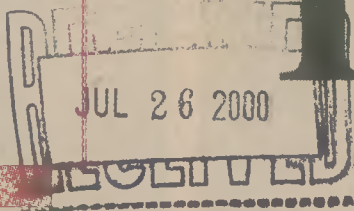


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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Stallings returns to PCHS as principal

No one tapped to head Central

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

Dwayne Stallings just can't stay out of the principal's office.

He spent several years in the assistant principal's office at

Perquimans High School and a year in the principal's office at Central School. Monday night, the board of education sent him back to the high school to sit in the principal's office there.

Stallings replaces Elaine Pritchard, who transferred to the central office to serve as director of curriculum/instruction. Stallings came to Perquimans County Schools in

1994 when he accepted the assistant principal post. Before that, he taught vocational courses and coached softball and baseball in Pasquotank County.

While Stallings' transfer gave the high school a full administrative staff, it left an opening at Central. Filling that slot with a qualified candidate who can acclimate quickly will be crucial with teachers

returning to school Aug. 3 followed by students on Aug. 10. School board chairman Walter Leigh and superintendent Gregory Todd said Monday that the selection process to fill the position is well underway, thanks in part to the application and interview process just completed for the high school opening.

Stallings' was not the only transfer approved Monday.

Cheryl Baker will move from the middle to the high school and Sandra Jordan from Hertford Grammar to the middle school.

Probationary contracts were approved for Susan Cox, Stephanie Fuller, Linda Harrell, Sylvia S. Johnson, Mary Lyons, James "Jeb" Stuart and Joey Womble. Probationary contracts with special conditions were okayed

for Bonita Booze, Stephanie Mack, Shonda Pittman and Laura Schroeder. Josie W. Harris was named PCHS SIMS/computer operator.

Resignations were accepted from Darrick Banks, Katherine Harrison, Heather Ickes, Julie Piscorik, Lois Rountree and Johnnie Walton.

Ten-month employees return to work Aug. 3. Convocation is set for 8 a.m.

WHIRLY-GIG

Funnel cloud bounces through Monday

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

It came and left so quickly even people who saw it—and the damage it left—were shaking their heads in disbelief.

A funnel cloud bounced its way from about the 5-mile Y area of Perquimans County to the river at Missing Mill Park Monday around noon.

George and Elizabeth Winslow and their neighbors Carl Skinner and Shirley Olson were out surveying the damage in the Winslow's Brown Acres back yard early Monday afternoon. A tree crushed the Winslow's backyard shed, which sat only about 30 feet from the house. Had the funnel been coming in from the north, the tree could possibly have landed across the Winslow's house. An easterly direction could have landed the tree on Skinner's home.

"I guess if it had to fall, it fell the best way," Mrs. Winslow said. She added that the doors of some of her cabinets flung open, evidently from the pressure of the funnel.

Skinner said he heard a noise and knew that the funnel was about to hit. He said he told his wife, his granddaughter and a babysitter to get on the floor.

Once the storm had passed, Skinner went out to survey the damage. He got a ladder and climbed atop the roof of the Winslow's house to check for damage.

Olson, who lives two doors down from the Winslows, had damage in at least two expanses of the six-foot fence that surrounds her back yard.

One block south, Earline White, her son Nathan, and neighbor Frank Brown were looking at the tree that had fallen across the street end of White's driveway and yard. Her car was trapped in the carport.

The back yards of the Winslows, Skinners and Olson border school property. The band practice is field is only yards from where the tree crashed into the shed. Marching band students were on the field just minutes before the funnel hit. Instructors moved the students off of the field and into the building as the heavy rain moved in just



The funnel cloud that bounced through the county Monday sent a tree crashing through the shed of George and Elizabeth Winslow in Brown Acres (above). Town maintenance personnel immediately began the clean-up effort, removing trees from electric lines and restoring power (right).



prior to the funnel cloud's hit.

Perquimans Emergency Management Coordinator Walter Meads said no watches or warnings were issued by the National Weather Service before the funnel cloud hit.

"Today the weather service never picked up anything," Meads said. "It was sudden, there was no warning. We were under a flash flood watch but not a tornado or even a thunderstorm watch."

