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## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

### State takes schools' money

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools have to give \$73,000 back to the state to help alleviate the state's budget crunch.

Superintendent Dr. Dwayne Stallings notified staff last week that the state asked each local education agency to return 0.75 percent of their general state funds received this fiscal year.

According to a directive from the state Department of Public Instruction (DPI), lack of current and anticipated revenues into state coffers has caused the Office of State Budget and Management to tell DPI to reverse over \$100 million in state public school funds.

While approximately half of the funds will be covered by normal reversions such as differences between budgeted and actual teacher salaries, the rest must be made up by reversions from both school districts and charter schools.

DPI stressed that school systems make every effort to reduce spending without impacting classroom services or services for at-risk or special needs children.

"Let me again emphasize the importance of being frugal in our school operations," wrote Stallings recently in a memo to staff.

He is requesting that the school system send only a minimum number of staff to conferences, thereby reducing not only registration fees and travel costs, but reducing the cost of hiring substitute teachers as well.

Staff members are being asked to drive a state car to conferences rather than personal vehicles, reducing

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### Let it snow!



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

PERQUIMANS AWOKE FRIDAY TO swirling snow showers that blanketed the area in a fluffy white blanket, then quickly melted away due to the warm ground and roadways. While it snowed in showers for several hours and came down furiously, it did not stick on the warm highways, thereby averting the flurry of accidents that often accompanies snow flurries. For more snow scenes, log onto [www.daily-advance.com](http://www.daily-advance.com). Choose photos/videos from the menu bar. Click on Perquimans.



### Hertford cops get tazers

SUSAN HARRIS

Resisting a Hertford police officer could be a shocking experience.

Chief Joe Amos said last week that his department has purchased three tazers at a cost of about \$2,400 for use by officers.

Tazers look like handguns and shoot a 5-second, 10,000-volt electrical charge as far as 21 feet. Those "shot" with a tazer are physically incapacitated while being shocked and for a second or two afterwards. The electrical impulses go through muscles and seize them so the person who has been hit with the tazer cannot resist. When the shock stops, the muscles relax, so the victim tends to fall, Amos said.

The chief said there are no long-term effects from being tazed.

Amos carries a tazer now, but he said all officers will be trained in their use and tazers will become a part of the equipment carried by officers.

Tazers are actually safer for both the officer and others who may be in the vicinity of someone who may resist an officer's attempts to restrain him or her than conventional measures, Amos said.

Batons are made of materials that can inflict serious injury, according to the chief, and are difficult to use in confined quarters. A situation that requires the officers to use a baton may involve physical contact by both the officer and the person the officer is trying to restrain, and therefore, the possibility of an officer using too much force can be a concern.

Using a gun can not only be fatal to the person the officer is trying to restrain, but can put anyone in the area at



risk of injury, he said.

But a tazer incapacitates someone for just a few seconds, giving the officer time to handcuff the person and get them safely into a patrol car and away from others who might be in danger.

The department has a policy that requires a report to be filed with the chief whenever an officer uses force to restrain or detain someone, so each time the tazer is fired, a report will be filed with the chief.

Every time the weapon is fired, an information trail is created that will allow Amos to tell when the tazing took place, the duration of the shock delivered and other information, Amos said.

The tazers are just one change that has taken place in the few weeks Amos has been on board with the department. There are now six full-time and one part-time officers patrolling the town, with a Hertford officer on duty at all times. Before Amos came on board, off-duty sheriff's deputies were covering some shifts due to a lack of manpower.

Officers work 12-hour shifts, and Amos said he generally works days, but checks in and out on all shifts as he learns the town and its people, his officers, and crime patterns.

Officers are expected to turn in all incident reports at the end of their shift, he said.

Manning the department in addition to Amos are Sgt. Kevin Worster, back from medical leave, and patrolmen Josh Turpin, Erik Priebe, Melissa Kight and Cliff Johnson. Mark Gray works part-time.

### County man guilty of sex offense

From staff reports

A 69-year-old Perquimans County man was sentenced last week to serve five to six years in prison for taking indecent liberties with a 15-year-old Bertie County girl.

James Dunn, of 128 County Line Road, pleaded no contest to four counts of taking indecent liberties with the child this past April.

Superior Court Judge Richard Parker sentenced Dunn to a minimum of 19 months and a maximum of 23 months on each of three convictions, with the sentences to run consecutively. He suspended the fourth identical sentence. Dunn received credit for time served and must undergo psychiatric evaluations.

Parker ordered Dunn to be on supervised probation for 60 months following his release from prison. Dunn must also register as a sex offender.

Family members of the child told Parker that she suffers from nightmares and is undergoing therapy. They also asked that Dunn receive therapeutic help while in prison.

In other matters, Jessie James Twine, 44, was sentenced to a minimum of 22 months and a maximum of 27 months for felony assault.

As a result of a negotiated plea agreement, Twine pleaded guilty to felony assault and misdemeanor assault on a female. Five other misdemeanor charges were dismissed including three counts of communicating threats, as well as one count each of being intoxicated and disruptive, and resisting a police officer.

A summary of the evidence showed that Twine was intoxicated during a domestic altercation at Wynn Fork Court on April 18. He yanked the arm of a woman, pulling her shoulder out of its socket.

Noting at least five prior convictions on Twine's record, Parker also sentenced him to serve 120 days on the misdemeanor assault on a female conviction. Upon his release, Twine must be on supervised probation for 36 months plus make restitution.

Other sentencings last week included:

Zack Maddry, possession of a Scheduled II controlled substance, 6-8 months suspended, supervised probation 24 months, \$200 fine.

Dennis Stallings, possession of drug paraphernalia, 45 days suspended, supervised probation 12 months, \$200 fine.

### Food bank, newspapers team to feed the hungry

SUSAN HARRIS

Many of us will eat until it hurts this Thanksgiving, sharing our bounty with family and friends gathered on this traditional day of counting our blessings.

But some may hurt because they do not have enough to eat.

In these times of economic uncertainty — of lay-offs and rising prices — there are families in our community struggling to put food on the table.

Our young families find it difficult to feed their children while also trying to pay rising utility costs and keep a vehicle running so they can work, sometimes at jobs that do not pay enough to provide health insurance.

Our senior citizens, likewise, find it difficult to make ends meet, sometimes having to decide whether to buy groceries or medication.

Most of us in Perquimans County are not rich, but many of us can spare a little from our budgets to help those who find themselves in need. With

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### WEEKEND WEATHER

THANKSGIVING  
HIGH: 57 Low: 37  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 59 Low: 39  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 61 Low: 34  
SHOWERS

