

STUDENTS

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"You can become an apprentice and work for four years and at the end of four years you've earned \$100,000 and after four years of school you could owe \$100,000," Cohen said.

Norman said there is a demand for electricians. "If you look at the tracking in 2003, the number of electricians age 18 to 30 years old (statewide) numbered 541. For the year ending in June there were only 100 in that age group."

He said the average age of an electrician in North Carolina is 55.

"If you look at the U.S. Department of Labor stats, by 2022 there will be a 20 percent greater need for electricians, but as for computer programmers it's only 8 percent," Nor-

man said. "Contractors are telling us there is a need for helpers and journeymen right now. If the economy comes back, there are going to be huge holes to fill."

As part of CTE, Cohen helped coordinate a visit in June by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter from Elizabeth City. Both the pilot and one of the other men on board are Perquimans County High School alumni. A third man graduated from Camden High School.

The entire sixth grade was invited to come out and see. That wasn't by chance.

"There is evidence to show that a good 60 percent of students are making career decisions by the time they finish middle school," Cohen said.

In the past year the school system has added programs on energy, medical technology, accounting, entrepreneur and e-commerce.

The CTE program works to match economic resources to careers. Some areas of focus include wind and solar development, which has brought short-term employment during construction. Cohen is also looking at water and soil and advanced manufacturing. There is also boat building and maintenance plus biotechnology and medical fields.

The high school has an automotive program, and recently was recertified. A representative from a college in Ohio came in recently and talked about things they offer.

Laura Gardner, who heads the nursing class has had students do on-the-job training with local health providers and her students have gone to other schools to provide vision screenings.

In the area of agriculture, teacher Angel White has

worked with the local Farm Bureau and employers like Tidewater Agronomics. A biotechnology course will be offered at the middle school level in August.

In January the school system also started an EMT program. A Fire Academy established three years ago continues to operate and last year 10 students completed all the coursework.

Cohen said there are now programs in Adobe software and personal finance.

"We're opening up a STEM classroom with hands-on applications of math and reading skills."

"This year we're adding an introduction to computer science."

"We looked at what industry needs and look at our student surveys and met with the CTE advisory board and our administration and made some decisions."

CATFISH

Continued from 1

by companies such as Quality Seafood in Elizabeth City and Frog Island in Weeksville, as well as a number of fishermen in Virginia.

"We have been fighting this thing hard," Nixon said, adding "it's a waste of money for the taxpayers."

Nixon said Rep. Walter Jones and other members of Congress from North Carolina had been supportive of the effort to revert back to the FDA inspections system.

In an electronic communication reviewed by Chowan officials, Towers Mingleorff, who is a legislative assist to Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., echoed Nixon's ar-

gument that the more costly USDA inspections process for catfish is unnecessary.

"USDA's Office of Congressional Affairs recently trumpeted that they found an unauthorized compound in a shipment of catfish," Mingleorff said. "They suggest that this is 'breaking news' and evidence of how well USDA can protect consumers. The simple fact is that FDA has a testing program to identify these exact same compounds. USDA is doing nothing that FDA has not done for the past 15 years."

Mingleorff added that the FDA system "targets for testing countries and companies that are suspected or have not met US standards. That is a smart use of limited government resources."

"To suggest it would be better for FDA to test every

product coming into the country would be analogous to saying the IRS should audit every taxpayer," Mingleorff continued. "It sounds thorough in principle but would grind our economy to a snail's pace."

Senate Bill 28, according to Mingleorff, "would force the Agriculture Department to go back to the drawing board on recently implemented regulations that transfer the authority of handling catfish inspections from the FDA to USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service, the body that inspects meat for U.S. Consumption."

If the bill passes the House, President Obama is not expected to veto it, said Mingleorff, who indicated the president had "called the change to catfish inspections wasteful and even

threatened to cut it in previous budget proposals."

Mingleorff explained that the change "was designed to create a de facto trade barrier on foreign catfish. Foreign meat products under USDA's jurisdiction are required to establish 'equivalency' with the USDA. An equivalency agreement of this nature typically requires at least 5-7 years of negotiations, during which time foreign producers are banned from exporting to the U.S."

Mingleorff insisted that the FDA process has worked to protect consumer health and safety.

"That FDA finds an occasional unauthorized compound in imported seafood, much like they found high levels of dioxins in domestic catfish, is an indication that the FDA system works," Mingleorff said.

JACKSON

Continued from 1

sentence of 20 to 24 months. Benjamin has since served his jail time and is now on probation.

The jury deliberated for about three hours Wednes-

day before coming to a verdict.

A key part of the case involved the age difference between Aaron Jackson and the victim.

State law makes a distinction if the guilty party is much older than the victim. In the case this week, Aaron Jackson turned 16 in May of 2011 and the victim didn't turn 14 until August. Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Karpowicz maintained the abuse started when the

victim was about four and a half years old and went on for about 10 years.

