

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

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Last chance to catch Perquimans High's return to the stage



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Perquimans' volleyball season ended by Roxboro Community



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Don't forget gratitude for benefits God has given us

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Community spirit Belvidere Day draws large turnout

Canceled in 2020, fest draws record number of vendors

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

BELVIDERE — The annual Belvidere Day festival drew a record 63 vendors on Saturday, and drew crowds delighted to see the event return after being canceled last year because of COVID-19.

The festival returned Saturday on a grand scale. Country and Gospel music groups and dance groups were back on the main stage, and the popular Belvidere Day parade returned as well.

Doug Layden, owner of Layden's Supermarket in the heart of Belvidere and one of the festival's principal organizers, said the biggest crowd the event had ever drawn in its 10-year history was 2,500 — and organizers expected this year might top that.

"We're hoping this might be the biggest year of all," Layden said Saturday morning as he sat near grills that were cooking Layden's sausage for the festival's famed sausage biscuits. "We've got more things going on."

The biggest new activity was probably the dinner-dance Saturday evening. About 140 tickets had been sold for that by Saturday morning.

Also new this year was a tractor show with pulling, an obstacle course and a

See **BELVIDERE**, A3



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Kaiden Winslow, 7, takes aim with a bow and arrow under the watchful eye of Dylan Schoolfield at Belvidere Day in Belvidere, Saturday. After being canceled in 2020, the annual event drew a record number of vendors and may have come close to breaking its all-time attendance record of 2,500.



Sherry Robison prepares to throw an ax toward the target at Belvidere Day, Saturday. Ax throwing was just one of the games and activities available to festival-goers at the annual festival.

Change in the Air? Hertford voters think so

Voters picked 2 councilors to serve next four years

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Voters went to the polls in Hertford on Tuesday to cast ballots in an election that will confirm the course of town government at a crucial time in areas such as economic and community development, public safety, and how elected officials interact with local residents.

The results of the election for two seats on Town Council were not available by the presstime for this story; they — and results of the uncontested Winfall election for two council seats — will be included in next week's edition of The Perquimans Weekly and are currently online at both at www.perquimansweekly.com and www.dailyadvance.com.

Early voting turnout sug-

gested voter interest in the election was high. By the end of the early voting period on Saturday afternoon, 341 votes had been cast in the election. That's almost double the 199 early votes cast in 2017, the last time the town had an election that didn't feature a mayoral contest.

At stake in Tuesday's election were two seats on the council. Councilors Quentin Jackson and Frank Norman III were seeking re-election. They were being challenged by first-time candidates Sandra Anderson, Martha Borders, and Connie Brothers and former councilor Gracie Felton. The top two vote-getters will be elected to four-year terms.

Challengers Anderson, Borders and Brothers all built their campaigns on a perception that voters were looking for change — in particular a departure from what many

See **VOTERS**, A2

Proposed district maps may affect area lawmakers

Steinburg would lose most area counties in one Senate plan

BY PAUL NIELSEN
The Daily Advance

One of state lawmakers' proposed redistricting plans moves state Sen. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, into a new Senate district and requires him to face a fellow Republican in a primary.

Under the plan, known as SST-4, Steinburg would lose nearly all of the counties he currently represents in the 1st Senate District save Chowan, where he lives, and Hyde.

Meanwhile, a proposed House redistricting plan

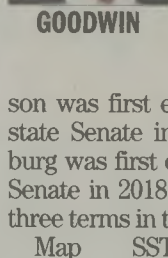


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places both state Rep. Bobby Hanig, R-Currituck, and Ed Goodwin, R-Chowan, in the same district.



STEINBURG



GOODWIN

son was first elected to the state Senate in 2012. Steinburg was first elected to the Senate in 2018 after serving three terms in the House. Map SST-4 moves

See **DISTRICTING**, A7

Lassiter: Grandstand campaign a success



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Fans of the Perquimans County High School Pirates root on their team in the grandstand at Jim "Catfish" Hunter Field last season. A campaign to raise \$100,000 toward the cost of a new grandstand has been successful, a Perquimans County Schools Foundation official says.

County Schools Foundation secures \$100,000 needed to start project

From staff reports

If the weather cooperates and COVID-19 doesn't cause supply chain hiccups, the Perquimans County High School Pirates will have a brand new grandstand at Jim "Catfish" Hunter Field when the baseball season opens this spring.

Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the Perquimans County Schools Foundation, said the fundraising campaign to raise \$100,000 to meet a challenge grant of an equal amount for the project before Nov. 1 has been a success.

The foundation received a \$10,000 Grandslam donation — its second at that

amount — to the campaign on Sunday, the day before the Nov. 1 deadline, increasing the total raised for the \$100,000 Challenge to \$105,000, Lassiter said. She said other commitments to donate to the project came in by phone and email.

"The support garnered from the community is unbelievable," Lassiter said of the campaign. "We couldn't do this project without the strong support they have provided."

According to Lassiter, the project got a big lift from Dr. William "Billy" Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Leary Winslow. They committed to give the project \$100,000 in matching funds if the public campaign was successful raising \$100,000.

"The challenge from Dr. Nixon and Mr. & Mrs. Leary Winslow has been met

See **GRANDSTAND**, A7

Former UNC great: Jesus freed him from grip of alcohol

Ford talks about his career, Dean Smith at FCA banquet

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Phil Ford credits Jesus Christ with freeing him from the destructive pull of alcohol.

Phil Ford, a standout guard for the UNC Tar Heels and later an NBA player and a college and professional coach, speaks at the fall fundraiser for the Northeastern North Carolina Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Monday, Oct. 25, at Camp Cale.

"Until you completely give yourself to Jesus Christ it's not going to work," the Rocky Mount-born basketball legend said of the way faith in Christ freed him from alcohol's grip during remarks at the 2021 Fellowship of Christian Athletes fundraiser for Northeastern North Carolina on Oct. 25 at Camp Cale.

Ford's first two years playing in the NBA went well, he said. But in his third pro season he suffered a serious eye injury.

Ford said what he should have done at the time was figure out how to recover from his injury and re-learn how to play at a top level. What he did instead was start to drink, he said.

"Unfortunately I struggled with alcohol most of my adult life," Ford said.

The problem didn't go away until 12 years ago when Ford said he fell to his knees and asked Jesus Christ to come into his life and take the alcohol away from him.

"Now it's a non-existence in my life," he said of alcohol.

Ford said he hadn't always been a Christian. But he had enough spiritual guidance when he was younger to know where to turn to help — to hit his knees and seek help from Jesus.

Ford said he now prays about everything.

"Nothing is too trivial for me to go

to my knees," he said.

Ford said the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is probably the best program that can be provided for young people because it can offer them the spiritual foundation that he relied on when he asked Jesus Christ to take alcohol out of his life. He said he was blessed to have that foundation from when he was younger.

Ford also gave the crowd a rare glimpse into the world of elite level college recruiting, and especially what it was like in the mid 1970s he was finishing his high school career in Rocky Mount.

See **FORD**, A2



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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