

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Election results

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Three new board of education members were elected following last week's primary election that drew about 39 percent of the county's registered voters to the polls. Three democratic candidates for county commissioners were chosen to run in November's general election as well.

Political newcomers Susan Cox, Amy Spough and Arlene Yates defeated incumbent Gail Vaughn Hill and challengers Lula Mae Billups-Eason, DiAnne M. Layden and Pam Modlin-Hurdle for three seats on the non-partisan school board.

Cox was the top vote getter with 881, followed by Spough with 684 and Yates with 419.

Layden drew 366 votes, Modlin-Hurdle gained 343, Hill had 298 and Billups-Eason received 208 votes.

The three new board of education members will take office in June.

Three incumbent county commissioners and a newcomer will run for three commissioner seats in the November general election following Tuesday's wins at the polls.

Commissioner chairman Mack Nixon and commissioners Shirley Wiggins and newcomer Tommy Lynn Riddick won on the Democratic ticket last week, defeating challenger Neil Trueblood.

Wiggins was the top vote getter with 996 votes followed by Nixon with 725, Riddick with 696, and Trueblood with 234.

Wiggins, Nixon and Riddick will face Republican commissioner incumbent Sue Weimar in the November election for three seats on the board of commissioners. Weimar did not appear on Tuesday's ballot.

Deborah Reed, register of deeds, is seeking reelection and automatically ad



Cox



Spough



Yates

SCIENCE IS Fun



FIRST GRADERS ENJOYED A hands-on project at the Port Discover booth at the Perquimans County Schools Science Day at the Recreation/Community Center last week.



SCIENCE IN DAILY LIFE was the recurring theme at the Science Day, as students learned about science relating to health and animal life. First, fifth and eighth graders and high school science students visited the event. See page 9 for details.

County eyes marine business

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

After years of cutting bait, Perquimans County has finally hooked a big fish. Now they've just got to get it in the boat.

County commissioners and the North Carolina Seafood Industrial Park Authority want to join forces in developing a marine industrial park here that could bring six boat builders to the area and create approximately 400 jobs.

Last Thursday, county commissioners approved a letter of intent showing their interest in selling property for developing a marine business park in the county's commerce centre. While the word "seafood" in the name conjures up images of seafood markets, smelly trawlers, and docks lined with tons of fresh seafood, the park will actually attract boat builders, boat repair and maintenance businesses, marine engine sales and service, boat sales, upholstery businesses, cabinet making, and other boat-related industries.

The Perquimans park would partner with the one currently operating in Wanchese, which is filled to capacity.

Bob Peele, director of the state commerce department's Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park in Dare County, is excited about the project and said the county's site is "absolutely beautiful." He stressed, however, that the letter of intent to the authority is non-binding. Several approvals must be received before the project can go forward.

The authority, the state's Secretary of Commerce, and the Council of State must each give their stamp of approval before a legal, binding agreement can be reached.

"I don't foresee a problem with those approvals, they're hoops we have to go through and they can go pretty quickly," he added. "We are extremely excited. This is a great opportunity and we look forward to putting some folks to work."

Peele told commissioners that jobs at the Wanchese park start around \$10-\$12 per hour, with

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Food pantry requests increase

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The state of the economy is sending more folks to the local food pantry for help in feeding their families.

Rosemary Smith, program director for Open Door of Perquimans, said the food pantry has seen a 12 percent increase in customers since the first of the year.

"The high gas prices are really hurting them," she said. "Many of them used to drive to the beach to clean houses, but can't do it any more because of the price of gas."

The increase in clients, coupled with the normally slack donation season of June-August, may cause trouble this summer for the all-volunteer interfaith non-profit organization that relies on food and monetary donations from area churches, schools, civic groups, postal carriers, and the community.

"We always struggle with donations, but I am amazed at how blessed we are by the community's support here," Smith said. "The community is so supportive, more so than most food pantries have."

Open Door provides help to an average of 110 families a month, and that number is expected to increase as

gas prices, and the cost of groceries, continue to rise. Clients are usually referred for help from area churches, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, county fire departments, or the county's department of social services.

However, Smith says anyone who needs help may receive food from the food pantry the first time without a referral.

"We'll talk with them and let them know they will need a referral to continue, but they don't need to be clients of the department of social services," she explained.

In addition to providing food to those in need, Open Door also provides emergency assistance to help pay for utilities once a year for clients through a FEMA emergency food and shelter grant.

Unfortunately donations to Open Door drop off during the summer months even though the need is still prevalent. Seasonal fresh produce is often donated by farmers and locals whose bountiful gardens produce more than they can use.

Foods not donated to the agency are bought in bulk from the Albemarle Food Bank located in Elizabeth City.

While food and money are usually the items donat-



BOB COTTHAUS AND BILL James, both volunteers from Albemarle Plantation, deliver donations to the Open Door from a local supermarket. Open Door is approaching their lowest donation season, June-August. With more people seeking help and less donations coming in, it could be a long summer for the local non profit organization.

ed, Smith pointed out that toiletries are needed just as badly. Items like shampoo, toilet paper, and laundry detergent are not allowed to be purchased by food stamps, she added.

"We buy detergent in bulk and break it down into zipped bags to give, along with shampoo and toilet paper, in goodie bags," Smith said. Toilet paper is the number one requested item.

The "freebie" smaller

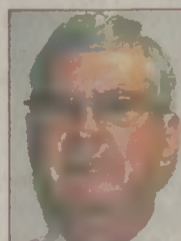
packs of shampoo, conditioner, and coffee normally found in hotel rooms are especially enjoyed by clients, she said. Travelers who bring those items home may donate them to Open Door as well.

Open Door, located in Apple Tree Mall in Winfall, is open Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are also available to speak to groups anytime.

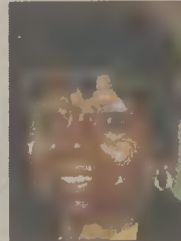
For more information, call 426-7776.



Nixon



Riddick



Wiggins

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 79 LOW: 65
FEW SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 75 LOW: 58
SCATTERED STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 75 LOW: 63
PARTLY CLOUDY



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