

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

\$1.50

375 29 9 #
*****CAR-RT LOT#R 008
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
514 S CHURCH ST
HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



PAGE 5
Hartman:
Jesus showed us
Christlikeness in
Judas encounter



PAGE 6
Fisher scores
twice in 3-0 win
over Bear Grass
Charter



PAGE 7
Throckmor-
ton: Presidents
put themselves
above law
issuing exec
orders

School hopefuls address race, history and curriculum

6 to vie for 3 open seats on board of education May 17

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

When Perquimans voters go to the polls on May 17, they won't have any county primary races to decide. They will, however, decide who fills three open seats on the county's Board of Education for the next four years.



CORPREW FELTON HUDDLESTON SILVA WHITE WINSLOW

A total of six candidates are seeking the seats in the non-partisan race, only one of whom is an incumbent. Anne White, the school

board's current chairwoman, is seeking another four-year term. Incumbents Amy Spough and Matt Peeler elected not to seek re-election.

The five other candidates on the ballot include Kristy Corprew, Brenda Huddleston, Matt Winslow, Dave

Silva and Gracie Felton.

The Perquimans Weekly recently asked each candidate to respond to a series of questions related to education. All but Felton responded by the newspaper's deadline.

The candidates' responses to one of the questions will appear below; responses to the other questions will appear in subsequent editions in the run-up to the start of early voting on April 28.

TPW: The Perquimans County Schools does not teach what is known as "Critical Race Theory" because it is not part of the approved curriculum. What are some ways the schools should teach students about the role of race in American history, as it pertains to slavery, segregation, civil rights, and contemporary issues and concerns? More

See BOARD, A3

Reopening Redux



PHOTOS BY JOHN FOLEY

Jennifer Poppert (left) admires Brantley Geoffrey's artwork on the wall of the Perquimans Arts League Gallery during a reception to celebrate the reopening of the gallery, Thursday, March 31. The artworks of 42 students, including Brantley's, were displayed during the event.

PAL celebrates reopening of Gallery

Arts group celebrates students' artwork, honors artist Pardue

BY JOHN FOLEY
Correspondent

Despite thunderstorm cloud skies, a good crowd of benefactors, neighbors, town officials and artists of all ages turned out for last week's reopening of the Perquimans Arts League Gallery.

The gallery's reopening had been anticipated by many since an emergency closing in February due to buckling floors. With the

floors now fixed, PAL reopened the gallery at 133 North Church Street on Thursday, March 31, and held a reception to celebrate.

"We're very excited about the reopening," said Lynne Nichtelein as she and her husband Fred enjoyed a sampling of the culinary arts on display.

"We used to go to the other gallery all the time," she continued. "We are looking forward to being able to come downtown and enjoy this."

See PAL, A3



Artist and Perquimans Arts League benefactor Jack Pardue (left) chats with Anne Lankford during the PAL reception to celebrate the reopening of its gallery, Thursday, March 31. PAL announced during the event that it was renaming its youth gallery the Jack Pardue Gallery of Youth Art because of Pardue's donation of 66 artworks to the arts group's recent auction.

Senate hopefuls face off at county GOP convention

Steinburg, Sanderson tout their records in Senate

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The two candidates vying for the Republican nomination for N.C. Senate in the 1st District both cited their General Assembly records in comments at Thursday's Perquimans County Republican Convention.

Sen. Norm Sanderson, R-Pamlico, who represents the current 2nd District, and Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, who represents the current 1st District, will face each other in the Republican primary May 17. The winner will almost certainly fill the seat in the newly drawn 1st District since no Democrat has filed.

Steinburg said he works hard to get things done for his constituents and is

INSIDE

Commission, school, judge, DA candidates tout experience. Page A2.



SANDERSON STEINBURG

"bringing the bacon home" on everything from prison reform to including north-eastern North Carolina in a foreign trade zone for the Port of Virginia.

Steinburg said he is ridiculed for supporting HB2, which he described as commonsense legislation, and for opposing "guys who

See PERQUIMANS, A7

Local man charged in drug overdose death

Shepard indicted by grand jury for death by distribution

From staff reports

A Perquimans County man has been charged in connection with a death from a drug overdose.

Gary Shepard, 61, of the 100 block of Hunt Club Trail, Hertford, was arrested March 22, charged with death by distribution of

controlled substances. He's being confined at Albemarle District Jail in lieu of a \$100,000 secured bond.

The offense date is listed as June 14, 2021. The warrant for Shepard's arrest was issued March 22. It stems from a true bill of indictment by a grand jury.

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said the sheriff's office is seeking

See OVERDOSE, A7

School board to dig deeper into safety concerns

Survey: Half of high school students express concerns

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County school officials will take a closer look at what's causing high school stu-

dents to question their safety at school.

A report on student social and emotional wellbeing presented to the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday, March 28, included a survey in which high percentages of students, staff and parents said they feel safe at school.

But the outlier was Perquimans County High School, where nearly half of the 172 students who responded to a voluntary survey on school safety reported having concerns about their safety while at school.

Board members asked school district staff to drill down on the reasons some students say they

feel unsafe.

Board member Leary Winslow pointed out that safety concerns could refer to anything from bullying to questions about health and safety related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Perquimans school staff agreed to conduct a follow-up survey to identify the underlying causes of concern reflected in the first survey.

The report by Chief Academic Officer Melissa Fields also touched on other aspects of the district's concern for "the whole child," including school attendance. She noted that attendance appears to have been affected

negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A comprehensive effort is underway to reach out to students with attendance issues and work with them and their families to get those issues resolved, Fields told the board.

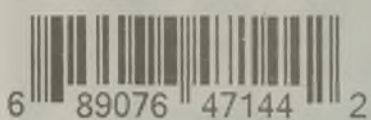
Fields reported that the Perquimans schools offer professional development opportunities to help them provide "culturally responsive" instruction to all students.

In another matter related to school safety, the board approved the purchase of surveillance camera systems for Central Elementa-

ry School and Hertford Grammar School.

The camera systems, which are the same type as those already in place at the county's middle school and high school, are being funded mainly through a school safety grant from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

About \$3,000 from the school district's existing budget will be needed to round out funding for the project, which includes \$18,198 for the system at Perquimans Central and \$26,886 for Hertford Grammar. The systems are being purchased from WYN Technologies Inc.



6 89076 47144 2

Vol. 87, No. 14

WWW.PerquimansWeekly.com
©2021 Perquimans Weekly
All Rights Reserved