

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Schools mull sex offender policy updates

### New state law tightens oversight

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Board of Education is considering a policy that would ban convicted sexual offenders from school property.

Convicted sex offenders would be banned from school property, and vendors will be required to do employee background checks.

In addition, the new policy would also require all vendors that do business with the school system to perform sex offender registry checks or criminal background checks on their employees who may come in contact with students.

The policy, which was introduced to board of education members last week, follows the Jessica Lunsford Act that went into effect in North Carolina Dec. 1.

The law, named after the 9-year-old Florida girl who was kidnapped, raped and killed by a repeat sex offender in 2005, basically tightens the reins on repeat sex offenders and creates new criminal offenses that make it unlawful for sex offenders to be on certain premises as well as requires school contractual personnel who interact with students to have background checks.

If the vendor does not provide the school system with a letter clearing the employees who must come onto school property, the school system will not continue to do business with that vendor.

"This will be a massive undertaking," said Ella Fields Bunch, director of

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## LOOKING FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER

Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

DOUG LAYDEN TRIES to cajole a higher bid on items at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce banquet at The Onley Place in Belvidere Friday evening. Blake and Murrielle Harmon were among the guests who looked over items available at the silent auction. The relaxing evening raised about \$3,000 for Chamber operations.

## Chamber draws large crowd for annual banquet

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Holding up a red and white frilly negligee and thong, auctioneer Doug Layden asked Chamber Director Sid Eley to model the next item up for bid.

While the sexy items brought \$50 during Friday night's Chamber of Commerce fund raiser, several people offered much more for Eley NOT to put on the Valentine "nightie."

It was all part of the fun as the community turned out in record number to help the local Chamber of Commerce raise funds during the annual fundraising auction and banquet.

Held for the first time at The Onley Place near Belvidere, over 175 tickets were sold for the event which included auction-

ing everything from a free make up lesson to a teak deck chair.

"It was a fun night raising funds," Eley said. "Every dollar spent was a dollar we didn't have. It was a relaxed, fun evening and we want to keep it that way."

Layden led the regular auction with his fast-paced chant and eagle eye that didn't miss a waved hand, nod of the head, or flip of the auction card. He relished in starting a bidding war on a popular item, working the potential buyers with good-natured pressure.

Larger items placed for bids during the silent auction lined the back of the room with the winners announced at the end of the banquet.

More than \$3,000 was raised to help the Cham-



ber, Eley said.

"With the economy situation the way it is, I think we did extremely well," said Eley who didn't have to model the negligee after all. "This enables us to keep the cost of memberships down and add other programs as well."

A variety of items were donated by area merchants and individuals.

To help spice up the auction, three large grab bags were auctioned, sight unseen. Bidders took chances bidding on the bags without knowing what was inside.

One bag surprised the winning bidder with a gift cheese-box filled with goodies from Layden's Country Store.

"We enjoyed holding our banquet at The Onley Place where we could remain casual in a fun atmo-

sphere," Eley said. "We're a blue collar Chamber holding a fun-filled event rather than a gala."

A catered dinner was served by Captain Bob's and entertainment for the evening was provided by singer Andy Faircloth.

This marks the ninth year for the Chamber fund raiser which includes the sale of corporate tables for the event. It is the Chamber's only fund raiser for the year.

Chamber membership is open to businesses, organizations, civic groups, churches, school groups, government agencies and individuals. Call 426-5657 for information.

## Chief uses taser

### Amos: Taser may have prevented use of deadly force

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Police responding to a domestic situation at Wynne Fork Apartments Jan. 26 tased a man armed with a foot-long butcher knife.

"Now we have in some cases an option that is safe for the officers as well as the suspects we have to arrest."

HPD Chief Joe Amos

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said Cecil Beasley, 46, of 102 Wynne Fork Ct., faces charges of resisting a police officer and possession of drug paraphernalia in connection with the incident. Beasley is being held in Albemarle District Jail under a \$1,000 bond.

Amos said he and Officer Melissa Knight responded to a 9-1-1 call reporting a domestic dispute around 5:30 p.m. The dispatchers advised they could hear yelling in the background when they received the call.

Amos arrived at the scene first and heard people yelling inside the apartment, he said. When the female that placed the call opened the door, Amos walked into the living room of the apartment and saw Beasley holding a large kitchen knife in his right hand down by his side.

Amos pulled his service weapon and ordered Beasley to put the knife down, he said.

Instead of complying, Amos said Beasley walked away from Amos and headed towards the kitchen where the female had gone. Beasley then stopped at a doorway and turned his back on Amos which gave Amos time to pull his Taser and aim it at Beasley.

Amos said he lowered his firearm down to his right side, then grabbed the taser and fired, shocking Beasley in the upper left side of his chest. Beasley dropped the knife as he fell backwards to the floor.

Once down, the suspect was ordered to roll over and place his hands behind his back. Beasley was taken into custody without any further incident, Amos said.

"Had it not been for the new tasers recently purchased by the town, the outcome may have been very different," Amos commented. "In the past officers had little choice on calls like this. We could try to fight the suspect and run the risk of getting hurt ourselves or we could use deadly force. Now we have in some cases an option that is safe for the officers as well as the suspects we have to arrest."

## Winfall begins curbside collection program

### Free program provides blue recycling cans for pick-up

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The citizens of Winfall are going green.

A new curbside recycling collection program began in town Nov. 20 and more citizens are encouraged to take part. Big blue recycling carts with wheels can be rolled to the curb twice a month for easy pick-up.

"This is the first time that Winfall residents, businesses, and schools can recycle a wide variety of materials using roll-carts that are emptied at the street in

front of the home or business," wrote Anne Blindt with Albemarle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority in an email.

"This program is virtually the same as the one that the town of Hertford started this past fall...The interesting thing is that the towns and the Perquimans County recycling programs are now coordinated to accept the same materials.

"All of the materials that are collected in the recycling compactors at the county convenience sites are now collected in the carts in both of the towns," she added.

Cost of the recycling program is funded by a grant from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. The grant

pays for recycling bins and to conduct educational and promotional activities.

Winfall's recycling budget is \$24,000 with the state paying 90 percent, stated Blindt.

Taking part in the curbside recycling program is free to town residents and businesses. Just fill the cart with plastic bottles and jugs, cardboard, aluminum and steel (food) cans, glass bottles and jars, newspaper, magazines, catalogs, mail, office paper, paper bags, phone books, paperboard (cereal, shoe boxes). Remove the lids from all bottles, and rinse food and cleaning product containers. You do not have to remove any labels.

Items that can not be placed in the blue recycling carts include plastic bags, tubs, buckets, toys, motor oil bottles, microwave con-

tainers, cups, plates, flowerpots, dirty or wet paper, trash, leaves, liquids, window glass, mirrors, or ceramics.

The carts should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. every other Thursday morning. Waste Industries of Elizabeth City has the contract to collect these materials which are taken to Tidewater Fibre Corporation in Chesapeake for sorting, processing, and marketing.

All businesses and residents are encouraged to recycle. If you need a recycling cart, please call the Town of Winfall at 426-5015.

In addition to curbside recycling in town, citizens may also use the county convenience sites for recycling and for dropping off large household items, scrap metals, appliances, or yard waste.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 36 LOW: 28  
SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 52 LOW: 35  
SUNNY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 60 LOW: 43  
PARTLY CLOUDY

