

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022

\$1.50

SCAN ME



**PAGE A2**  
Overturned truck blocks 2 lanes of US 17



**PAGE B1**  
PCRA's 29th annual Garden Party set for this weekend



**PAGE B2**  
Steamers open 2022 campaign on road in Clayton Friday

384 28 9 ##  
\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*R 008  
PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
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HERTFORD NC 27944-1225

## Honoring their sacrifice

### Memorial Day event draws 150 downtown

Meads: Freedom doesn't come easily or without cost

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

More than 150 people paid tribute to military service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during the Perquimans County Memorial Day observance in Hertford on Monday.

Filling Memorial Park at the Perquimans County Courthouse for the event were veterans, their families, town and county officials, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts and members of the Perquimans County High School band.

The event, hosted by the William Paul Stallings Post 126 and the Reid Louder Post 362 of the American Legion, attracted a Memorial Day gathering not seen since before the COVID-19 outbreak two years ago, officials said.

Although Post 126 Commander Rick Caporale was unable to attend because of illness, post Vice Commander Dean Englehardt welcomed the crowd and reminded everyone of the importance of the event.

"We are gathered here



JOHN FOLEY PHOTO

Perquimans County Commissioner Fondella Leigh places a wreath in honor of the nation's fallen military servicemen and women at Memorial Park, near the county courthouse, during the Perquimans County Memorial Day ceremony, Monday.

to honor and pay tribute to those in the armed services who have died in wars the nation has fought," he said.

Besides reminding the crowd that the event would feature a roll call of Perqui-

mans County veterans who have died over the past year, Englehardt also urged attendees to visit local cemeteries on Monday.

"We have placed 700 flags graveside sponsored by the

American Legion with the help of Rotarian volunteers. Take some time to see the flags flutter," he said.

The Rev. Stuart Meads,

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## Schools seeking ways to ID more gifted students

District wants to raise Black student participation to 5%

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools officials are seeking ways to ensure they are identifying all academically gifted students.

Of particular concern is the small percentage of Black students in the school district who are identified as academically or intellectually gifted. Only 0.05 percent of Black students in the district have been identified as AIG, compared with 11 percent of white students.

The state average for Black students is 5 percent.

Perquimans is looking at adopting that percentage as a goal for Black students' participation in the

district's AIG program.

In her presentation on AIG at the the Perquimans County Board of Education meeting last week, Chief Academic Officer Melissa Fields acknowledged that Perquimans is well below the state average in its percentage of African-American students identified as academically or intellectually gifted.

"It's unacceptable," Fields said. "We've got a long way to go."

The district's revised AIG plan is currently under consideration by the board.

Board member Matt Peeler said he believes there needs to be a way for a student to be identified as AIG based on the firm conviction of a teacher or a principal. He said if a

See STUDENTS, A3

## PIRATES LOOK TO REPEAT



DAVID GOUGH/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Perquimans' Trenton Sawyer delivers a pitch during Game 2 of the Pirates' 7-3 win over Bear Grass Charter in the 1A NCHSAA Eastern Regional Championship Series, Saturday at Bear Grass. The Pirates will play the western champion Cherryville High School Ironmen for the state championship at Holly Spring's Ting Park Friday and Saturday. See page B2 for more information.

## Hertford Stroll returns starting June 10

Attendees can help paint mural, watch artist demos

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

If you haven't enjoyed many of the new developments in downtown Hertford in a while, plan on attending Historic Hertford's first Friday Night Stroll on June 10. Next week's Stroll is the first of three scheduled for the second Friday in June, July and August.

Strollers will get a chance to help paint a community mural on a massive wall, according to the event's co-organizer Historic Hertford, Inc.

"The mural will be on the back of the PAL building," said Susan Cox of Historic Hertford, Inc. adding, "It is like paint-by-numbers. We've been wanting to paint that building for a while."

Cox was referring to the Perquimans Arts League

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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Becky White (left) and Sheryl Corr dance the Cupid Shuffle during a Hertford Stroll in downtown Hertford last May. The first Hertford Stroll of the summer will be Friday, June 10.

## Grant to fund work program for 60 students

Employers wanted for program paying students \$200 stipend

BY JOHN FOLEY  
Correspondent

If you just can't seem to keep that "Help Wanted" sign out of your window, help could soon be on the way.

Thanks to a state economic stimulus grant, Perquimans County Schools

juniors can be placed in a job requiring up to 20 hours of work — at no cost to the employer.

That could be something as simple as cleaning out a back room, painting an employee bathroom or cleaning a yard.

Jill Cohen, director of Career and Technical Education at Perquimans County High School, is looking to place 60 students in the program. All of the students will be available to work af-

ter July 14.

"I am looking for businesses who need help or personal help cleaning their yard, painting something, cutting grass," she said. "I want them (the students) to learn basic employment skills: how to show up on time; communicate with people; stay off their cell phones."

Cohen said she's "open to everything."

"This is a wonderful way for the students and the community to learn and benefit from one another," she said.

The student stipend program happened only because Cohen read the fine print when applying for the Economic Stimulus Grant.

"When I was applying for

the grant one of the suggested opportunities was to purchase a computer program from California or Utah and have the students sit in front of it for 20 hours each to learn a new program," Cohen said.

While that may have been helpful, it did nothing to provide an economic stimulus for Perquimans or the people who live here. And it only enriched a computer company in California or Utah.

"So I called the state and explained I wanted to develop a program where kids learn employment skills, show up on time, dress properly, don't use their cell phones — those kind of

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## Disappearance of woman in 2015 is still a mystery

Karen Bosta was last seen in Edenton May 30, 2015

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Monday marked seven years since Perquimans County resident Karen Rae Bosta went missing in Edenton.

Bosta's mother, Arlene Murin, is still waiting for answers.

A total of \$20,000 in reward money is still being offered for information that leads investigators to solve why Bosta disappeared on May 30, 2015.

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White said his office continues to follow up on all leads and tips. He said he hopes someone comes forward with information that will help investigators solve the case.

Bosta, who was living at Holiday Island in Perquim-



BOSTA

ans, was last seen in Edenton seven years ago Monday.

Her car was found a few days later in the Gaslight Square parking lot on Court Street in downtown Edenton.

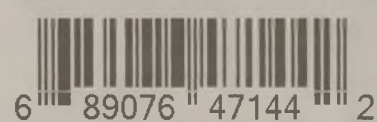
A massive search on both land and water following Bosta's disappearance proved futile.

Since then, law enforcement agencies in Perquimans and Chowan have worked together to solve the case.

The Perquimans Sheriff's Office is the lead agency in the investigation since Bosta was a Perquimans county resident.

Chowan County Sheriff

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