

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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50 cents



PCMS softball rack up wins, 9

Bill could impact Perquimans board

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A bill in the General Assembly would inject partisan politics into North Carolina's school board elections and as a consequence keep Steve Magaro and other federal employees from serving.

Magaro was retired from the military when he was elected to the Perquimans County School Board in

2012. He subsequently took a job with the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA in the national exercise division.

That did not violate the 76-year-old federal Hatch Act because the school board race was non-partisan. The Hatch Act prohibits employees in the executive branch of the federal government from engaging in some forms of political activity.

Magaro said when he

heard the North Carolina bill was being proposed, he went to the chief counsel of Homeland Security to ask about the impact. He said he was told it would preclude him from being a school board member. Magaro and other school



MAGARO

board members in the Albemarle oppose putting politics back into local school board races. Magaro also said the Hatch Act could have a chilling effect on some local races where federal employment is high, like Fayetteville and Jacksonville.

"The Hatch Act prohibits any partisan activity, not just running for office, but I can't go out and campaign for somebody else," Magaro said. "If you look at

other states where they did go with partisan races, the results were not the best results. School boards should not be partisan. It's very dangerous to use our youth as a pawn in someone's political agenda."

The Hatch Act was meant to keep federal employees from swinging an election in someone's favor. Magaro scoffs at the idea he has that much power.

"I'm the lone ranger, and I

feel like the lone ranger (on the school board). I can't understand the logic that I could say 'I'm a federal employee, you have to listen to me.'"

Top school board officials in the Albemarle seem universally opposed to a bill that would introduce partisan politics to school board elections.

Susan Cox, the chairman

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SBC: Businesses need a good plan

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

It takes more than love to run a business.

Ginger O'Neal says it takes a plan.

The director of the Small Business Center (SBC) at the College of The Albemarle spoke with Perquimans County business leaders last week. The event was a monthly breakfast meeting sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

O'Neal said there is help available for those wishing to start or grow a business, but it takes work.

"Don't talk to me about doing something because you love it," O'Neal said. "If it's just a passion, then it's a hobby. If you are doing it as a hobby, fine, but if you really want to make money, do it the right way."

"You need a business plan if you're going to be a success," O'Neal said. "If you don't have one, you need to get one. You fail to plan and you plan to fail."

O'Neal said the center is there to help business owners and potential business owners but some clients come in expecting everything will be done for them.

"I'm not writing your business plan for you and there is no free money out there to start-up your business. There are few grant opportunities, but they are few and far between."



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Ginger O'Neal, the director of the Small Business Center at College of The Albemarle, speaks last week at Perquimans County Chamber breakfast event.

Banks may be willing to help a starting business, but O'Neal stresses that they will want to see how they'll get their money back.

While many business put all their eggs in one basket with Internet marketing, O'Neal said there is a segment that will be missed.

"I still like flyers, and there is an audience that is not Internet savvy," she said.

She Facebook and social media have their place in a marketing plan, but they shouldn't be the only form of advertising.

"Use your newspaper, use your social media, use your e-mail. Make a plan on how

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PIG ON THE PERQUIMANS HELD



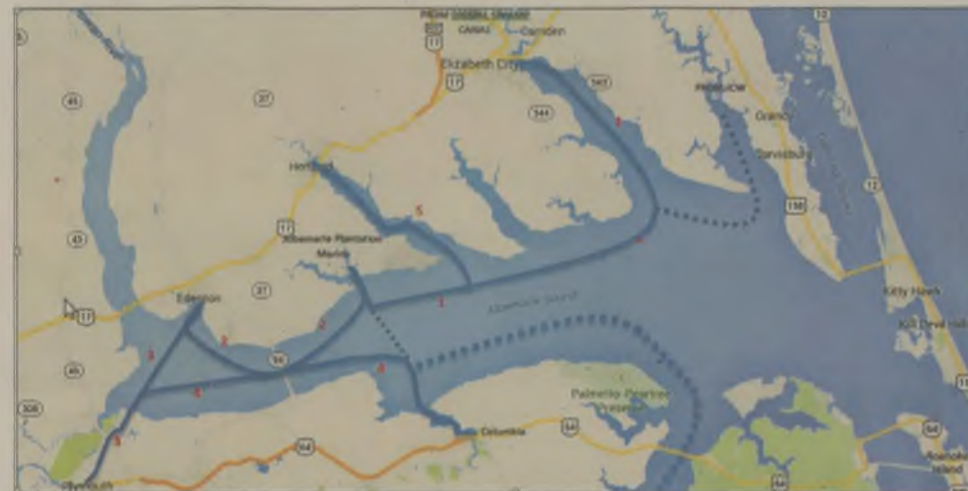
STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Mike Adams of Edenton Baptist Church hands a sample of pork barbecue to a visitor to Camp Cale on Saturday. The camp was hosting the annual Pig On The Perquimans fundraiser. The camp is trying to raise money to replace the bunkhouses pictured in the background. See more photos from the fundraiser event online at www.DailyAdvance.com



Janine Guill (left) and Buddy Grasty judge the looks of pinewood derby race cars Saturday at Pig On The Perquimans at Camp Cale.

6 area Marinas hope to lure boaters this season

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Albemarle Plantation and five municipal marinas are hoping to attract transient boaters to pay a visit.

The "Albemarle Loop" campaign is funded by the Plantation with moral support from the towns of Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton, Plymouth and Columbia.

The idea is to entice boaters off the beaten path of the Intracoastal Water-

way (ICW) and get them to spend a few days. All of the marinas will offer free dock space for 48 hours and most offer amenities like water, electricity or restrooms. Jack Atwell, a Plantation resident, said it's like getting a "free two week vacation."

Atwell said he got the idea after talking with Donna Stewart, the director of the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center. The welcome center gets some of the ICW traffic, but is con-

sidered a secondary route because it's not very deep — six feet — and because the locks that control the water flow only open four times a day. Even so, the canal gets between 1,500 and 2,000 boats a year passing through.

For her part, Stewart said Atwell deserves the credit for taking the ball and running with it by producing a full-color brochure and Web site — www.albemarleloop.com.

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Simmons honored by Habitat group

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Guy Simmons has a background in corporate finance, not construction.

But the 70-year-old Hertford resident said working with Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity a rewarding experience.

For his efforts, Simmons was named the Volunteer of the Year for the group recently.

Simmons originally moved to Edenton in

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Saturday event focused on safety

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An Edenton doctor who specializes in family and sports medicine will be among the speakers at this Saturday's Week Of The Young Child event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

The event features 25 informational, education or activity stations. All are geared toward children and child safety. The event

runs from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Some of the newer additions this year will be about home and fire safety and Dr. Brian Bunn's talking about sports safety.

"We're really lucky to have him," said Kelly Herr, a spokeswoman for



BUNN

Vidant Chowan Hospital. "He really wants to get more involved in the community and help out when he can."

Bunn will be talking about hydration and how to prevent concussions.

Vidant Chowan Hospital is the organizer for the Chowan County Safe Kids Coalition, which is putting on the Week of the Young Child event in conjunction with Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership.

Vidant Chowan Hospitals Community Health Improvement Coordinator, Kate Bunn is the chair for the Chowan County Safe Kids Coalition and she will be conducting car seat safety checks at the event.

Susan Nixon, the executive director of the partnership, said poison control is a big issue for children. One place to look is in the

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