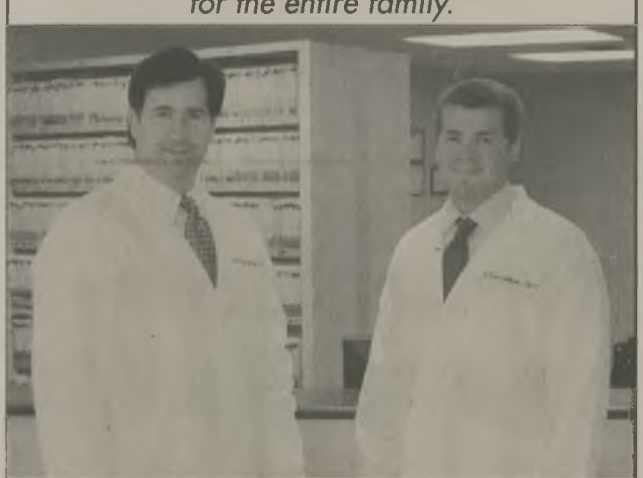
The victim said abuse stopped for a time after she was baptized.

"I believe they considered me as 'God's kid' she told the court.

It stopped for good after Eric Jackson, then 27-years-old, went to the sheriff's office and confessed to sex crimes at the urging of his minister. Eric was living in Youngville, NC at the time.

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY **THE CHOWAN HERALD**
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WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY

- **Clown Show**
The Perquimans County Library will offer a clown show today at 2 p.m.
- **Art Classes**
The dates and location for the acrylic painting workshops with Randall Jordan have been changed. One will be July 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. at and "the other will be on July 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost for each workshop is \$35 for Perquimans Arts League members and \$40 for non-members and both will be at 252 Grill. All supplies included. For more info, call the gallery at 426-3041 or visit www.perquimansarts.org.
- **Story Time**
The Perquimans County Library will offer preschool story time each Wednesday at 11 a.m. Call 426-5319.
- **Bingo**
American Legion Post 126 hosts bingo on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. at their building at 111 W. Academy St.
- **Movies at the Library**
Every third Thursday of the month, the Perquimans County Library will offer a movie geared toward adults at 10 a.m.
- **Weight loss**
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) holds weekly support group meetings on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the Perquimans County Senior Center. Call 426-2022 or visit www.tops.org.

- FRIDAY**
- **Children's matinee**
The Perquimans County Library will hold a children's matinee every Friday at 2 p.m. until school begins. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult and those who attend should bring their own snacks and drinks.

- SATURDAY**
- **Farmer's Market**
Perquimans County High School's FFA program will hold a farmer's market every Saturday through Sept. 24 at Missing Mill Park from 8 a.m. until noon.
 - **Kudzu Junction**
Carolina Moon Theater will present Kudzu Junction Saturday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and on sale at Carolina Trophy.

- TUESDAY**
- **Weight Watchers**
Weight Watchers will meet on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Hertford United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. Call 331-5426.

- JULY 27**
- **Blood Drive**
The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive July 27 from 2-7 p.m. at the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Fire Department.
 - **Library Cookout**
The Perquimans County Library will offer a cookout as part of the teen summer reading program on July 27 at 2 p.m. Registration is required. Call 426-5319.
 - **Watercolor workshop**
A "Playing with Paint" watercolor workshop with Sheryl Corr is scheduled for July 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Perquimans County Recreation Center. The cost is \$35 for PAL members and \$40 for non-members. Registration forms and additional information on all classes can be found on the website at www.perquimansarts.org or by calling the gallery at 426-3041.
- AUG. 3**
- **Shag Lessons**
The River City Shag Club will offer free shag lessons for beginners on Wednesdays starting Aug. 3 from 7-7:45 p.m. at The Pines in Elizabeth City. Call 232-3044.

- AUG. 11**
- **Golf Tournament**
The Perquimans County Schools Foundation is hosting an annual fundraising golf tournament on Aug. 11 at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation. Call Teresa Beardsley at 426-5741 for more information.
 - **Photo Class**
The Perquimans Arts League will hold a program "Beginning Digital Photography "Focus on Composition" with Shirley Whitenack at the HHI Building, 300 Grubb St. on Aug. 11 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Cost is \$50 for PAL members and \$60 for non-members. Class size is limited to 10. For more, visit www.perquimansarts.org

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)
Vol. 84 No. 30
Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC
Established 1934
111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

Mike Goodman..... Publisher
Peter Williams..... News Editor
Bev Alexander..... Advertising Representative

Phone 252-426-5728 • Fax 252-426-4625
Email: perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com

Subscription Rates
In Daily Advance home delivery area..... \$25.25*
All other continental U.S..... \$31.50*
*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions. Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944