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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Central School gets \$1.35 mill grant

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Talk about an IMPACT. Perquimans Central School learned last Thursday that the State Board of Education gave its approval of the school's application for a \$1.35 million IMPACT Model School Grant.

The school will get \$450,000 per year for three years to fund personnel, resources, access to information resources and the internet, computer hardware/software, professional development and student instruction to produce technologically literate students. Based on studies and on-site experience with the



Perquimans County Schools Technology Coordinator Victor Eure, and Central School media coordinator Melissa Fields, technology facilitator Cynthia Stallings, principal Billy Stallings and teacher Tracy Gregory are interviewed by an out-of-state team for the \$1.35 million IMPACT grant.

school's limited technology resources at present, the school system expects to raise student achievement across the board as well as to help close the achievement gap between subgroups of students.

The grant was developed to align with the 2000 North Carolina Educational Technology Plan and IMPACT: Guidelines for Media and Technology Programs in North Carolina. It is funded in conjunction with the federal No-Child Left Behind Act of 2002.

Central is one of only 11 schools in the state to receive funding. Thirty-nine applications for fund-

ing were received.

All grant applications were reviewed by three different out-of-state reviewers who evaluated the proposals and assigned them numeric scores. Sixteen finalist schools were identified and notified.

The SouthEast Initiatives Regional Technology in Education Consortium staff conducted 70-minute interviews with each of the 16 finalist schools over a three-day period, with each school asked the same questions.

Eleven grant award nominees were then forwarded to the state board for approval at their March 6 meeting.

Representing Perquimans at the interview were school system technology coordinator Victor Eure and Central School principal Billy Stallings, media coordinator Melissa Fields, technology facilitator Cynthia Stallings and teacher Tracy Gregory.

The grant will allow the school to purchase hardware and software, as well as provide funding for personnel and professional development to help classroom teachers and support staff learn to integrate more technology into the curriculum.

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## Officers nabbing Hertford speeders

SUSAN R. HARRIS

One month after being directed by the town council to enforce speed limits within a 3-5 mile tolerance, the Hertford Police Department has issued 13 speeding tickets.

"We are enforcing the speed limits as council has directed us to do," said Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy.

At its Feb. 10 meeting, council approved the motion to crack down on those not observing speed limits. The motion included a provision to give warning tickets for 10 days, then to begin writing citations.

Vanscoy said officers are also watching for those who are illegally parked.

To date the increased attention to those speeding and violating parking ordinances has resulted in the following citations:

Speeding: Cynthia Anne Rios, Aaron Quinn Foster, Scott Michael Freese, Mary Jones Skinner, Webb Darden Jones Jr. and John E. Nowell.

Exceeding posted speed: Andre Blanchard, Allan Bernard Harris, Norman Leroy Warden Jr., Louis Eason, Sharon Lynn Jethro, Cynthia Perry and Dana Denise Duncan.

Parking violations: Juanita B. Loggins, PV Holding Corp., Francis L. Shipman Jr. and Elizabeth G. Winslow.

Other violations: Failure to produce registration card/no license plate, Roberto Torruco Carrillo; reckless driving, Russell James Sullivan; failure to give the right of way, William Christopher Fox; and driving while license revoked, Robert Lee White Jr.

Vanscoy said officers will continue to enforce. Continued on page 6

## Pirate hoopsters compete for state crown

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Perquimans is packing for Raleigh.

The Pirates clicked on all cylinders Saturday to become the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A East Regional Champions with a decisive 70-52 win over Wallace-Rose Hill High School.

The win advances Perquimans to the state championship game to be played at N.C. State University's Reynolds Coliseum Saturday at 2:30 p.m., where they will face Thomasville.

"I'd like to congratulate my team," Pirates head coach Donald Stepney said after the game. "They had to pick an MVP, but to me all these guys are great. We came up short last year and we worked hard and did what we had to do (this year).

"We're actually going to Raleigh," Stepney continued, surrounded by his son, tournament MVP Titus



Jerrell Foreman will try to handle Thomasville in the middle during Saturday's state championship game.

Stepney, and All-Tournament players, J'Sean Wilkins, Terrell Woodard, Shavoris Lewis and Jerrell Foreman. "Words can't even express what I feel right now. It's such a numb feeling. This is a special group."

And it was a total team effort that led to the Pirates victory.

Stepney, as he has all year, came up big in the big game, scoring a gamehigh 18 points, grabbing seven steals and coming up with four rebounds.

Lewis dumped in 14 points, while dishing out three assists and tallying

four rebounds and two steals.

Wilkins poured in 13 points, with nine rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Foreman scored 10 and added 11 rebounds and five blocks to his performance.

Woodard hit for nine points, with seven rebounds.

The contest was close in the beginning, with Perquimans taking a slim 14-8 lead after the first quarter.

Wallace-Rose Hill pulled within two on an old-fashioned three-point play by Jeremy Perkins at the 5-

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- Advance tickets to Saturday's 1-A men's state championship game are available at PCHS for \$7. Gate price is \$8.
- The school system has contracted with Fun Tours to offer bus transportation to the game for PCHS students ONLY. The cost is \$15 and includes admission to the game.
- Videotapes of the game may be reserved for \$20 by calling Athletic Director Susan Cox at 426-5778.

## Search uncovers no leads in case of missing county man

BEN DECK  
The Daily Advance

A team of 35 volunteers combed a swath of Gates County Sunday but found no trace of a Perquimans man who has been missing since July 2002.

"We ended up back where we started at," said Rex Meads, a private investigator hired by the mother of the missing man.

Searchers walked nearly shoulder-to-shoulder through wooded areas and others used all-terrain vehicles to check fields as they combed 200 to 300 acres of southern Gates County near the Gates-Perquimans line, Meads said.

They were looking for any trace of 45-year-old Kevin Fields, whose truck was found in the area on Sept. 28, 2002.

Marjorie Fields of Wilmington, the mother of the missing man, hired Meads after efforts by law enforcement came up dry. Fields believes law enforcement investigators "did what they could," but she

wants to see the case taken further, she said.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley, whose department is handling the official investigation into Fields' disappearance, said he believes someone from the community will need to come forward with information in order for a significant break to come in the case.

Kevin Fields was living out of his white Ford truck in Perquimans County, and his cell phone records indicate he went missing some time after July 6, 2002. His truck was eventually found in Gates County, but there was no sign of violence in the vehicle, Tilley said.

Many of Fields' belongings, including his wallet and cell phone, were found in the truck, however.

Fields said her son suffered from schizophrenia and it's likely that he wasn't taking his medication when he vanished.

Sheriff's departments in Gates and Perquimans counties conducted an initial search in the area, but no evidence of Kevin's whereabouts was discov-



Daily Advance photo

Volunteers combed 200-300 acres of south Gates County Sunday, looking for any trace of Kevin Fields, a Perquimans County man missing since July.

ered. Later searches with dogs, including two animals trained to find cadavers, also turned up no leads.

Meads said he is "pretty sure" Fields is not in the area where his truck was found. He also held out hope that Fields may not have met with foul play.

"All of us hope (Fields) is

number of the Center for Missing Persons: 1-877-838-7852. The Fields family is offering a reward to anyone with information about the man's whereabouts.

"All of us hope (Fields) is alive," Meads said. "Whether he is or not, the investigation will reveal that."

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 59  
LOW: 40  
SHOWERS

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 62  
LOW: 39  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 61  
LOW: 41  
PARTLY CLOUDY