



Dance recital, 8-9

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019

75 cents

State officials tour Perquimans

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

About 15 state officials representing different state agencies visited Perquimans County Monday as part of Gov. Roy Cooper's "Hometown Strong" program.

Hometown Strong is not a branch of state government, but more a collection of a few people who can assemble leaders from those branches to help communities overcome issues.

"Small communities like the one I grew up in have a special character and so much to offer," Cooper said in April 2018. "They deserve to have a real voice in Raleigh. I want to make sure that state government is listening to local leaders and doing everything it can to strengthen rural North Carolina. That's what this initiative is all about."

Hometown Strong Director Pryor Gibson, who was part of the group visiting

Perquimans Monday, said the group is about getting everyone around the table to address the most pressing needs of rural communities.

But Gibson said Hometown Strong didn't come carrying cash. It came to talk about problems and find possible solutions using existing state agencies and existing state programs. Gibson said he was also careful not to show even the appearance that state agen-

cies were coming down from Raleigh to tell Perquimans residents what to do.

"I can't make promises," Gibson said. "I don't want people to think folks from Raleigh are trying to meddle in stuff."

Still some people called on major changes. Steve McDonald, a Winfall resident, said the current plan for a marine industrial park was envisioned at a time more

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Pryor Gibson listens at a Hometown Strong meeting at Winfall Town Hall on Monday.

Biggs Classic gears up

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The annual Biggs Golf Classic will be back this week at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation.

The field of aspiring young golfers may be larger this year. Last year it was limited to 120 and this year it's been opened up to as many as 144.

In addition to a check for \$15,000, the winner of this year's event will get an unrestricted exemption into the Rex Hospital Open, part of the PGA TOUR's Web.com Tour. It will be held May 27-June 2 at TPC Wakefield Plantation in Raleigh.

"That's a big carrot for these guys playing at this level," said Lee Duncan, the golf pro at The Plantation.

If a golfer wins at the Rex, they will be fully exempt from paying entry fees on the Web.Com tour for the remainder of the year. If they win three Web.Com events, they can get a "battlefield promotion" and a PGA tour card.

This marks the sixth year of the tournament at The Plantation. It is sponsored by Biggs Cadillac-Buick-GMC, Sound Bank and Swimme and Sons Building Contractors.

For the second year in a row the GPro Golf Tour will be putting on the event. Other organizations have done it before, and in 2017 the Plantation put it on by themselves.

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Sara Winslow wheels out some of the daylilies that were planted in downtown Hertford this month.

Daylilies planted downtown

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

With a grant from the Town of Hertford, a group has planted daylilies in pots in downtown Hertford.

Citizens for Preservation and Growth of Hertford asked for and received \$300 from the town for the project.

Pam Mansfield, the owner Mansfield Daylilies in Bear Swamp, grew and provided the plants.

Mansfield earned a degree in horticulture from N.C. State University and for 20 years, she worked with the Department of Transportation as a Roadside Environmental Engineer.

The job had nothing to do with pavement and concrete.

"If it was green, that was my job. If a tree needed to be cut down, we took care of it. We also managed the rest stops in 14 counties."

She also managed wildflower projects.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This type of daylily is one of those planted in downtown Hertford.

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Family seeks closure

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Arlene Murin doesn't know what happened to her daughter four years ago, but she has a glimpse from the GPS records on Karen Bosta's phone.

Bosta was last seen in Edenton on May 30, 2015. She was 39 years old and is presumed dead.



BOSTA

For a time Murin wanted to see those responsible for her disappearance punished.

Now she simply just wants Karen's body to be returned home.

"I don't care who did what to whom, I just want her back," Murin said last week.

"Something terrible happened that night and I will never see her again. What I really want tell everyone is that if you have any information about this, please come forward. No matter how small the detail, maybe something that seems odd or suspicious.

"Anything that is said and the source of the information is held strictly confidential. Strictly confidential. Relieve yourself of the burden that you carry and do

See CLOSURE, 2



CHOWAN HERALD PHOTO

Cancer survivors take a walk around the John A. Holmes High School track during Relay For Life last week.

Relay for Life raises \$55,000 so far

BY MILES LAYTON
 The Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Chowan-Perquimans Relay for Life paced itself to a solid fundraising finish this year.

So far, the group brought in \$55,000 but they will be still collecting until August. More than 20 teams participated in Friday's event.

"We are thankful to ev-

eryone who has donated money to Relay for Life this year," said Frances Hammer, the Relay for life event chair and a longtime key organizer of the event. "We were pleased that all of the teams were able to come to the event this year and we had about 40 children participate in the Kids Walk. We are always pleased to have the survivors attend

and would love to have even more come next year."

The first lap and the remaining laps around John A. Holmes High School's track were the result of organization, planning and hard work, she said.

"Everyone who attended the relay event and those who helped plan and set up the event deserve a round of applause," Hammer said.

For example, Cub Scout Pack 164 served as a Color Guard and led the teams, survivors and others during the first lap around the track.

"We were so happy to have the Cub Scouts present the flags for the opening ceremony this year and to lead the Survivor lap. Thank you to their leaders and parents," Hammer said.

Perquimans fire departments to share \$88,000 in grants

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Five volunteer fire departments in Perquimans County will share some of the

\$88,446 the county received from a state fund to support firefighters.

"The 50/50 matching grant is a great way to enhance county funding allocations and hard-earned funds raised through donations to provide much needed firefighting equipment," said Perquimans Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon.

A sixth fire department,

Bethel, did not submit an application this cycle, Nixon said.

Statewide, \$9.1 million was awarded this year. Since the program's inception in 1988, the Department of Insurance has distributed \$134.7 million to volunteer fire departments across the state.

The Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department received the most of any local

department at \$30,000. Hertford got \$23,250, Inter-County \$12,504, Winfall \$12,392 and Durants Neck \$10,298.

Departments can use the money to buy equipment, but equipment bought using matching funds must be approved by the Department of Insurance Office of State Fire Marshal.

"Fire and rescue organizations protect our communi-

ties large and small across North Carolina, but sometimes their budgets don't grow with their responsibilities," said Commissioner Mike Causey. "Our emergency service personnel should be supported with the best equipment and supplies needed to do their jobs correctly and safely."

The grant funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar

for an amount approved up to \$30,000, unless the department receives less than \$50,000 per year from municipal and county funding, in which case the applicant shall match \$1 for each \$3 of grant funds up to \$30,000.

Causey said the Hertford Fire Department has received a total of \$253,165 from the fund over the past 31 years.

