



Spring weekend approaches

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Rifle team places first

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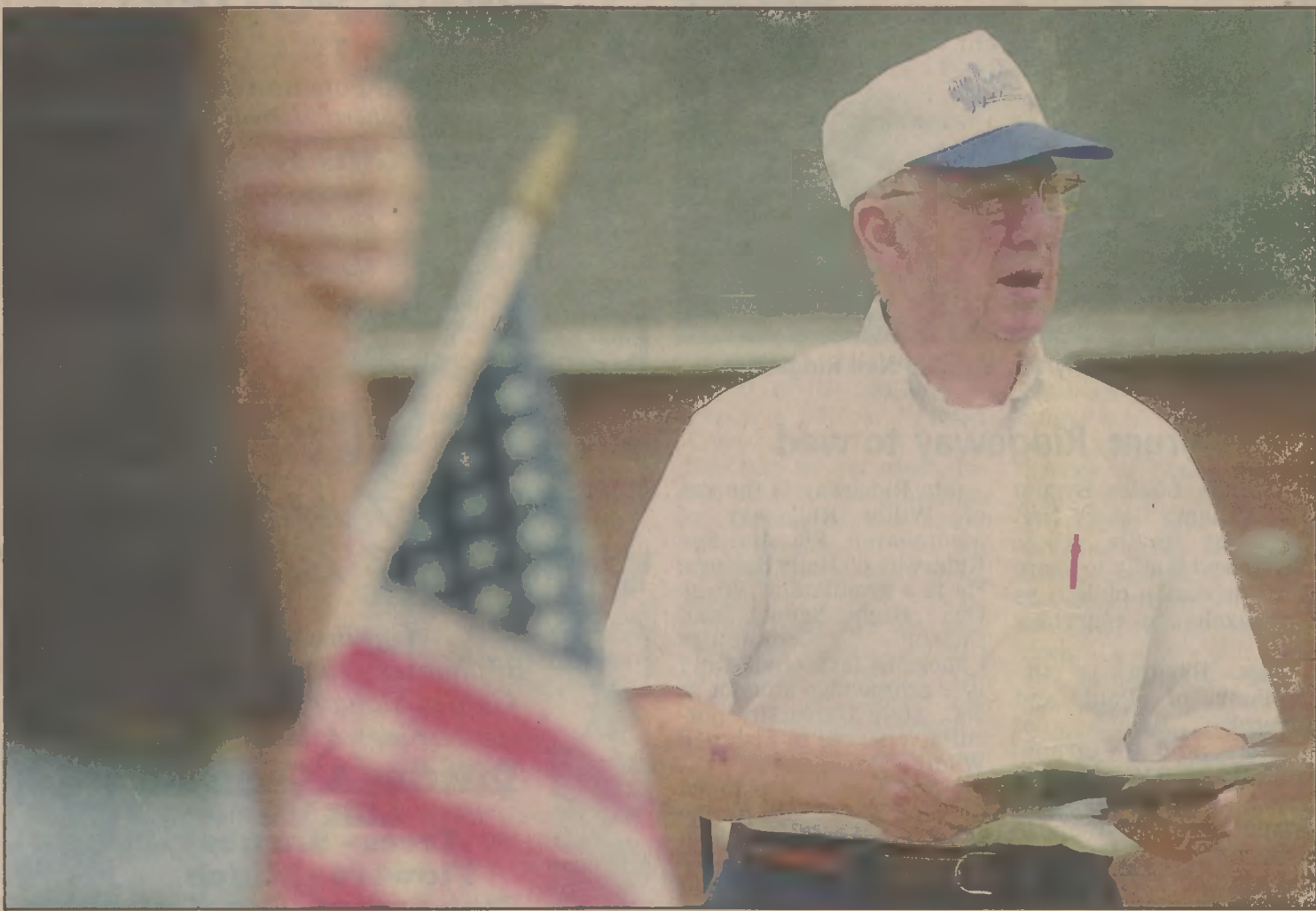
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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Charles Skinner, the secretary for Woodmen Lodge 463, speaks to those in attendance for the flag burning demonstration at the Hertford Fire Department Saturday afternoon.

OLF threat challenges Northeast

SUSAN R. HARRIS

First in a series

Northeastern North Carolina may be described by some as the land time forgot.

Still largely rural and agricultural, the counties of the northeast corner of the state by and large lag behind in economic growth and pace of life. Things move slowly in this corner

The Navy and the Hampton Roads community have enjoyed a superb and mutually beneficial relationship for years and it is in our collective interests to ensure we continue working together to address these important concerns. It is precisely because of community concerns over jet noise that we are carefully exploring the establishment of an additional outlying field to accommodate



Woodmen burn flags properly

RANDALL EDWARDS

Some people may not know it, but the proper method of disposing of an American flag involves burning it — but in a respectful manner.

This might come as a

surprise during a time when the United States is involved in military actions throughout the world and images of anti-American insurgents waving burning U.S. flags are globally transmitted on a frequent basis.

