

Grant

From A1

and internet access for job seekers.

"We are helping address the serious loss of academic achievement of students who were already below grade proficiency before the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures," said Vivian Saunders, Bertie County Hive House executive director.

"The Hive House will employ certified teachers to work one-on-one with K-8 students in reading and math during a summer learning program. With social distancing enforced, these tutors will use evidence-based learning tools to jump-start learning and engagement in anticipation of schools reopening full time," she added.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Perdue Farms, through its Franklin P. and Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, has awarded an \$18,000 grant to help Bertie County Hive House hire certified teachers for its summer tutoring program.

Bertie County Hive House officials hope that reading and math achievement will

increase students' confidence and motivation to stay in school and work to-

wards graduation. "Success in improvement in reading skills will be mea-

sured by monitoring each student's pretest and post-test scores," Saunders said. "Increased engagement in school and learning will be accomplished by teacher-led, hands-on learning experiences that will be planned by the newly hired certified teacher tutors in advance of and during the summer program. Success will be measured through tutor observations, attendance and student discussions."

Kim Nechay, executive director of the Perdue Foundation, said, "Perdue Farms is very happy to provide assistance to Bertie County Hive House's goal to provide students who are struggling in reading and math, and give them the skills and confidence needed to be successful in the classroom."

COVID-19

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a definite shift in the age range of those impacted in this wave, and we are seeing first-hand in our regional data how vaccinated individuals have a much higher level of protection. Over 70 percent of all new cases are in individuals 49 years old and younger. The time to get vaccinated is now. Call today and schedule an appointment," said ARHS Health Director R. Battle Betts Jr., MPA.

According to the Bertie County Schools COVID-19 Dashboard, there have been 14 total cases of COVID-19 throughout the district since school started on Monday, Aug. 23.

During the first week of school (Aug. 23-27), there were 11 cases of COVID-19.

There was one case at Aulander Elementary School, four cases at Windsor Elementary School, three cases at Bertie Middle School, two cases at Bertie High School and one case at Bertie Early College High School.

As of Tuesday, Aug. 30, there had already been three reported cases for week two of school. There are two re-

ported cases at Bertie Middle School and one reported case at Bertie High School.

There are currently three active long-term care facility outbreaks in the region. The first outbreak is in Gates County at Gates House. There are two residents and one staff member affiliated with the outbreak.

The second outbreak is at Elizabeth City Health and Rehab in Pasquotank County. There is four residents and three staff members have tested positive.

The third outbreak is at Edenton House in Chowan County. One resident and three staff members are affiliated with the outbreak.

There have been 5,625 first dose vaccinations and 5,318 second dose vaccinations administered in the county.

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's full approval of the Pfizer vaccine for those 16 and older, is another milestone as we continue to navigate the pandemic. At first the FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine the public can be very confident that the vaccine meets the required high standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality," said

Betts.

"We hope that the full approval of the vaccine will provide additional confidence to those who have not received their vaccination yet. Vaccines continue to be remarkably effective in reducing the risk for serious disease, hospitalization and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant, as our region and state continues to see a rapid increase in cases," he added.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NCDHHS recommends people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised receive an additional dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose of the initial two-dose COVID-19 vaccination series.

It is not recommended that immunocompromised individuals who were vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine get an additional dose at this time.

There is not enough data on the safety and effectiveness of an additional vaccine dose of the Johnson & Johnson for it to be authorized.

The recommendation may change when more informa-

tion is available.

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness. Those with compromised immune systems may not build the same level of immunity to two-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised.

Therefore, an additional dose is intended to improve immunocompromised people's response to their initial vaccine series.

The CDC is recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals receive an additional dose. This include those who have:

- been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors and cancers of the blood;
- received an organ transplant and are taking medications to suppress the immune system;
- received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medication to suppress the immune system;
- have moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency conditions, such as DiGeorge Syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome;

ciency conditions, such as DiGeorge Syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome;

- have an advanced or untreated HIV infection; or

- receiving treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress the immune system response.

Individuals should speak with his or her primary care provider about his or her medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate before scheduling a vaccine appointment.

ARHS will be accepting appointments for third dose vaccines for individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised living in the eight-county region.

ARHS is continuing to accept vaccine appointments for the first and second dose of Moderna and Pfizer, along with the Johnson & Johnson at each of the local health departments.

For more information or to schedule a vaccination, call the Bertie County Health Department at 252-794-5322.

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Foodbank

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marle and over 100 partner food pantries and meal programs in northeastern North Carolina, has organized the annual call to action.

This year's campaign presents the impossible choices that millions of Americans must make between food and other basic needs.

"For many, a daily meal is a simple choice of what to eat. For people facing hunger, a daily meal poses a very different type of choice. It's often an impossible decision

between food or other crucial needs, such as electricity, childcare or medicine," said Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot. "Nobody should be forced to make a choice to go hungry. With the public's support, we can come together to help people achieve long-term food security, so they no longer have to make such tough decisions."

During the month of September, people across northeastern North Carolina can get involved in the movement by learning, committing and speaking up about ways to end hunger.

Contact state and local representatives and let them know how important the issue of hunger is in the community.

Organize a traditional food drive, or a virtual fundraising food drive during the month of September.

Volunteer during the month of September at the food bank or a local food pantry.

A food pantry in the area can be found at www.afoodbank.org.

Volunteer at the Food Bank of the Albemarle on Friday, Sept. 17 for Hunger Action Day.

Hunger Action Month is a time to mobilize to end hunger. Participants can choose to donate or advocate.

The mission of the Food bank of the Albemarle is to fight hunger and poverty in the 15-county service area in northeastern North Carolina.

The organization is a regional clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of food and grocery items

to 100 hunger-relief partners operating 145 unique programs.

Food Bank of the Albemarle serves Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

For more information, call 252-335-4035 or visit www.afoodbank.org.

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Hoggard

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with Mount Olive Pickle Company, along with Martin County Soil and Water which was through the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program. She also did an agronomy internship with Black Gold Farms in Gum Neck.

Hoggard stated that she learned through her experiences that she enjoys fieldwork, but she also enjoys interacting with the farmers.

The variety of internships that she held ultimately led her to her current job with

the Martin County Farm Service Agency, where she has been employed for three years.

Hoggard is the Program Technician in Martin County and is responsible for the disaster programs from the Farm Services Agency.

She also currently serves on their employee association's membership committee and has been nominated to attend the national leadership training that will take place later this year.

Hoggard says her experiences with the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Pro-

gram helped shaped her decision to work and live in a rural area in many ways.

She always knew that she wanted to come back home, but the program opened more doors for her when she returned home from college.

She says applying for the program was one of the best decisions she ever made.

Not only did the program help make Hoggard's decision to live and work in a rural area, but she says she knew from the time she moved to Raleigh that she wanted to go back home.

She currently resides in

Bertie County which is the neighboring county to where she grew up; Martin County. Hoggard truly believes that she was never meant to live anywhere else other than eastern North Carolina.

The Golden LEAF's mission is to increase the economic opportunity in North Carolina's rural and tobacco-dependent communities through leadership in grant making, collaboration, innovation and stewardship as and independent and perpetual foundation.

The Golden LEAF's vision is a North Carolina with op-

portunities for growth and prosperity for its people all across the state.

The Golden LEAF Foundations goal is to strives to be North Carolina's best resource to create meaningful and lasting economic impact on rural, tobacco-dependent and economically distressed communities by working with a hard to solve need and bringing creative solutions to the table.

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