

EXPANSION

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McCrorry said.

McCrorry said it was especially gratifying to make this announcement in the northeastern part of the state, an area that has been hit especially hard by job losses but now is seeing an improvement in its economy and employment.

He also said it was exciting to be announcing new jobs in a company that makes things, and makes them from agricultural products grown in this county and region.

The state was built on industries that make things, build things and grow things, he said.

"This plant makes things from things that we grow," McCrorry said.

"Isn't it great to hear of someone expanding in manufacturing and production?"

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, welcomed the crowd of local business and governmental leaders to the event.

"I'd like to welcome you and thank you for being here on this very, very exciting day," Steinburg said.

Rep. Howard Hunter III, D-Hertford, who represents a neighboring district that includes part of Pasquotank County, also was on hand for the announcement.

Jimbo's Jumbos currently has 208 employees in Chowan County.

State officials said the new jobs would include forklift drivers, quality control, manufacturing supervisors and clerical employees.

The average annual pay-

roll will exceed \$2.4 million, according to state officials.

McCrorry, who spent much of the day in Edenton between the jobs announcement in the morning and an afternoon rally in support of the restoring the historic preservation tax credit, made a brief mention of the tax credit during the morning event.

"I'm also here to fight for the historic tax credits," McCrorry said.

In celebrating what he often calls the "Carolina Comeback," McCrorry cited the personal turnaround story of Paul Britton, the vice president of operations at Jimbo's Jumbos.

Britton has taken the lead in this expansion, McCrorry said. And he started work here 35 years ago on a work release program from the state prison in Pasquotank

County, McCrorry said.

He earned his GED while working at the plant, McCrorry said, and "now he is running this plant and two other company plants and he is vice president of this company. This is the kind of comeback story that we need to promote and celebrate."

McCrorry noted he had called Britton on Dec. 23, 2013, to inform him he was granting him a full, unconditional pardon.

These 78 new jobs could offer that same kind of second chance for someone else, and someone who gets one of these jobs also could end up becoming a vice president of the company, McCrorry said.

Hal Burns, Jumbo's Jumbos general manager, said he appreciated the state stepping up and supporting

the expansion, along with town and county officials and the Edenton Chowan Partnership.

The Partnership played a big role by donating 8.8 acres for the new facility, Burns said.

Burns explained that the company adds to the economy in more ways than just through its own employees. For instance, local and regional farmers grow peanuts; then sell them through a company such as

Virginia Fork Produce; they are shelled by Severn Peanut Company; then delivered to processing plants.

After Jimbo's Jumbos processes the peanuts, JLA handles quality assurance, Burns said.

John Baker has five trucks he uses to haul the peanuts out of town, Burns said. And then later

many of the peanuts will end up back in

Edenton on the shelves of Food Lion, Walgreens or CVS, he said.

Mayor Roland Vaughan said "Edenton is very privileged to have this company in our midst."

The announcement of the 78 new jobs at Jimbo's Jumbos is an example of the community making history, Vaughan said.

"Not only do we preserve history, but every now and then we make it," Vaughan said.

Chowan Board of Commissioners Chairman Jeff Smith said that as a peanut farmer he was especially proud to see the local economy expanding through peanut processing.

"Seventy-eight new jobs is dramatic for Chowan County," Smith said.

ROADS

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contractor will be notified and is responsible for fixing it.

The state maintains about 80,000 miles of roads, the second highest number in the country, but there are another 26,000 miles of roads that aren't DOT's responsibility.

Heiss said if a pothole is reported to DOT and it isn't a DOT road, the caller will be advised to contact the town, county or subdivision.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said



the weather did take its toll on roads.

"According to the Na-

tional Weather Service in Wakefield, it was the third coldest February on re-

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

It may be a while before road crews can make major headway on fixing potholes that developed because of the harsh weather.

cord, and their records go back to the 1800s."

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said many of the roads in the town are state roads. He had no estimate on how much damage the winter storms caused.

The winter of 2015 has proven to be an expensive one for DOT.

In all, the department has spent about \$53 mil-

lion dollars this year battling the wintry weather statewide. DOT applied more than 136 tons of salt or sand/salt mix and more than 4 million gallons of brine.

The state provides money to incorporated municipalities for the maintenance of roads, but is far less than what it was just five years ago. In 2010, the Powell Bill distributed \$134 million. The most recent figure available is \$73 million. The Town of Hertford gets about \$60,000 a year in Powell Bill funds. Winfall receives about \$19,700.

"Potholes are common

during the winter months when moisture that seeps into cracks in the pavement gets in between the layers of asphalt, freezes, expands and then thaws," explained NCDOT's Chief Engineer Mike Holder. "When the ice expands, it causes the cracks to widen and the asphalt layer to rise. Traffic then loosens the pavement, which eventually creates a pothole."

"We do ask that motorists be patient with road crews," Holder added. "They will fill the potholes as quickly as they can, but will first address the ones that are the greatest safety concerns."

