

Business

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

# Chamber completes 3 events

Three events dominated the last five weeks for the Windsor/Bertie County Chamber of Commerce.

For almost 30 years, the chamber has been hosting a Farmers Appreciation Dinner. The Chamber got a chance to help with a first time event, Roxobel AgFest. Thanks to Cynthia Bunch, the Bertie County Special Olympics came off without hitch again this year.

These events add to our community and promote what living in a special place is all about.

The Farmers Appreciation Dinner continues to be one of the best Chamber events. This year featured music, food and an interesting program on industrial hemp. Fen Rascoe, who presented the program, is a local farmer, and member of the North Carolina Industrial Hemp Commission. Thanks to our sponsors without whom we could not do this event.

Rascoe talked about the history of hemp in North Carolina and its cousin marijuana creating some legal hurdles for this profitable plant to return to cultivation. Cannabis sativa does not contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the active ingredient that causes one to get "high" when marijuana is smoked or ingested.

Hemp may be grown for its fiber and also for the seeds. A farmer could grow hemp and harvest the seeds and then cut down plant for fiber. A double harvest with one planting could help make hemp a cash crop for our region. There are literally hundreds of uses for the plant.

The chamber got to participate in the planning of the first Roxobel AgFest thanks to the invitation of Johnna Browne Lewis. When an event is held for the first time, one does not really know what to expect. This event exceeded anyone's expectations as far as turnout and spirit. There were literally hundreds out for the parade. All kinds of antique farm equipment were driven through Roxobel with

Chamber Chatter



Lewis Hoggard

the Bertie High School Band providing music. The crowd also got to cheer the 5k runners as they ran down NC Hwy 308 at the start of the parade. There were 21 competitors of various skill levels and ages.

The event was a success and we look forward to next year. The success of the event was created by the work of the planners, the vendors and the citizens of Roxobel. The Roxobel Fire Department sold out completely of their BBQ chicken plates. Roxobel is making an effort to revitalize with a number of buildings being repurposed and put to use. The key is to use what you have and not let it sit unoccupied.

Another event that really brings happiness to me each year is the Special Olympics. The chamber provides a meal for the volunteering NFL football players and their guests. Last year it was turkey bbq; this year, a request was made for fried chicken and collards.

We love having these NFL players give their time to our special Olympians. We had over 200 competitors and at least that many others.

The smiling faces of the competitors make it well worth your time to be a part of making a special day for someone who deserves it. We look forward to many upcoming events like this weekend with the Lost Colony Festival and Plough Days in Askewville.

Lewis Hoggard is Executive Director of the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via email at [windorberties@gmail.com](mailto:windorberties@gmail.com).

## PERDUE HONORS ASSOCIATES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Perdue recently recognized the longterm efforts of its associates. Honored on day shift were (front row, from left): Renee' Lassiter, 10 years; Valerie Walton, 15 years; Doris Moore, 35 years; and Etrona Williams, 10 years. In the back are: Wal-

lace Bazemore, 10 years; Terrie Williams, 25 years; and Derrick Cooper, 25 years. Not Pictured: are Thelma Morris, 35 years; William Arterbridge, 35 years; Linda Phillips, 35 years; and Dontre' Boyce 5 years.

## Luncheon honors service

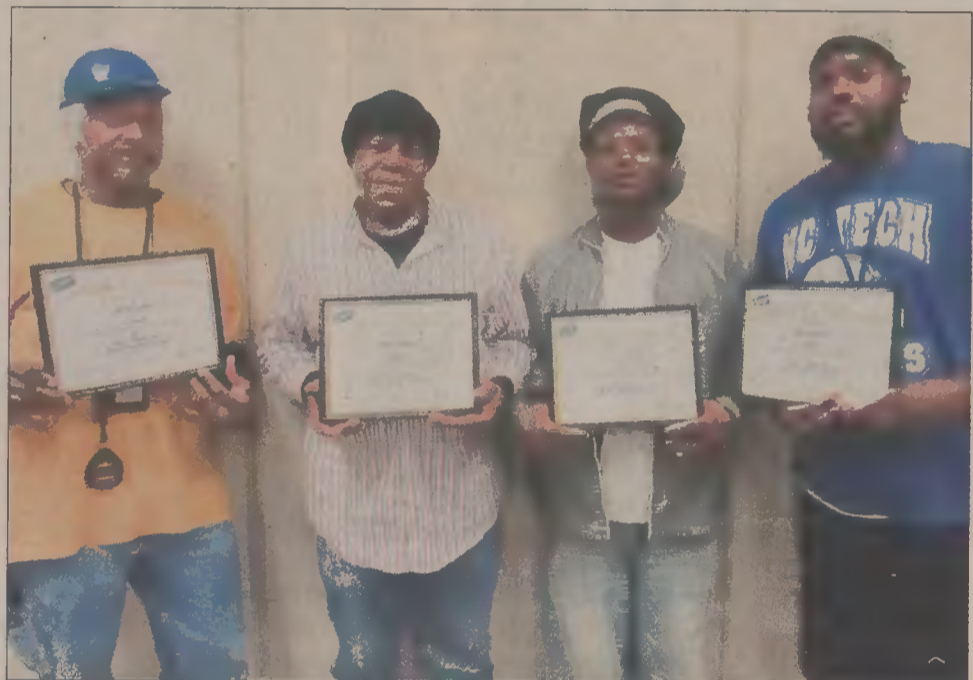
**KELFORD** - Perdue Farms recognized employees with a luncheon on March 5.

