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 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

Schools earn state safety award

Lock-down drill part of safety plan

MARGARET FISHER

Perquimans Central School halls were filled with law enforcement, emergency and school officials as part of a lock down drill that took place last Friday.

It's just one of a number of safety drills the schools practice annually, helping all four schools in the county to be the recipient of the Triple "S" Super Safe School award for 2005-2006. The award is given to schools for providing a safe learning environment for children and educators.

"I'm really proud that each school has been recognized for the tremendous effort that they put into safety," said Superintendent Kenneth Wells.

The schools routinely have drills covering inci-



dents involving fire, torna-

PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

When Code Red was announced at Perquimans Central School during an intruder lock down drill, law enforcement, emergency and school officials swarmed the building to account for all the students. Principal Billy Stallings prepared the group for the exercise. The school was one of four that won the Triple "S" Super Safe School award for 2005-2006.

does, hurricanes and evacuations, said Central School Principal Billy

Stallings. "This is part of our safe school plan - county wide and school," Stallings said

of last week's drill. The lock down drill prepares students and staff on

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County purchases voting machines

Touch-screens chosen

MARGARET FISHER

The Perquimans County Board of Elections got the voting machines they wanted after meeting with county commissioners last week.

After the board presented the disadvantages of the optical scan and advantages of the Direct Record Electronic voting machines, the commissioners approved purchasing the higher priced iVotronic DRE's or touch-screen units.

"The Board of Elections obviously felt like it was the best way to go, even though they are more expensive," said County Manager Bobby Darden.

Three board members voted yes and two didn't vote, constituting two yes votes, Darden said.

The \$106,000 Help America Vote Act Election Fund grant is to be used first to pay the \$175,000 initial cost. The county will be able to split the \$61,000 over two years, Darden said. This year, funds will likely come from reserve funds or additional revenues brought in before July, he said.

Election Board Director Eula Forbes said that the precinct workers are already familiar with the DRE, so training will go faster. Some of those workers presented the differences between the two types of units, made by Elections Systems & Software, to commissioners.

"(Precinct workers) were a very positive influence for the commissioners to purchase the DRE's because they're the ones that will actually be using the equipment," Forbes said.

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Two help feed Katrina workers, find unity in shattered gulf region

MARGARET FISHER

Two Perquimans County women started the year by helping to feed more than 150 relief workers in the hurricane-torn area of Long Beach, Miss.

Dottie Hall and Pam McCabe, along with Hall's sister, Ann Beeson of Newport News, Va., spent a week near the gulf preparing meals and taking in an eye-full of devastation.

"I have wanted to go ever since the wind stopped - knowing the devastation and help that was needed, and that maybe, I could do a little," Hall said.

The three traveled together, but were part of a volunteer group of 15 Jehovah's Witnesses, mostly from the Newport News area, that went to work in food service between Jan. 2-

6. Other groups came from the northeast, mid-west and southern states. Groups typically stay about a week, but one elderly couple, who came from Canada, had been working there for nearly four months, Hall said.

Hall was familiar with the area before Hurricane Katrina swept through the gulf. She had talked to people there before arriving, so she had an expectation of the destruction she would encounter.

Still, she described her first day of touring the neighborhoods as "unimaginable."

"You could ride for miles and see nothing but slab after slab," she said. "A lot of debris, but nothing large enough that even looked like a home. Sometimes you'd see a set of steps or rod iron steps leading to

nowhere."

Hall said she remembered that the area was known for its spectacular live oak trees. But she wasn't expecting to see refrigerators perched in the broad-limbed branches or clothes stuck tightly around them from the force of moving water.

There were few cars and people moving about. But there were mangled cars that looked like they had been rolling over for some time, she said.

Hall said that one sight was particularly heart-breaking. Apparently, there were people who had found or brought chairs and set them in front of their property. Occasionally, she would see a middle-aged couple sitting in the chairs - usually facing what was once their home. Just sitting and looking.



Sisters Ann Beeson (left) and Perquimans resident Dottie Hall put icing on cakes for about 150 of Jehovah's Witnesses volunteering in Long Beach, Miss. The two traveled with another resident, Pam McCabe, to an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina to help feed relief workers.

One piece of property had a memorial wreath hanging on a tree. Below was a picture of an elderly couple. "There were no remains of the house at all - just the slab," Hall said.

The railroad tracks were more or less the dividing

line between the totally devastated gulf area and the less devastated inland area. The three women worked and slept on the inland side.

On Sunday, they attended an orientation to learn

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Workshop strengthens mentoring skills

MARGARET FISHER

A mentoring workshop sponsored by Communities in Schools of North Carolina was held in Hertford just in time for National Mentoring Month.

Last week's workshop was designed to attract community and faith-based organizations that would like to start or increase a mentoring program. The program focused on how to understand youth better and find grant money. District Court Judge Carlton Cole was the guest speaker.

Nancy Barrows, executive director of Communities in Schools of Perquimans, also assisted with the workshop. About 25 people participated in the workshop held at Albemarle Commission, she said.

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Stained glass, photography on exhibit at PAL gallery

Glass art lets artist's light shine

MARGARET FISHER

Carlton Dozier never took a class in the art of stained glass. He read two books from the library, purchased the minimum equipment and made a napkin holder.

Ten years ago, Dozier retired as a chief operator at a water treatment plant in Elizabeth City. That's about the time he began to consider trying his hand at some type of art medium. Since making his first stained glass piece, he's been perfecting his skills.

Dozier has an exhibit at the Perquimans Arts League gallery that runs until Feb. 6. His pieces include table lamps, flowerpots, stepping stones, boxes, sun catchers and a table lamp.

The artist works in a shop behind his home in Pasquotank County. It took a week to make the floor lamp, he said.

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PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Martha Harper, a photographer from Durants Neck, critiques photographs at the Perquimans Arts League exhibit featuring photographer Edward Sanford and stained glass artisan Carlton Dozier. The exhibit will take place through Feb. 6 in the gallery at Hall of Fame Square.

Beauty in black and white

MARGARET FISHER

Edward Sanford sees everything in black and white, but he also sees the shades of gray in between. Sanford is a photographer who focuses mainly on black and white rural scenes and abstract textures.

The artist's works are on display at the Perquimans Arts League gallery through Feb. 6. Most of his photos portray the ordinary as extraordinary. Like a cat waiting for the right moment to pounce on its prey, Sanford spends more time checking out a potential site, then waits until just the right moment to snap the picture.

"My goal is that I know what the picture is going to look like when it comes out of the fixer," he said. He knows before he presses the shutter exactly what shade of gray the different elements of the photo

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 HIGH: 51, LOW: 30
 SUNNY

FRIDAY
 HIGH: 56, LOW: 37
 MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
 HIGH: 60, LOW: 44
 MOSTLY CLOUDY