But on Saturday, the Herford chapter of the Woodmen of the World held a flag burning ceremony as part of a national effort called "Join Hands Day." Held at the Hertford Fire Department, the ceremony was performed in conjunc-

tion with the Woodmen Youth Association and was intended to educate the public on the correct way to dispose of tattered or old, unwanted American flags. "We're trying to teach people how to get rid of dis-

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PQ named Super District for Quality Schools

Perquimans County Schools was one of 52 school districts in North Carolina recognized as a 2003-2004 Super District for Quality Schools by the Commissions on Elementary, Middle and Secondary Schools of the southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Noted were districts where all eligible elementary, middle and secondary schools are accredited. All four Perquimans Schools are accredited. There are 117 local school districts in the state.

SACS accreditation is non-government and voluntary, and it helps education-

al institutions improve through a systematic process of evaluation that focuses on improving teaching and student learning. SACS accreditation assures not only that an institution meets minimum standards, but also that it demonstrates a commitment to continuously providing quality education programs.

SACS accreditation ensures benefits to a school and its community, including:

- A mission and goals focused on improving student performance and the school's capacity to improve teaching and

learning.

● A collaboratively developed improvement plan that includes methods for measuring student progress and involves key school stakeholders.

● An effective framework that integrates all types of school planning and evaluation requirements.

● Qualified staffing and limited class size.

● Regular review of the school's programs by a team of outside peer professionals.

● Accountability and value for tax dollars spent.

● Regional, national and international recognition

as an accredited school.

Founded in 1895 and headquartered in Decatur, Ga., SACS is one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States and as an association is comprised of three Commissions. SACS serves 11 Southern states from Virginia to Texas, as well as American-International schools in Latin America. It accredits more than 13,000 institutions (public, nonpublic, early childhood centers and kindergartens; elementary, middle and high schools; vocational-technical schools, military schools; colleges and universities).

Perquimans ranks third in National Board teachers

Perquimans County Schools has the third highest percentage rate for National Board Teachers, according to data recently released by National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. At 13.97 percent, Perquimans only falls behind Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools (14.18 percent) and Edenton-Chowan Schools (14.74 percent).

National Board Certification is a credential attesting that a teacher has been judged by peers as one who is accomplished; makes sound professional judgments about student learning; and acts effectively on those judgments. National Board Certified Teachers demonstrate a



Cheryl Newby (holding flower) was among the latest group of Perquimans County teachers to earn National Board Certification. She was congratulated for her accomplishment by Principal Billy Stallings, Superintendent Ken Wells, fellow teacher Marcia Dickman and Assistant Superintendent Dwayne Stallings.

high level of knowledge, skills, dispositions and commitments reflected in the National Board's five core propositions:

● Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

● Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.

● Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

● Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

● Teachers are members of learning communities.

● The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is rooted in the

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of the world, where the honking of geese and the roar of a tractor motor are often the loudest sounds heard.

This relatively slow-paced lifestyle and tranquility, the serene, pristine waterways, and the friendliness of the region have made it a haven for city-dwellers looking for a peaceful place to retire. Its rich history and lack of high-paying jobs have forced economic development groups and local governments to pursue heritage and eco-tourism as a means to remain economically viable.

But the character of this serene setting may change forever if the U.S. Navy builds an outlying landing field, or OLF, in the region.

If that happens, and the Navy does plan to build an auxiliary landing field in Washington County, the roar of jets practicing touch-and-go landings at all hours of the day and night will certainly not be conducive to people or wildlife.

Proponents of a landing field in North Carolina cite military preparedness as the reason it is needed.

But those opposed to the landing field contend that there is not a true need for the facility, that it is being considered to placate Hampton Roads residents' complaints about jet noise.

Indeed, in a letter written by Robert J. Natter, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 30, 2000, there is no mention of a physical need for a new landing field, but rather to sooth community concerns about jet noise.

"Naval flight operations and associated jet noise continue to be topics of great interest for all citizens of Hampton Roads," Natter wrote. "An additional local issue is the potential selection of Oceana as the location for the Navy's new super Hornet aircraft, which will replace the F-14 and F/A-18 C/D aircraft.

super Hornet training — should these aircraft come to our community — and reduce aircraft operations at our airfields at Oceana and Fentress."

Natter goes on to say that the Navy was not exploring elimination of air operations from Oceana or Fentress, although the establishment of an additional landing field would curtail training at those locations.

The letter was written four months after the Navy filed a notice of intent in the federal register concerning basing the Super Hornets.

Also in October 2000, the Navy initiated an Environmental Impact Study to look at the impact of basing of the Super Hornets and OLFs.

In March 2001, a media release listed 20 potential OLF sites, among them Perquimans, Bertie, Washington and Hyde counties.

The next month, contractors doing the OLF study — Ecology Environment — sent letters to the local governments of the 20 sites.

Ecology Environment set the agenda for public meetings to be held in all

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 85
Low: 62
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 85
Low: 64
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
High: 86
Low: 68
SCATTERED SHOWERS