

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

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PAGE 6
Labeling Victorians 'spooky' can hurt their preservation



PAGE 7
Pirates run unbeaten streak to 11; Lady Pirates win 2



PAGE 9
For therapy dog Bunsen, life is about listening with love

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Grandstand taking shape



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Work continues on the new spectator grandstand at Jim "Catfish" Hunter Field at Perquimans County High School, Monday. Officials plan to hold a ribbon cutting for the new grandstand on Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m. For the latest on Pirate baseball and softball, see page A6.

Chamber sees ways to address worker shortage

Job fair in May expected to connect students, employers

BY JOHN FOLEY
Correspondent

While there are signs in business windows across the country stating "Closed Today Due to Staff Shortages," there are other signs those notices could be coming down — at least in Perquimans County.

The shortage of employees for local businesses was the main topic of discussion at the monthly meeting of

the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce on Friday.

Chamber Executive Director LeAnna Lee noted that staffing shortages might even have affected attendance at the meeting.

"Some members won't be here today because they have to open their stores due to employee shortages," she said.

Susan Cox of Carolina Trophy and Engraving said her shop has been affected by staffing shortages, noting she's now open only

See CHAMBER, A3

PCHS to present 'Shrek the Musical'

Performances of play based on film will be April 7-8

From staff reports

Perquimans County High School will be presenting the play, "Shrek the Musical," Thursday and Friday, April 7-8 at 7 p.m.

Derek "DJ" Levesque, who portrays the title character in the PCHS production, said Shrek is unlike any other role he has ever played. But he added that he identifies with Shrek's self-confidence.

Levesque said he is excited about being part of bringing Shrek to life on the PCHS stage.

Also excited is Shayla White, who plays Princess Fiona. White said she loved watching the Shrek movies as a child and is delighted to be part of this production.

Kaylee Anderson will play Shrek's lovably annoying best friend Donkey, Michael Verbeten as the vertically-challenged villain Lord Farquaad, and Shelby Lowe as the Dragon charged with guarding



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Three different actors portray Fiona in various parts of Perquimans County High School's production of "Shrek the Musical," Thursday and Friday, April 7-8 at 7 p.m.

Princess Fiona.

Anderson said she especially enjoys Donkey's humor.

Tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the show. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

PCHS Theatre is located in the Perquimans County High School auditorium at

305 S. Edenton Road Street, Hertford.

"Shrek The Musical" is a creation of DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions, Ltd., with book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire and music by Jeanine Tesori.

The musical is based on the story and characters from William Steig's

book "Shrek," as well as the DreamWorks Animation film "Shrek," the first chapter of the Shrek movie series.

"Shrek the Musical" tells the story of a swamp-dwelling ogre who goes on a life-changing adventure to reclaim the deed to his land.

See SHREK, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Superior Court Judge Eula Reid addresses the Perquimans County Democratic Convention in Hertford, Saturday. Reid is seeking re-election in the November general election.

Reid promises continued fairness on district bench

Appointed by gov, Reid seeks election to Superior Court

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Superior Court Judge Eula Reid told Perquimans County Democrats over the weekend that she is a fair judge and will remain committed to fairness if elected to continue her service on the Superior Court bench.

Reid was appointed as a

Superior Court judge last year by Gov. Roy Cooper. She replaced retiring Judge J.C. Cole, who retired.

Reid, a Democrat who will face District Attorney Andrew Womble — a Republican — in the November general election, addressed the Perquimans County Democratic Party at its annual convention on March 26.

"Confidence in our

See REID, A3

First responders offer biz tips on safety and security

White: Make a safety plan, share it with employees

BY JOHN FOLEY
Correspondent

Whether it's something simple like checking the monthly inspection box on your fire extinguisher tag, or complex like training your employees to follow an evacuation plan, being pro-active about safety not only can save time,

money and lives. It also could save your business.

Those were some of the key takeaways from the business security workshop presented by county first responders at the Perquimans County High School media center last week.

"Be prepared, develop a plan and make sure to share that plan with your employees. We all need to be proactive during these challenging times," said Sheriff Shelby White, one of the workshop's presenters.

While protecting business from cyberattacks was the event's featured topic, White and other officials from the Sheriff's Office and Perquimans County Emergency Services discussed a range of safety and security issues during the three-hour event.

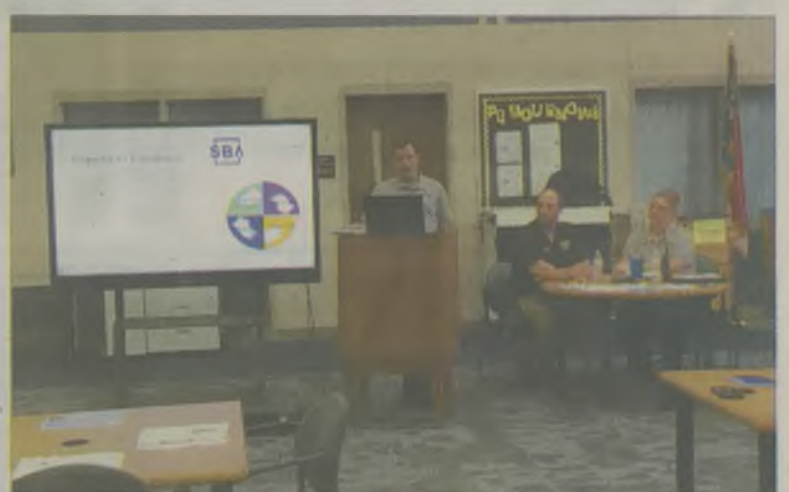
With businesses reporting \$3.5 billion in losses to internet criminals in 2019, defending against cybercrime is important for all businesses regardless of size. Sheriff's Investigator James Fowden, who gave a 45-slide presentation, said big companies are not the only targets of hackers.

"It's becoming more important than ever for small businesses to update (their) software and anti-virus protection," Fowden said. "Don't simply use the free anti-virus programs and do not use public WiFi."

Fowden was adamant about the latter.

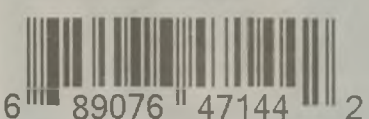
"A variety of predators use public Wi-Fi to steal identity while hiding theirs, committing crimes

See SECURITY, A2



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon addresses attendees of a business security workshop in the media center at Perquimans County High School, Tuesday, March 22. At right are Sheriff Shelby White and Emergency Services public information officer Julie Solesbee.



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