

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

\$1.50



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## Tough competition



PHOTOS BY CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Perquimans junior Madelyn Stallings (right) spikes the ball over the opposite end of the net during set 4 of the Lady Pirates' 3-1 win over Ayden-Grifton, Monday.

## Perquimans beats visiting Ayden-Grifton

CHRIS DAY  
The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — Perquimans has faced some stiff competition in the last few weeks and even suffered two losses.

On Monday night, the Lady Pirates (16-2) benefited from that experience by delivering Ayden-Grifton (15-1) its first defeat of the season.

Perquimans defeated the visiting Ayden-Grifton Lady Chargers 3-1 at Perquimans High, Monday.

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Thach honored by Board of Education after 300th win. Page A3

Perquimans opened the match by winning the first set 25-23. Ayden-Grifton responded by winning the second set 25-21. The Lady Pirates won the next two sets by scores of 25-17 and 25-23.

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Perquimans' Kaydee Hunter (18) and Ashlynn Ward (5) defend the net and score a point for the Lady Pirates against visiting Ayden-Grifton, Monday.

## Smart Start offers range of services

VERNON FUESTON  
Staff Writer

EDENTON — Sarah Williams, program coordinator for the Chowan-Perquimans Smart Start Partnership, said most people think about daycare when her organization comes up in conversation.

While it's true that Smart Start assists and rates daycare centers and many parents come to smart start for assistance finding daycare for their children, the

organization has a great deal more to offer parents in the area.

CPSSP, which is headquartered in Edenton, serves parents and young children by helping to increase the quality of daycare services, offering parenting classes for new parents, looking out for early childhood health and safety, and fostering reading among children from the moment they are able to sit and listen to a story.

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VERNON FUESTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Smart Start Program Coordinator Sarah Williams (right) tests her vision screening equipment with intern Damaris Ambrosio-Reyes. The equipment, which uses a small video screen, is particularly useful when working with young special needs children who may not cooperate with the kinds of optometric equipment in many doctor's offices.

## New panel to explore animal welfare rules

Current ordinance doesn't address animal welfare

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Perquimans County officials have appointed a study committee to recommend possible animal welfare regulations for the county.

Perquimans Board of Commissioners Chairman Wallace Nelson announced Monday night that he was appointing Commissioners Tim Corprew and Kyle Jones, County Manager Frank Heath, and Sheriff Shelby White to the new panel. The committee will review the county's current animal control ordinance, consider suggestions that have been brought forward by members of the public, and recommend possible

animal welfare amendments to the animal control ordinance, he said.

Perquimans resident Mary Vidaurri said in a recent letter to the county commissioners that the current animal control ordinance deals with dangerous animals but does not address concerns related to animal welfare. She called on the board to adopt a section II of the ordinance that would focus on animal welfare matters such as protection from severe heat and cold and provision of adequate food and water.

Vidaurri repeated those concerns in comments at the board's meeting Monday night. She also said she was encouraged that the committee had been appointed and the issue of animal welfare is being looked at closely.

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## Hertford opts for \$15 fee for kayak rental program

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Users of the town of Hertford's new kayak rental program will be able to get on the water for \$10 less than previously proposed.

Hertford Town Council voted last week to adopt a \$15 rental rate for two hours, which is lower than the \$25-per-two-hour fee council initially approved in August.

The town is partnering with rent.com, a digital vendor that provides kayaks for rent, allowing customers to rent them by cell phone.

At their August meeting, councilors agreed to a \$26,000 equipment cost for the service and a rental rate of \$25 for two hours. But at its Sept. 11 meeting, councilors authorized Town Manager Janice Cole to negotiate with

rent.fun for a lower rental fee.

Town officials noted at the Sept. 11 meeting that nearby Edenton rents kayaks for \$5 an hour, which Cole characterized as "a much lower price."

Hertford town officials agreed that the town was not starting the kayak rental service to make money, but rather to increase access to the Perquimans River.

Cole reported to the council that she had asked rent.fun for an alternative pricing proposal.

"What I determined was that for the vendor to still make the same profit that they would have made at the \$25 for two hours, we would need to go with about \$15 for two hours without the town taking any sharing" of the revenue, Cole said.

More KAYAKS | A7

## Harbor Towns eyes \$10M for town tourism upgrades

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The nonprofit planning to provide high-speed ferry trips and dinner boat excursions across the Albemarle Sound is expected to

receive a \$10 million grant for infrastructure upgrades in five harbor towns once the new state budget officially becomes law.

Nick Didow, a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill professor who heads Harbor Towns, Inc., said Thursday that state Rep. Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, asked that the \$10 million appropriation be included in the budget, and that his request received broad support from lawmakers.

"We understand the grant

request has broad support, including (from) the other northeastern regional members of the General Assembly, members from all across the state, and the leadership of both chambers," Didow said.

Harbor Towns, Inc. already received \$5 million in state funding several years ago. That money was spent building two high-speed passenger ferry vessels and purchasing a larger dinner excursion boat. The first fast ferry, The Penelope, has been delivered and

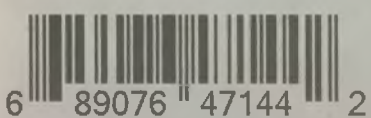
is awaiting final Coast Guard approval before it can be used to transport passengers between five towns on Albemarle Sound: Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton, Plymouth and Manteo. The dinner boat, The Eagle I, is currently undergoing renovations and is expected to be rented by groups.

Didow explained that the new \$10 million appropriation will provide up to \$2 million for each of the five towns served by Harbor Towns, and that the money will be used toward two objectives:

increasing each town's capacity to welcome and engage tourists and visitors as a destination; and contributing to the mission, initiatives, and priorities of Harbor Towns, Inc.

The projects may include renovating and rebuilding docks in some of the towns, as well as other infrastructure upgrades that contribute to visitor experience and make boating more feasible for that destination.

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