

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

\$1.50



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Overton Tractor Parade to roll from Belvidere Saturday



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History for Lunch: Author: Tyrrell was timber bonanza



PAGE B3
Library to host Community Resource Fair Sept. 22

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

Indian Summer Fun



PHOTOS BY JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The band Spare Change performs for the street dance on the opening night of the 36th annual Indian Summer Festival in downtown Hertford, Friday night.

Thousands attend downtown festival

Fest canceled past two years because of pandemic

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

Thousands of Perquimans County residents and visitors took to the streets of Hertford last weekend for the 36th annual Indian Summer Festival and the first since the pandemic struck in early 2020.

Events kicked off Friday evening with a downtown Hertford street dance. Revelers line-danced on Church Street as the band Spare

Change filled the evening air with tunes that got the crowd, young and not-so-young, clapping, singing and tripping the light fantastic.

It was an appropriate opening for the festival's events Saturday morning. To kick things off, the Hertford Fire Department raised an American flag hook-and-ladder style at the end of Church Street. While the flag waved under clouded skies, the rain held off, easing Perquimans County Tourism Director Stacey Layden's stress.

See FESTIVAL, A3



Sharon Matthews says "cheese" at the Hertford Ruritan Club's nacho booth Friday on the first day of the 36th annual Indian Summer Festival.

Lack of rain hurting local corn yields

Rising input costs lower farmers' profit margin per acre

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer

If rising input costs because of inflation weren't already causing enough stress for Perquimans County farmers, the lack of rain this

summer is.

"The dry weather has taken a toll on our crops this year and continues to hurt the rest of the crops we have growing," said Perquimans County Extension Director Jared Harrell.

According to Harrell, corn yields are lower across the county from last year, and in some areas of Per-

quimans, they're "very low compared to recent years."

There is rain in the forecast for this week, but the anticipated precipitation will not be enough to boost yields.

While higher fuel prices remain a concern, supply chain disruptions are not currently an issue for local growers.

"Supply chain has not had much of a burden on our farmers as our grain is grown for animal feeds," Harrell said. "The higher fuel prices for trucking does have an effect for where the farmers are going to sell their grain at."

And while the price of

See CROPS, A3

PCHS grad rate exceeds state's rate

Math, reading scores follow state trend and fall backward

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Graduation rates for the 2021-22 school year at most high schools across the area were better than the statewide rate.

Statewide, the four-year cohort graduation rate was 86.2% and the five-year cohort graduation rate was 88.5%. The four-year cohort rate is the percentage of students who entered ninth-grade in the 2018-2019 school year who graduated in 2022. The five-year cohort rate covers students who entered ninth-grade a year earlier,

in 2017-18, and graduated in 2022.

Perquimans County High School's four-year and five-year cohort rates exceeded the state rate. PCHS' had a four-year rate of 91.3% and five-year rate of 88.1%.

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner said graduation rates in Perquimans have continued to improve.

"As for the graduation rate, we have a lot to celebrate as our percentage was higher than last year and the 2018-2019 pre-pandemic level," Turner said. "This year we were 91.3 percent compared to 86.1

See RATES, A3

Hertford moving town funds to investment fund

Capital Management Trust to pay interest on \$2M

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford is moving the majority of its funds from bank accounts earning little or no interest to a money market investor currently paying 2.23 percent interest on deposits.

Town Manager Janice Cole recommended to Hertford Town Council Monday night that the town move most of its funds to Capital Management Trust, an organization that invests funds for local governments. She noted CMT is recommended by the N.C. Local Gov-

ernment Commission.

After discussion, the council voted unanimously to keep

\$500,000 each in the two existing bank accounts and move the remainder — currently around \$2 million — into Capital Management Trust.

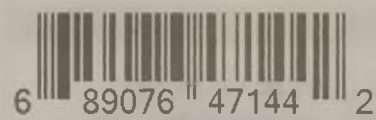
Cole explained that when money has to be taken out of CMT it can be moved back to the regular bank account the next day at no cost. And in an emergency the funds could be

See FUNDS, A3

New highway sign directs motorists to downtown

Booster groups also planning to post billboard on US 17

BY JOHN FOLEY
Staff Writer



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Vol. 87, No. 37
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Within weeks the detour signs directing traffic away from the S-Bridge's construction site will be gone. That will be a welcome sign as life in Perquimans begins returning to the way it was before the bridge project began.

Another welcome sign? A new sign on U.S. Highway 17 near Crossroads Fuel Services highlighting Hertford's Historic Walk and downtown attractions including the Perquimans County Courthouse, the Colored U.S. Soldiers Monument, the Edmund-

son-Fox Memorial, the Hertford S-Bridge Trestle and the Perquimans County History Museum.

The sign also include facts about Perquimans' history and a scannable QR code where cellphone users can find more information.

The sign, just like the sign that preceded it, is dedicated to one of Hertford's most respected citizens, Jeanne C. White. The sign's dedication to White is noted in

See SIGN, A3



JOHN FOLEY/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

This new sign posted near the Crossroads Fuel Services building on U.S. Highway 17 points out some of the attractions for visitors in Hertford.

Jollification!

HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Tickets: TOUR & DINNER: \$40 per person
TOUR OR DINNER ONLY: \$25 per person

Music by "Uphill"

CALL 252-426-7567 FOR TICKETS

Sat., Sept. 24, 2022

Doors open 11am at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 207 S. Church St., Hertford, NC

TOUR - 12:30-5PM

DINNER - 5:30-8PM at Newbold-White House