

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

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## Budd stops in Hertford during swing across region

GOP US Senate hopeful touts Trump endorsement

BY REGGIE PONDER  
AND PAUL NIELSEN  
Staff Writers

U.S. Rep. Ted Budd, R-N.C., told supporters in Hertford Saturday that his record of winning tough elections makes him the best candidate for Republicans to place on the U.S. Senate ballot this November.

Budd, now in his third term representing the state's 13th congressional

district, also touted his endorsement for the U.S. Senate seat by former President Donald Trump, during other campaign stops in Elizabeth City, Currituck and Kitty Hawk.

Budd faces former Gov. Pat McCrory, former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, and political newcomer Marjorie Eastman in the May 17 GOP primary for the Senate seat. All are vying to succeed U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who is not seeking re-election.

Former State Supreme Court Chief Justice Cheri Beasley is the presumptive

Democratic nominee, so far facing token opposition.

Budd was endorsed by Trump last June, which has provided a big boost in name recognition and campaign cash. Budd said during his Elizabeth City visit that he talks with Trump but did not know if Trump would visit the state before the primary.

"Well, it certainly made people pay attention and then evaluate me," Budd said after greeting voters at the Pier 17 restaurant in Elizabeth City. "But I have to be evaluated on my own

merits. That is why I tell folks the Paul Harvey comparison because they (voters) want to know what the rest of the story is."

Last month, Budd's campaign reported raising more than \$968,000 the final three months of 2021, according to a Federal Election Commission filing. McCrory took in more than \$748,000, Eastman around \$423,000 and Walker with \$139,000.

Beasley reported raising \$2.1 million between October and December.

See BUDD, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY  
U.S. Senate candidate Ted Budd, a Republican congressman representing North Carolina's 13th Congressional District, speaks to supporters at Capt. Bob's Restaurant in Hertford Saturday morning.

## Congrats, Linda!

### Longtime employee retires from Woodard's

Locals celebrate Bundy who worked at drugstore 46 years

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Employees and customers of Woodard's Pharmacy celebrated Linda Bundy's retirement — and 46 years of service behind the pharmacy counter — as she worked her last day on the job Friday.

Debbie Godfrey was one of dozens of customers who came by on Bundy's last day to wish her well, give her a hug and share memories.

"Linda and I went to school together and we have been close friends all this time," Godfrey said. "She is a great person and she will definitely be missed in this store — seeing her smiling face behind that counter."

Cynthia Jennings said she appreciated the care Bundy has taken with customers.

"She has been here a long time," Jennings said. "She will definitely be missed. You can tell everybody loved her. Just look at all these flowers."



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY  
Longtime friend Debbie Godfrey (left) was among the customers who stopped by Woodard's Pharmacy in Hertford on Friday to celebrate Linda Bundy (right) and wish her well in her retirement. Bundy worked at Woodard's for 46 years; Friday was her last day of work at the local drug store.

Ricky Trueblood said Bundy had been helping him get his prescriptions for a long time.

Bundy said she has enjoyed "my people" more than any other part of the job.

"I have so many friends," she said. "That is what I am going to miss the most. My people is what I am going to miss the most."

Trueblood said the feeling would be mutual.

See BUNDY, A3



Customers signed this frameable poster with words of appreciation and love for Linda Bundy on her retirement after 46 years with Woodard's Pharmacy.

### Election post may become full-time

Elections board: Assistant director should be full time

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans officials will decide next month whether to make the county's part-time assistant elections director post a full-time job.

Perquimans Board of Elections members Victoria Butler and Bobby Siller made the case for the full-time deputy director at last week's Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Butler told commissioners the elections board has identified savings in the current budget that can cover the cost of the position for the remainder of the 2021-22 budget year without the need for additional funding from the county.

County commissioners said they will take up the question of the new deputy director position for the elections office at their March meeting. The board's policy calls for waiting a month on the decision because of the projected impact on the 2022-23 county budget.

Board member Bobby Siller explained that

See ELECTIONS, A3

### Former colleagues remember Muzzulin

Ex-Perquimans official died at 77 on Jan. 31 in Colorado

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Ed Muzzulin is being remembered for his advocacy for public facility improvements, his assistance resolving financial challenges at the regional jail, and his



MUZZULIN

work as a negotiator on the county's water contract with Pasquotank County. Muzzulin, who served on the Perquimans Board of Commissioners from 2010 until 2019, died Jan. 31 in Colorado, according to his family. He was 77.

Muzzulin's health had been declining for the past two years

See MUZZULIN, A3

### Resident has robot-assisted surgery at SAMC

MAKOplasty robot used to replace Hoepfner's knee

From staff reports

A Hertford resident is the first patient to undergo robotic-assisted knee replacement surgery at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth City.

Barie Hoepfner underwent the knee replacement surgery with the assistance of SAMC's new MAKOplasty robot on Feb. 3, according to a hospital press release.

Dr. Scott Grabill, an orthopedic surgeon with Sentara Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Specialists, a division of Albemarle Physician Services-Sentara,



PHOTO COURTESY SENTARA ALBEMARLE MEDICAL CENTER

Dr. Scott Grabill, an orthopedic surgeon with Sentara Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Specialists, poses with Barie Hoepfner, a Hertford resident on whom Grabill recently performed knee replacement surgery using the hospital's new MAKOplasty robot.

performed the surgery. According to the press release, MAKOplasty uses a CT scan before surgery to create a 3D model specific

to each patient's anatomy. Surgeons then use the model to develop a personalized surgery plan.

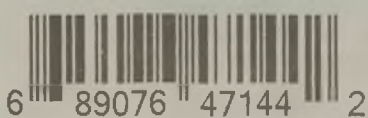
"In the operating room,

surgeons control the MAKO robot to precisely position the joint implant," Sentara's press release explains. "The 3D model also increases accuracy to save more healthy bone and tissue."

According to Sentara Albemarle, the robot-assisted surgery offers a "more personalized approach" that may "lead to a better fitting joint implant, which can result in more natural feeling and movement."

Grabill, whose surgical expertise includes hip and knee procedures, said the MAKO robot represents "innovation in orthopedic surgery that can (also) lead to faster recovery" for

See SURGERY, A3



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