

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

\$1.00

Forest Represents 'North Carolina Values'

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

EDENTON — Lt. Gov. Dan Forest shook hands with people Saturday as he walked the streets of downtown Edenton before speaking to a gathering of regional GOP leaders at the Inner Banks Inn.

Forest is seeking the Republican nomination for governor in the March 3 primary. But in his appearance in Edenton he virtually ignored the primary contest, focusing on his bid to replace Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat.

Forest spoke with local notables, some of whom hail from Perquimans County.

"It was a great event," said Dianne Layden, a longtime GOP activist from Belvidere. "The real movers and shakers along with other interested parties were there. Sometimes out here the main players attend and then disseminate the info out to the counties. Loved it that the Chowan sheriff (Dwayne Goodwin) is endorsing him. Dan has a good message — a message of hope."

During Cooper's bid for

re-election, he has raised \$605,649 — 7% of his 2019 campaign funds — from residents of New York and California, based on a Carolina Journal analysis of his campaign finance reports.

This was but another point of disconnect not lost on many Republicans who say Cooper ignores North Carolina values on issues ranging from his veto of the "born alive" abortion bill to favoring the interests of illegal immigrants over basic public safety

See **FORST**, A3



PHOTO BY DIANNE LAYDEN
 Lt. Governor Dan Forest visited northeastern North Carolina on Saturday to talk with supporters in Edenton. (R-L) Forest's wife Alice, Nancy Schulze, Forest and retired congressman Dick Schulze.

ROUND-UP

Ruvarac, S-Bridge

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

Attended Sunday's worship service at Hertford Baptist Church. Good sermon by pastor Dario Ruvarac.

A story featuring the church will appear in next week's newspaper.

Interesting fact about Ruvarac — he's originally from Croatia, a nation located in Central and Southeast Europe on the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Ruvarac's resume says, "In 1993, Billy Graham had a crusade in Germany, which was broadcast in Croatia. Hearing the Gospel for the first time, I trusted Jesus as my personal Savior. Growing up in a Communist country and meeting Christ as Savior during Yugoslavia's civil war greatly affected my desire to communicate the Gospel in ways that engage both the heart and mind. Being called by God into a pastoral ministry, my vision is to encourage believers in their journey to become fully devoted disciples who impact others through personal, local, and global ministry. I am committed to preach the Word of God with passion, to equip the saints with enthusiasm, and to shepherd the flock by example."

Church has been there since 1854. Among the members of the congregation include former mayor

See **LAYTON**, A2



PHOTO BY JOHN LASSITER

Above: Five-year-old Emily Grace Lassiter. Right: Nixon Winslow, 10, built this snowman all by himself in the front yard at Cedar Stretch Road in Hertford.



PHOTO BY LEARY WINSLOW

Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Perquimans' first snowfall, maybe the last, of winter offered a chance to build a snowman.

Do you want to build a snowman?

It doesn't have to be a snowman — From the movie Frozen (Try getting that song out of your head.)

Temperatures dipped into the 20s as about 2 inches, maybe more, of the white stuff fell across the region Thursday evening. Depending on where you live, the winds churned a bit but it was no Nor'easter.

Food Lion grocery stores were jam packed with people who bought enough food to last what seemed to be billed as snowpocalypse, but ended up melting away by Saturday. Temperatures were in the 50s Sunday and it was sunny, so many people were out and about.

Perquimans schools had an early dismissal Thursday. School was canceled on Friday.

Folks from here, there and everywhere sent in their photos, so see page A8 — more are posted on the Perquimans Weekly's Facebook page. Much thanks!



PHOTO BY SHANNON BRITTON

Elena Monnseratt



PHOTO BY JOHN LASSITER

Three-year-old Erianne Gwen Lassiter.



PHOTO BY TIFFANY HARRELL

Hattie, 1, in the snow on Swamp Rd in Hertford. Love this photo!

Election Ahead for BOE

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

Four candidates are vying for three seats on the Perquimans Board of Education in election held March 3.

Candidates are Leary Winslow, Russell Lassiter and Arlene Yates, all of whom are seeking re-election, and Joseph Silva.

Born and raised in Perquimans County, PCHS Class of 1997, Winslow was elected in 2016. He is president of Macon Turf Farm, Inc., a business/farm he started in 2004 in the county. He has two children in our schools — a son attending Hertford Grammar School and another son attending classes at PCHS.



LASSITER



SILVA



WINSLOW



YATES

See **BOE**, A2

Chowan OKs Gun Rights Measure

PQ Commission to discuss gun rights at March meeting

BY MILES LAYTON
 Editor

EDENTON — The Chowan Board of Commissioners last week became the latest governing board in North Carolina to adopt a resolution supporting a citizen's right to bear arms under the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

Commissioners voted 6-1 to adopt a gun-rights resolution similar to those ap-

proved in Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and more than a dozen other North Carolina counties.

Perquimans County Commission discussed the matter at the February work session and a resolution is scheduled to be on the agenda March 2. Read Perquimans Weekly's columnist Claude Milot's thoughts on the matter on page A4.

Commissioner Larry McLaughlin cast the lone "no" vote against the resolution.

Chowan's resolution, drafted by Commissioner Ron Cummings, states the county governing board will "take all necessary steps within its power" to ensure laws aren't enacted that affect citizens' right to bear and use firearms for "tradi-

tionally lawful purposes." It also mandates those steps include "lobbying of legislative delegations and intervention in litigation" that challenges those laws.

Cummings said adopting the resolution was important because it "tells the people of Chowan County that we support the Constitution" and "we will do whatever it takes to support that Constitution and all its amendments."

Cummings said the founding fathers, including Chowan County's own Joseph Hewes, put the Second Amendment into the Constitution to "protect themselves against their own government." If somehow

See **RIGHTS**, A2

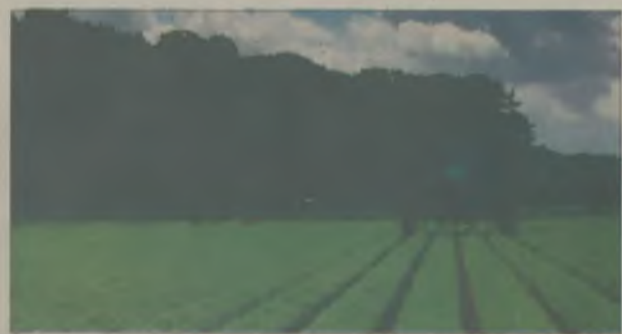
Rising N.C. Farm Bankruptcies Could Signal Broader Rural Crisis

BY JULIE HAVLAK
 For the Perquimans Weekly

RALEIGH — Family farm bankruptcies are on the rise in North Carolina, a signal the rest of the state's farm economy could be in trouble.

North Carolina saw a 33% increase in Chapter 12 family farm bankruptcies from 2018 to 2019, with 16 filings, says a study by the American Farm Bureau, a trade association that advocates for farmers.

That might not seem like a lot, but spikes in family farm bankruptcies can represent the broader farm economy, which is suffering from years of bad weather,



FILE PHOTO

Across the nation, family farm bankruptcies jumped nearly 20% in 2019, an increase not seen since the year after the Great Recession, says John Newton, American Farm Bureau chief economist.

low crop prices, and the fallout from the trade war. Across the nation, family farm bankruptcies jumped

See **FARM**, A2



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