Based on eyewitness and damage reports, as well as his own observation, Meads said it appeared the "tornadic activity" first hit in the Burnt Mill Road-Hopewell Road area just north of the Chowan-Perquimans boundary. It apparently moved near Bethel Baptist church, then hit an outbuilding on Snug Harbor Road.

From there, the funnel leapt to the Hertford neighborhood bounded by Edenton Road Street and Wynne Fork Road, damaging trees and power lines. It skipped around

through the Brown Acres area.

Mangled tree tops indicate the twister lifted and moved toward Cedar Wood Cemetery, overturning the high school baseball batting cage before jumping to Hyde Park, playing havoc with more trees and a light pole before hopping over the park to the river.

Meads said no personal injuries or major damage to homes was reported as of late yesterday afternoon. While there were some trees and large limbs that had fallen against houses, he said no one had reported that a tree had broken through a roof. There were trees and limbs twisted off and at least two outbuildings sustained heavy damage. There were reports from the high school that the pressure caused doors to slam through the structure.

Damaged light poles and trees on power lines caused brief power outages in the county, and kept some Hertford residents without power until evening, Meads said. Hertford's maintenance crew was joined by some Elizabeth City employees as they worked together to remove trees from lines, right poles, clear streets and restore electric service. Meads said at one time, about a quarter of the town's customers were without power.

Meads said it did not appear that the funnel cloud ever made significant contact with the ground.

Monday, county residents were lucky not to have sustained even more damages, Meads said. The sudden storm should serve as a warning to people to be prepared during this hurricane season.

Leigh is school board chair

Rayburn named vice-chair

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

It looked a little like a game of musical chairs at the school board meeting Monday night.

Iris Byrne, William Byrum and Helen Shaw, all three elected in the May primary, were sworn in while Wallace Nelson and Tommy Riddick ended their tenure.

Nelson opted not to seek a third term in May, but filed for county commissioner on the Republican ticket. He is one of five candidates for three seats in November. Riddick was not re-elected for a second term.

Both Nelson and Riddick said they believe the local school system has improved during their years of service,

and both said they hoped they had a role in that improvement. The pair issued a challenge to the present board to continue that positive direction.

Walter Leigh was re-elected board chairman. Marjorie Rayburn was chosen vice chair.

The board voted to continue to meet on the fourth Monday night of each month. The exceptions will be December and May, when meetings will move to the third Monday because of holidays. The board also set special meetings on March 19 (budget work session) and May 7 (personnel work session).

Board members receive \$200 per month and the chairman, \$265 per month regardless of the number of meetings attended. Board members also receive compensation for mileage on board business.

Towns agree on sewer impact fees

Waivers require OK of 2 councils

ANNA GOODWIN MCCARTHY
 Correspondent

Sewer impact fees will not be a factor in competition between the county's two municipalities for commercial growth.

Approval by both the Hertford and Winfall town councils will be required to waive sewer impact fees for any new business locating in the towns, under an agreement reached by the councils of both towns.

During a Hertford Town Council meeting, Mayor Fred Yates expressed concern over language in the proposed sewer contract between the two towns that specified that Winfall could not charge lower sewer impact fees than Hertford, excluding residential properties. Yates said Winfall should have the opportunity and freedom to waive impact fees to encourage growth that would generate revenue to benefit the town.

The impact fee should not be a reason for where a new business chooses to locate, said Hertford Town Manager John Christensen.

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley said waiving impact fees will cost the taxpayers.

"If we don't charge an impact fee, every citizen in Hertford is going to have to pay

for it," said Eley.

Hertford Town Councilman Dan Daneker suggested requiring approval by both boards to waive any sewer impact fees in the future.

Both councils approved Daneker's suggestion for a three-year trial period.

Winfall has faced set-backs in its efforts to install a self-sufficient wastewater treatment system. With Hertford's major expansion and renovation of its sewer system, that town will have the capacity to treat Winfall's sewage. The towns agreed that a pipeline will be built across the river to pump Winfall's sewage to Hertford's plant.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 88
 Low: 72
 SCATTERED T'STORMS

FRIDAY
 High: 88
 Low: 70
 ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
 High: 86
 Low: 69
 ISOLATED T'STORMS