

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Schools ask for help with security

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than 90 security cameras protect student and staff at the four Perquimans County schools. There are extra strong locks on the doors so teach-

ers can have a safe place to hide with their children.

But education officials admit that more can be done to make the schools even safer and the public can play a big role.

The Perquimans County School Board addressed se-

curity last week during a work session. They agreed that the public could play a role by alerting the school if they see an issue that needs to be addressed, said Brenda Lassiter, a spokeswoman for the school district.

"If parents have a concern or they've heard something from their student we want to hear it. We need to hear it. We may be able to connect some of the dots that the parents can't connect, but there may be issues out there."

The school system has already taken steps to make the facilities more secure. Each classroom has what is called a "Columbine Lock" that can be secured from inside without a key. They were added about five years ago, Lassiter

said. Before that, teachers needed to find the key in order to lock the classroom door.

"If an attacker is on a school campus and doors aren't locked, then the

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RESIDENTS SUPPORT CHAMBER AT AUCTION

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce raised more than \$6,000 Friday to support the organization at the annual banquet and auction at The Onley Place in Belvidere.

A total of 164 people bought tickets for the dinner. According to Sid Eley, the executive director, the money is used to help keep chamber dues as low as possible and still provide for workshops for members of the group.

Nearly 60 items were donated for the auction. One of the biggest sellers was a solid wood turtle on a log carved by Eric Van de Bogart. It was the first version he created and fetched more than \$700.

On hand for the event was Joanne Jones, the incoming president of the chamber as well as Susan Cox, the outgoing president.

"I thought it went real well," Jones said. "I was real tickled with the turnout. We had a lot of great things donated from area counties as well as Perquimans County."

Guests to the event might not have appreciated it, but Jones said it took a solid day to set up for the event and clean up when it was over.

Eley said last week's event was smaller than the year before.

"I am sure the economy had something to do with it," Eley said. The chamber has 250 members, but once the number approached 300. The good news Eley said is the chamber has been picking up about one member each month.

Last year vacation time at three different cottages was auctioned off. The cottages weren't available for



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Jonathan Nixon (left), David Outland and Jon Van Dalsum sample the food at the annual Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce auction at The Onley Place in Perquimans, Friday. Captain Bob's catered the event.



Jake Forbes conducts the auction at Friday's annual Chamber of Commerce meeting at The Onley Place.



Shirley Manley shows off a model truck being auctioned that is being auctioned at The Onley Place Friday.

the auction last week.

Outgoing president Susan Cox said the event went well and said it does play an important role for the organization.

"This is our major fundraiser," Cox said.

"This is how we are able to support some of the things we do. We are able to do seminars and many are free or at a minimal cost. And we work a lot of them through the small business center at College of

The Albemarle."

For her part Cox is pleased with what the chamber has done during the two years she's been president.

"There are some things we were able to do and I know Joanne has some ideas she wants to work on," Cox said.

Gerri Layden was the winner of the 50/50 draw-

ing.

The meal was catered by Captain Bob's Restaurant. Local restaurants provided the hors d'oeuvres. Those were made by Sweet Surrenders Bakery & Grill, One Stop Grille, Beautiful Moon Café at Beechtree, Clubhouse Restaurant at Albemarle Plantation and Tommy's Pizza & Family Restaurant.

Charge against Steinburg dismissed

Incident took place at PCHS

BY REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

The District Attorney's Office has dismissed a misdemeanor assault charge against state Rep. Bob Steinburg following the alleged victim's decision to drop his complaint.

Russell Haddad, former campaign manager for Steinburg's opponent in last year's state 1st House District race, announced Monday



Haddad

that he was dropping the charge because he wanted to put the incident that produced it behind him.

"I have spent a lot of time and effort to help better the quality of life for residents in North Carolina, primarily northeastern North Carolina," Haddad, a former legislative aide to U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, said in a statement Monday. "That continues to be my goal. Therefore, after much thought I have made the tough decision to extend an olive branch to Rep. Steinburg and drop the simple assault charges against him."

While Haddad says he still believes Steinburg "should take responsibility for his actions" he believes dropping the charge

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WDB director may be hired soon

From staff reports

A new director for the Northeastern Workforce Development Board could be hired very soon according to the executive director of the Hertford-based Albemarle Commission.

Wendy Jewett confirmed last week to The Daily Advance that she is "retiring from local government." She declined to elaborate.

She guided the development board through a period of significant period of change. It falls



Jewett

on Albemarle Commission Executive Director Bert Banks to name a replacement.

"We should be moving fairly quickly," Banks told The Perquimans Weekly on Tuesday. "We've got applications in the office now and starting next Wednesday I plan on starting interviewing some of them. We should have a decision in about 10 days after that. It's an important decision for us."

The Northeastern Workforce Development Board administers funds through the federal Workforce Investment Act and serves 10 counties in northeastern North Carolina: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

Pasquotank County Commissioner Lloyd Griffin, chairman of the Workforce Development Consortium Board, said he believes Jewett will remain in the director's job until sometime in March.

Griffin said the new

See DIRECTOR, 5

Group opposes alcohol sales

By PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A former county commissioner and about two dozen supporters voiced opposition Monday to the sale of alcohol at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Charles Ward spent 30 years on the board and wanted to express his views. A month before a local Ducks Unlimited group appeared before the county commission to request alcohol sales at the facility for when the group holds its annual banquet and auction.

"I just think it's the wrong thing to do," Ward said. "I'm not saying people shouldn't drink, that's perfectly up to them, I just don't think the county should be involved with it."

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said the board is taking the issue under advisement and that no decision has been made.



Ward

Ward's first point was that allowing the sale of alcohol for Duck's Unlimited would open the door to others who want to do the same thing.

"The second thing is the recreation center was built for the kids. We want to set a good example for kids and teach them good morals and I don't think it's right to be selling alcohol 100 yards away from them."

Ward said he wasn't trying to use his position as

a former commissioner to sway the board. It's their decision, he said.

"I'm not on the board anymore. But there are legal ramifications for selling alcohol and most commissioners are elected and I think that people want them to do the right thing."

A spokesman for Duck's Unlimited making the original proposal in January addressed the sale of alcohol and the proximity of children at the recreation center. He said his group would be willing to recent the entire facility that night so there wouldn't be any connection between kids and alcohol.

Ward's point is that goes against what the recreation

See ALCOHOL, 5



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