Perdue Farms, Inc. in Lewiston-Woodville, presented a special recognition luncheon to the February 2017 long term associates.

These individuals exemplify the commitment, dedication, and loyalty of the citizens of our community.

### About Perdue Incorporated

PERDUE® is the No.1 brand of fresh chicken in the Eastern United States and the largest employer in Bertie County.



Perdue recently recognized the longterm efforts of its associates. Honored on night shift Pictured are (from left): John Williams, 5 years; Scott Fleetwood, 5 years; Dyschonica Knight, 5 years; and Torris Norman, 5 years.

## CADA receives loan pool

Program will aid those who were victims of flooding

Choanoke Area Development Association of NC, Inc. (CADA) has been approved to receive a \$150,000 Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool - Disaster Recovery (ESFRPL-DR) Award in the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes in the disaster affected counties of Bertie, Edgecombe, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton and Martin counties.

This program was sponsored by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, with funds provided by the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016.

The goal of this program is to aid those households that were

victims of the floods that followed Hurricane Matthew, Tropical Storms Julia, and Hermine by providing recovery assistance in safely rehabilitating their flood-damaged homes. The homeowner cannot have been approved to receive a loan from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to repair damages and the homeowner must work with CADA to properly document any FEMA assistance received due to Hurricane Matthew, Tropical Storms Julia and or Hermine. This program will continue until Dec. 31, 2018, or until funds are exhausted whichever should occur first.

Applicants for SFR rehabilitation assistance must prove that they own and occupy the property to be rehabilitated as their primary residence. Applicants must reside within the county they are applying.

CADA began taking applications on Tuesday, March 14, and homeowners who wish to apply for assistance must do so by May 31. Proof of ownership and income will be required. Those elderly or disabled homeowners who have applied for assistance in the past are encouraged to re-apply.

CADA has developed an ESFRPL-Disaster Recovery Assistance Pol-

icy that can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the CADA Administrative Office in Rich Square, or CADA website [www.nc-cada.org](http://www.nc-cada.org).

This Policy describes the application process, who is eligible to apply, what types of houses are eligible, how applications are ranked, who will do the work, and what kind of assistance is available.

The Assistance Policy may also be reviewed at any CADA Community Service Center.

To apply, contact the Bertie office contact :phone: (252) 332-2692, TDD: 1 (800) 735-2692, Attention: Jacqueline Melton.

34TH ANNUAL  
**PIGSKIN**  
ECU  
**PIG-OUT**  
WEEKEND  
**FREE ADMISSION**

**FRI. & SAT. APRIL 21-22**  
ACTIVITIES @ DOWDY-FICKLEN STADIUM INCLUDE:  
**PARADE OF PIGS**  
**FREE MOVIE ON VIDEOBOARD**  
(Showing the movie "Invincible")  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**PEEDEE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY**  
**PURPLE/GOLD SPRING GAME**  
For a full list of events & details visit: [ECUPirates.com](http://ECUPirates.com) #ECUAthletics

Thanks to you, all sorts of everyday products are being made from the paper, plastic, metal and glass that you've been recycling. But to keep recycling working to help protect the environment, you need to buy those products.

**BUY RECYCLED.**

**AND SAVE!**

So look for products made from recycled materials, and buy them. It would mean the world to all of us. To receive a free brochure, write Buy Recycled, Environmental Defense Fund, 257 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003, or call 1-800-CALL-EDF.