

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

\$1.50

SCAN ME



**Page 3**  
Pirates take Peanut Trophy at Battle of the Bands



**Page 4**  
Sheridan: Sentence little Free library vandals to read books



**Page 7**  
Symons' team wins title in SC

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## National Night Out



REGGIE PONDER/THE DAILY ADVANCE/

Si White, 6, and Auri White, 9, talk to their father and grandfather about how much they enjoy the miniature horses at Perquimans County's observance of National Night Out in Hertford, Tuesday, Oct. 3. The horses, groomed to look like unicorns, were brought to the event by New Hope Stables and shown by youth volunteers including Lily Elliot, 10, who is at right with a horse.

## Perquimans event had fall festival twist

Aug. event delayed to October when weather is better

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Area residents turned out in Hertford on Tuesday, Oct. 3, for a Night Out Against Crime event with a fall festival twist.

National Night Out traditionally is held on the first

Tuesday in August, and has been since the observance's inception nearly four decades ago. But the Perquimans County Sheriff's Office and other local organizers of the event decided that October has better weather, so they decided it would be a great time to bring the community together to celebrate unity and encourage public safety.

Perquimans Sheriff Shelby White remarked

during the Oct. 3 event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center that it appeared this year's Night Out drew more children than have come out in previous years.

The Night Out festival in Perquimans this year featured a number of attractions for children, including a "Spooky Trail" through the woods next to the Perquimans County Recreation Center that featured pirates,

"Wizard of Oz" characters, and other costumed performers who stood along the trail and greeted children with candy.

A somewhat more frightening version of the trail aimed at adults debuted at 7 p.m. The tamer children's version ran from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The trail was hit with both kids and adults.

More NIGHT | A9

## Sheriff: Two more deputies needed for Hertford patrols

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White told Hertford officials Monday that he needs two more deputies in order to provide the town a full shift of officers 24 hours a day.

White also reported Monday that his office is applying for a grant to acquire a high-tech camera system that responds to the sound of gunshots.

White's report to Hertford Town Council noted that the Sheriff's Office began its third year of contracted law enforcement services for the town on July 1. Town Council decided to contract with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement after disbanding the Hertford Police Department in 2021.

White said that in order to keep two deputies in town at all times, he plans to ask that two additional deputies be added to the contract with the town



White

beginning July 1 of next year. White said citizen cooperation with law

enforcement in Hertford has improved. But the Sheriff's Office continues to be concerned about gunfire in Hertford, he said. His office has started cracking down on loitering in neighborhoods where people from outside the community have been congregating and where there have been frequent reports of crime or disturbances.

In the most recent quarter there were 21 reports of shots fired and three reports of sexual assault, he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Hodges said that contracting with the sheriff's office for law enforcement services in Hertford was a big decision, but he believes it has proven to be the right one.

More SHERIFF | A8

## Perquimans-Chowan broadband expansion slated for 2024 start

FOCUS Broadband to install 200 miles of fiber optic cable

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

After a lengthy delay due to complexities of federal grant funding, installation of a much-awaited fiber optic broadband project in rural Perquimans County is slated to start early next year.

Jody Huestess, vice president for marketing and customer care at FOCUS Broadband, updated the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners earlier this week on the status of the project.

FOCUS Broadband is a member-owned community communications technology cooperative based in Brunswick County. The



Huestess

co-op was formed in the 1950s to bring telephone service to unserved and under-

served rural communities in southeastern North Carolina. Over the years, it has expanded into other rural areas of eastern North Carolina — most recently Chowan and Perquimans counties with broadband internet projects.

Huestess explained that as telephone service has become a less critical utility for people over the years, and internet service has become more vital, the nonprofit has shifted its focus to providing broadband in rural areas.

More BROADBAND | A9

## Heels for Hope celebrates cancer survivors

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Sentara Albemarle Medical Center sponsored its first Heels for Hope fashion show featuring breast cancer survivors and their health care partners Monday night — with hopes of making it an annual event.

There were 80 tickets sold for the fashion show that was held in the clubhouse at Albemarle Plantation. The event celebrated life, community, and

the journey of healing and hope.

Doris Jones, who was one of the models in the fashion show, said it was her first time as a model and was a fun experience.

"I just enjoyed being around the people, the survivors, and hearing their stories about how they got through it," Jones said. "The audience was very, very supportive and excited about the event."

More HEELS | A9



SENTARA ALBEMARLE MEDICAL CENTER PHOTO

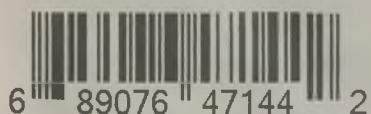
Pictured near the conclusion of Sentara Albemarle Medical Center's first Heels for Hope fashion show on Monday are (l-r) Tammy Morgan, Dr. Maria Pharr, Holland Winslow, Doris Jones and Kathy Stallings.

## Early voting begins for election Thursday

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Nov. 7 municipal elections in Hertford and Winfall begins Thursday at the Perquimans County Board of Elections Office.

Voting begins at 8 a.m. at



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the elections office located at 601 S. Edenton Road St., Hertford, and will continue weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, Nov. 3.

Saturday early voting will take place on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In Hertford, two candidates are vying for mayor: Ashley Hodges, an incumbent town councilor, and first-time candidate Reginald White.

More VOTING | A8

## PAL's Arts on the Perquimans record-breaking

REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Perquimans Arts League held a record-setting Arts on the Perquimans Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Perquimans County Recreation Center in Hertford.

Rain and wind did not deter arts patrons from coming out for the show.

"I'm happy to report record numbers," said PAL President Vaneeda Bennett.

"We had over 500 people in attendance and raised over \$7,000 for the Perquimans Arts League."

For Bertie County residents Linda and Edward Williams, it was the first time selling their handcrafted wooden pens at Arts on the Perquimans. Edward Williams said he especially enjoyed seeing people he had known when he was principal at Hertford Grammar School.



REGGIE PONDER/THE DAILY ADVANCE  
Rosie Overton browses pottery items at Stella Osborne's tent during the Arts on the Perquimans show presented by the Perquimans Arts League Saturday, Oct. 7. According to organizers, the show was record-breaking, drawing 500 attendees and raising over \$7,000 for the Perquimans Arts League.

More SHOW | A2