COA

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thinks it's just fine that Perquimans has just one person on the board.

"Put it this way, I don't feel like I'm unable to voice an opinion," Lacefield said.

When it was established more than 50 years ago,

COA was charged with providing services for a seven-county area but the main campus has always been in Elizabeth City. Originally representatives from Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County residents made up the board.

That changed under former state Rep. Bill Owens, D-Pasquotank who pushed legislation to expand the

board and include members from all seven counties. White pointed out that while all counties contribute something to operate COA, Gates only provided \$6,000. By contrast, Pasquotank contributes about \$1.4 million a year, White noted.

COA has satellite campuses in Dare, Chowan and Currituck counties, but

does not in Camden, Perquimans and Gates. Camden contributed \$40,000, Perquimans gave \$32,500, and Gates contributed \$6,000.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said COA requested \$35,000 this fiscal year, \$5,000 more than year before. The county commission split the difference to come up

with the \$32,500 figure.

When it comes to the size of the board, Lacefield said while the full board votes on issues, most of the in-depth discussion takes place in smaller groups.

"One of the things that you have to take into account is there are several standing committees. I sit on the policy and planning committee and much of

work occurs in those committees and is then brought to the full board.

Pasquotank County Commissioner Joe Winslow, a trustee, said there "may be some gain in efficiency (and) communication" by having a smaller board, but "I think the value we add" by having more representation from across the region outweighs that.

BOARDS

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look forward to working with the other members.

"On the North Carolina board I serve on the license standards committee. I in-

terview all applicants where there may be a problem with their application be it a criminal record or question with their education and the policy committee. I have also served as chair of the establishment regulations committee."

At the state level, Layden serves on two standing committees dealing with license standards and policy.

On the national level, Layden will serve on the policy committee of the FSMTB.

Hobbs is one of two members of the public serving on the N.C. Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

By law, six of the eight members of the N.C. Board

of Chiropractic Examiners must be licensed chiropractors and two members must be members of the general public.

"There are some really going things being done by chiropractors," Hobbs said last week. "I know they have helped me and they've helped my mother. But I know there are some in the U.S. and some in North Carolina that may not be

doing everything correctly and that is the purpose of the board, to look after the safety of the people."

Hobbs said unlike some states, which allow people to practice chiropractic without a four-year degree, it is required in North Carolina.

The board regulates the practice of chiropractic in North Carolina to determine the qualifications of individ-

uals seeking to practice chiropractic. The term length is three years.

McCrorry also appointed Dr. Randy Schilsky of Onslow County and Dr. Ray Armstrong of Scotland County to the state board.

Hobbs is the proprietor of Beechtree Inn, a collection of 16 pre-Civil War buildings. She is also the wife of former Perquimans County Commissioner Ben Hobbs.

REQUEST FOR BID

Hertford Housing Authority is requesting bids for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance services. The Scope of Work is available at the office on 104 White Street. Bids must be received at the HHA office by 5PM on March 26, 2015. Any questions can be directed to Executive Director Gail White at 426-5663.

ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING

The annual shareholders meeting of Hertford Savings Bank, SSB will be held:

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015
5:00 P.M.

AT:
HERTFORD SAVINGS BANK, SSB
121 N. CHURCH ST
HERTFORD, NC

The meeting is called for the purpose of electing directors and transacting other business that may come before this meeting.

VIVIAN D. SUTTON
PRESIDENT/ TREASURER
HERTFORD SAVINGS BANK, SSB
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The bank's annual disclosure statement is available upon request by writing to: Hertford Savings Bank, P.O. Box 156, Hertford, NC 27944 Or by calling (252) 426-5403.

STOOP

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for some they are out of the normal comfort zone."

White also admires wildlife officers for their dedication.

"They do a lot of these programs and it's on the weekends or in the evening. People don't think about

it, they have to spend time away from their families, but it's a labor of love for them."

One of the things Stoop has taught is archery fishing, using a bow and arrow to catch fish. It's a sport he also enjoys.

"Not many people around here do that," Stoop said last week. "It's bigger in the central and western part of


the state. The closest one where there are any tournaments is Lake Gaston."

Stoop prefers to use a bow instead of a rifle in hunting deer.

"I guess I've bow hunted since I was seven years old," the 38-year-old said. "I really enjoy it. There is nothing like getting that close to an animal to try and harvest them. I'm really into the

game management part and it's hard sneaking up a 5-year-old buck to get within 20 yards of it."

Stoop started out with wildlife enforcement in 2001 in Perquimans County and stayed until 2007 when he got promoted to sergeant and moved to Bertie County. He returned to Perquimans in 2012. He was born in Beaufort County.



Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership is now accepting retail vendor and information/activity booth applications for The Week of the Young Child Children's Festival and Safe Kids Day on April 25, 2015 from 10:00 - 2:00 at the Perquimans Recreation Center. Spaces are limited, and will be handled on a first come first served basis. Contact Susan at 252-482-3035 for an application.

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