

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



Pirates ready for playoffs, 7

Switching emergency frequency will be costly, 8

Race to the Top funds coming to PCS

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools expects to receive \$59,000 each year for the next four years in Race to the Top (RttT) federal grant funds won by the state.

Those monies will be used by the local school system in a variety of ways as directed by the state, from updating outdated technology to focusing on reading in grades 3-8.

The funds are part of the

\$400 million federal Race to the Top grant won by North Carolina, one of only 12 nationwide.

The grants are designed to spur public school innovation and continue school improvement across the state.

According to Brenda Lassiter, Perquimans' public information officer, the local school system submitted its required plan of action on how the local school system would use the funds on Monday.

Perquimans is set to re-



Stallings

earmarked to help make all schools wireless and to support technology/infrastructure upgrades in all facilities.

Also, \$40,000 will go towards paying for staff de-

velopment in preparation for new standards listed in the schools' course of study, \$30,000 to support reading/literacy in early education for grades 3-8, \$19,000 for help pay for mentors to help new teachers, and \$19,000 in curriculum support in an effort to place students in the best math or science classes based on testing, among other projects.

Local RttT funds are distributed based on last year's Title 1 and federal stimulus funds appropri-

tions.

Perquimans ranks in the middle when comparing grant funds expected by neighboring counties.

Camden County Schools is slated to receive \$60,935 over four years while Currituck County should receive \$102,694. Edenton/Chowan Schools should receive \$330,957 over four years while Pasquotank County is earmarked to receive \$899,359.

Each school division had to file their plan of action by Nov. 8 in order to receive

the funds. Local schools expect to receive the funds in late November or early December.

Race to the Top funds must be spent in direct support of the state's plan focusing on creating great teachers and principals, quality standards and assessments, turnaround of lowest achieving schools, and data systems to improve instruction.

The state's plan strives to ensure that all students will graduate and be career and college ready.

Vets give a hand for park project

From staff reports

An artistic bronze casting of a special veteran's right hand that will be included in the North Carolina Veterans Park will follow this year's Veterans Day observance on Thursday.

American Legion Post 126 will sponsor the annual ceremony honoring local veterans on the courthouse lawn beginning at 11 a.m. Speaking will be Mack Nixon, a veteran who also serves as chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners. Assisting will be members from the Perquimans County High School band, Hertford Boy and Cub Scout troops 150, and members of Post 126.

Following the annual observance, the unique event of creating a molded cast of a veteran's hand will occur.

Each county in the state has been asked to select one veteran to have a bronze cast created of his or her right hand to include in the state veterans park which is scheduled to open July 4 in Fayetteville.

Based on the recommendation from Preston Spear, the county's veterans officer, county commissioners recently selected Corbin Cherry to represent county veterans in the new park project. An artist will travel to Perquimans County to mold Cherry's right hand, the hand raised when taking the military oath of service.

His hand cast will be part of a wall that will

See VETERANS, 4

THE SOUND OF MUSIC PAST



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Band Boosters President Jennifer Bunch shows the interactive band display that dates to 1945, currently showing at the Perquimans Arts League Gallery.

Historic band display showing at PAL

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Don't be surprised if you see the local high school band members running instead of marching these days!

Members of the Perquimans County High School Marching Pirates are trying to raise funds to perform at Walt Disney World next spring. Also, an interactive band memorabilia display

dating back to 1945 is currently showing at the Perquimans Arts League Gallery. And, plans call for appearances at upcoming events and holiday parades.

Jennifer Bunch, president of the local band boosters, said it's a busy time for the students, and band boosters alike.

She is especially excited over the historical band display at the PAL gallery which includes scrapbooks, uniforms, batons,

signs, and much more.

"Did you know that President Lyndon Johnson actually provided uniforms for the marching unit years ago?" asked Bunch. "I didn't, but there's information in the display telling about when that occurred."

While displaying historical information about bands in the past, current band members are busy selling candy, fresh fruit, wrapping paper and other items

just in time for the holidays in an effort to raise enough money to travel to Florida next March.

Band director Sarah Fenske told members of the Perquimans Board of Education recently that the trip would cost about \$550 per student. Members will sell fruit, sell candy and other items, and cook chicken dinners to help pay

See BAND, 4

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 46
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 45
MOSTLY SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 63 LOW: 47
PARTLY CLOUDY

Muzzulin, Miller-White win

Hobbs, Tilley claim election victories

From staff reports

Political newcomer Ed Muzzulin is slated to be sworn in as a new county commissioner next month after winning one of three commissioner seats during last week's election.

Muzzulin (D) joins incumbents Tammy Miller-White (D) and Ben Hobbs (R) to be sworn into office during the next commissioner meeting Dec. 6. Incumbent veteran commissioner Charles Ward (D) lost in the four-person



Hobbs Miller-White Muzzulin Tilley

race for three seats on the board.

Hobbs, the lone Republican seeking reelection on the board, garnered the most votes with 1,524. Muzzulin followed him with 1,066 votes, and Miller-White with 799 votes.

Ward lost his seat by finishing fourth with 671

votes, according to unofficial tallies.

Muzzulin, 66, has never held a political office before, but campaigned tirelessly throughout the county for the past several weeks.

In thanking the vot-

See ELECTION, 2

Pumpkin Party



PCS PHOTO

Students at Hertford Grammar School received free pumpkins recently, just in time to make pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. The pumpkins were provided by Mary and Joe White of Hertford.



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