providing school supplies for children should contact social services and complete an application as soon as possible.

For more information, call Communities in Schools at 426-3644 or fax 426-3100.

SENIORS HAVE FUN IN THE PARK



Faye Snead follows through after putting the football she threw right in the middle of the target last Thursday. Snead was participating in the Senior Center-sponsored Fun Day in the Park. Seniors had the opportunity to try their hands at activities they may compete in during Senior Games during the event, as well as enjoy a picnic.

Schools to apply for Ed-flex waiver for next school year

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The local school system is committed to providing every student with high quality teachers, but Superintendent Ken Wells said as a precaution, the system will request an Ed-flex waiver for the upcoming school year.

What the Ed-flex waiver means is that the school system will have some flexibility in meeting next year's requirements for highly qualified teachers under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

A section of the act

requires that all teachers of core academic subjects in Title I schools hired after the first day of the 2002-03 school year be highly qualified under the NCLB guidelines.

While the school system fully supports the intent of the No Child Left Behind Legislation and is committed to providing all students with highly qualified teachers, the waiver is being submitted based on an analysis of the options available to the system, according to Wells.

Wells said the system is doing its best and has hired

teachers meeting the highly qualified guidelines under NCLB to date, but that if teachers resign in the summer, the system may need some flexibility in filling positions by the time students return to class in early August.

According to information about No Child Left Behind, a teacher may not be considered highly qualified even if he or she has a degree in the subject area he or she will teach.

For instance, a person who holds a bachelor's degree in English, but who was not planning to teach,

would not have taken the education courses required to become a certified, licensed teacher. The person may be hired under the state's lateral entry program, but must pass the Praxis II, an exam that in part tests subject area knowledge, as well as complete education courses in order to be considered highly qualified and be able to apply for a clear teacher license.

A teacher may also change subject or program areas and need to take more hours in the new area of concentration in order

to be considered highly qualified and also become certified or licensed in the new area.

The state received permission from the federal government to become an Ed-flex state under NCLB. Individual school systems must now apply to the Department of Public Instruction for a local waiver.

For more information, to review the waiver request or to comment, contact Wells by June 30 at the school board office at 411 Edenton Road Street, call 426-5741 or fax 426-4913.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 93
Low: 75
SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 93
Low: 73
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 87
Low: 71
SCATTERED T'STORMS