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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Flag-waving day



Nedra Boswell, secretary of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 126, hands out balloons during a Flag Day Celebration at Brian Center last Thursday.

Brian Center hosts Flag Day ceremony

SUSAN HARRIS

In years past, Flag Day was celebrated in Perquimans with a parade and other commemorations. But it often goes unnoticed now.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary No. 126 of Hertford didn't want that to happen again, so they assisted VFW Auxiliary No. 9280 of Edenton, sponsors of a Flag Day ceremony at Brian Center last Thursday. In addition to celebrating Flag Day, the event honored veterans who reside at Brian Center.

The History Of Flag Day

According to the website usflag.org, the idea of setting aside a day each year to celebrate the flag is thought to have been the idea of B.J. Cigrand. The Wisconsin school teacher arranged for pupils in the Fedonia, Wis. school district No. 6 to observe "Flag Birthday" on June 14, 1885, the 108th anniversary of the adoption of United States flag.

Four years later, New York City kindergarten teacher George Balch planned ceremonies for the children in his school paving the way for the later adoption of Flag Day by the New York State Board of Education.

The Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia celebrated Flag Day in 1891, and the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution followed suit in 1892.

The Philadelphia Society of Colonial Dames of America and the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution endorsed an official Flag Day with activities for school children.

Philadelphia Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Edward Brooks authorized a Flag Day observance in Independence Square on June 14, 1893.

New York's governor directed that flags be displayed on all public buildings on June 14, 1894.

Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn helped organize the American Flag Day Association to promote Flag Day. Under the auspices of the association, the first general public school children's Flag Day celebration was held in Chicago in 1894 in five parks with over 300,000 children participating.

According to the website, Secretary for the Interior Franklin K. Lane gave a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Flag Day — the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 — was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. On Aug. 3, 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Veteran's monument proposed

SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County is the only county in the state without a veteran's monument, and a committee hopes to change that by Veteran's Day.

A committee formed earlier this year made a presentation to commissioners at the group's June meeting, detailing costs and presenting a visual of the proposed monument.

Veterans Service Officer Preston Spear and Winfall Mayor Fred Yates spoke on behalf of the committee.

The group suggested that a granite monument be set on the right side of the courthouse as you face the structure. The structure would honor veterans past, present and future from all services, including army, coast guard, navy, air force, marines and merchant marines.

The cost of the monument itself is just under \$7,000. Commissioners did not agree to fund the cost from their fiscal 2008 budget, but asked the committee to see if funds could be found from other sources. The committee had considered seeking donations from the towns of Hertford and Winfall, businesses and other groups.

The committee also suggested that a brick walkway be placed between the sidewalk and the monument. Bricks could be sold in honor and in memory of people to fund the construction, the committee said.

The Hertford Town Council voted to give \$1,500 to the project at its June meeting.

Stepneys are grateful for help

SUSAN HARRIS

"Grandma, I don't know why this happened to me, I didn't do nothing. But I'm brave."

Those are the words Pam Stepney remembers her 4-year-old grandson, Jaedon, saying to her the day he was admitted into Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters to begin treatment for a brain tumor.

The response to Jaedon's illness was awesome. His pre-kindergarten teacher, Thelma Finch, and others at his school, church and community began to find out what they could do to help the family. Finch chaired a weekend of activities that included a yard sale and dinner that netted \$7,000 to help with medical bills and travel for Jaedon's treatments.

Jaedon began chemotherapy Monday, a week after starting his radiation. The tyke will take radiation Monday-Friday for six to eight weeks and his chemotherapy will be given once a week for a year.

Stepney said Jaedon got a little sick with his second radiation treatment, but nausea medicine perked him back up. "He's been like a champ," she said. "He's still up and at 'em and we're looking for him to do even better."

While Jaedon is taking advantage of modern medicine, his family is taking advantage of prayer and the support of



Jaedon Stepney

family and friends.

"We've been thanking God every day for everything He's done," Stepney said.

Stepney said she and her husband, Donald, are especially grateful to Finch for jump-starting fund raisers and her support.

"My husband and I would like to thank Thelma for all the love, time and support that she has shown and everyone else that has supported us, too," Stepney said.

Jaedon and his mother, Mineeta Harris, are making the drive to King's Daughters each day for Jaedon's treatments. Stepney goes when she can, but she is also caring for her husband, who is on dialysis.

A benefit softball tournament is being planned in Elizabeth City for July 28. Contact Chad at Egad's Screenprinting for information.

Donations of cash, grocery and gas cards are still being accepted at The Perquimans Weekly office.

Bank donation grows at auction

SUSAN HARRIS

No one could predict just how much of a return one \$300 donation could bring.

East Carolina Bank made a \$300 donation to the Ducks Unlimited Banquet held earlier this year. Bank manager David Noell said he was looking for a way to help DU and allow the bank to help another non-profit group when he hit upon a plan: The bank would use its \$300 donation to purchase raffle tickets from DU for the Gun of the Year.

If the bank won the gun, Noell would then give the gun back to be sold during the auction at the banquet, getting back the bank's initial \$300 to go back in the budget to help another cause, with the rest of the proceeds going to DU. He said he figured it was a win-win situation.

The DU Gun of the Year is a limited edition firearm, this year a Browning 70th anniversary silver hunter bearing the DU emblem. The gun would probably bring at least \$2,500 on the market, according to DU's Zeb Daneker. Chances are sold for \$5 each so anyone who wishes can get a chance to own the gun.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Ducks Unlimited members Zeb Daneker, Sara Winslow and Derek Scaff gladly receive a donation from East Carolina Bank's David Noell.

Only Noell and Daneker knew of Noell's proposal.

On the night of the banquet, the drawing was held and, as Noell had hoped, the bank won the gun. He announced that the gun was going to be auctioned. After all, it is illegal to carry a firearm in a financial institution, Noell said, and the idea was to help DU make a good profit from its banquet.

Noell said the announcement brought silence to the banquet. Soon a lively auction was underway, and the gun brought over \$2,100. He said he was shocked at the amount the gun brought and he and his supervisor decided to let DU keep the entire amount.

Ducks Unlimited supports conservation of habitats for waterfowl.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY

HIGH: 84, LOW: 64
SUNNY

FRIDAY

HIGH: 89, LOW: 69
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY

HIGH: 90, LOW: 72
PARTLY CLOUDY