

Area jobless rate dips to 3.7%

Perquimans jobless rate in March declined to 4.3%

BY JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance

The number of workers in the five-county area filing jobless claims in March dipped by nearly 60, lowering the area's jobless rate to 3.7%.

N.C. Department of Commerce data released recently also show the workforce in the five counties grew by nearly 400 in March to 45,784.

The data show the number of workers filing for unemployment declined in Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and Perquimans counties. Only Chowan County, which reported five more workers filing for jobless benefits than in February, saw an increase in both its number of un-

employed and its jobless rate. That's a change from February when Chowan was the only county in the area to report a decrease in unemployment.

Commerce data show 1,734 workers in the five counties filed for unemployment in March. That's 58 fewer than in February.

All five counties, meanwhile, reported increases in labor participation in March, with Pasquotank reporting the largest increase, 132 workers.

Statewide, the number of unemployed workers, not seasonally adjusted, decreased in March by 3,303 to 182,334. The state's labor force, not seasonally adjusted, increased by 55,989 — nearly 25,000 workers — to 4,9083,187. That was enough to lower the state jobless rate from 3.7% to 3.6%.

According to the com-

merce department data, Pasquotank reported the largest numerical decrease (31) in workers seeking jobless benefits and second-largest decrease in unemployment by percentage, .3%. Six-hundred seventy-six Pasquotank workers filed for jobless benefits in March while the county's workforce increased to 16,355. That was enough to dip the county's jobless rate to 4.1%.

Perquimans saw the third-largest numerical decrease in workers seeking jobless benefits (12) and largest decrease in unemployment by percentage (.4%). Two-hundred-ten workers filed for unemployment in March while the workforce increased to 4,856, giving the county an unemployment rate of 4.3%.

Currituck saw the second-largest numerical de-

crease in unemployment (15) and tied with Camden for the second-largest increase in labor force participation (65). Four-hundred ninety-eight workers filed for jobless benefits in March while the county's labor force grew to 14,394. The county's unemployment rate edged down to 3.5%.

Camden reported five fewer workers seeking jobless benefits and 65 more workers in the labor force. One-hundred thirty-seven workers filed unemployment claims in a workforce that grew to 4,552. That gave the county an unemployment rate of 3%, the 14th lowest in the state.

Chowan saw five more workers (213) file for unemployment in March, raising its rate by .1% to 3.8%. Its labor force grew by 50 workers to 5,627.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Dannie Edward Gray, Jr.

EDENTON - Dannie Edward Gray, Jr., 55, of Perquimans County, died Saturday, May 7, 2022 in his home where he was surrounded by his loving family.

Born at Langley AFB, Hampton, Virginia on September 19, 1966, he was the son of the late Dannie Edward Gray, Sr. and Diane Hurdle Riddick.

Dannie loved his family deeply and making memories with them was his favorite pastime. He considered himself a "parrot head" and spent as much time as possible on the beach. A salesman of construction materials with Kempsville Building Supply, Dannie was committed to his job and drove all over eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia helping people make their dream homes become a reality. A member of Open Door Church in Edenton, he also had been active with the Edward G. Bond Post 40 of the American Legion. He had served in the US Coast Guard.

Surviving is his wife and love of his life of 40 years, Evelyn Noyes Gray; two sons, Dannie Gray, III (wife, Deborah) and Justin Gray (wife, Erin); one grandson, William; the sister of his heart, Sharon Schwartz, as well as three sisters, Dee Winslow (husband, Matt), Misty Barnes, and Rebecca Scalf; three children of his heart, Sharon Spruill (husband, Robert), James "Eddie" Schwartz (wife, Amy), and Carrie Krambeck (husband, Travis); eight grandchildren from his heart, Taylor, Elijah, Savannah, RayLee, Madison, Jack, Grace, and Kade; step-father, Donald Riddick (wife, Connie); step-mother, Cassie Gray; and nieces, nephews, and many kids that called him "Dad".

A memorial service will be held Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Miller & Van Essendelft Funeral Chapel, 1125 Harvey Point Road, Hertford, and will be conducted by Robert Spruill. Friends are invited to visit with the family in the funeral home the hour prior to the service on Friday, and all other times at the residence, 1648 Ocean Highway South, Edenton.

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation to Amedisys Hospice for all their love, care, and support during their time of need.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made either to Open Door Bertie Children's Ministry, PO Box 1095, Edenton, NC 27932 or to Battle Scarred Outdoors, 5751 Spring Gate Court NW, Concord, NC 28027 or online at www.battlescarredoutdoors.com.

Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.millerfhc.com.



Jackson removed from ABC board

Council cites indebtedness to town, meeting absences

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Citing a weak attendance record at meetings and continued indebtedness to the town, Hertford Town Council voted unanimously Monday to remove former Councilman Quentin Jackson from the Hertford ABC Board.

Jackson, who lost his bid for reelection to town council in November and is currently running for a seat on the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, has only attended three of 10 board meetings since being appointed to the ABC Board, according to a resolution adopted by the Town Council at its regular meeting Monday night.

The resolution removes



JACKSON

Jackson from the board and also re-confirms the board from five to three members. The

change is subject to approval by the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

Jackson is permitted under state law to appeal his removal to the N.C. ABC Commission.

Reached by phone Tuesday, Jackson said he plans to appeal his removal from the board to the N.C. ABC Commission. He said if the local board is being reduced to three members then the most recently appointed members should be the ones removed.

Jackson was just re-

leased from Albemarle District Jail late last month after serving a 61-day jail term following his conviction on charges of trespassing and violating probation.

The resolution mentions that the town issued Jackson a \$3,000 check to cover legal expenses stemming from his appeal of a conviction for assaulting fellow Councilman Sid Eley following a council meeting in October 2018. However, the resolution suggests Jackson apparently never used the \$3,000 for that purpose.

"Despite having received this check to cover his attorney's fees, Mr. Jackson claimed indigent status before Superior Court and was assigned a court-appointed attorney," the resolution states.

The resolution notes that after Jackson was convict-

ed on the charge in Superior Court in December 2019 he was ordered to pay \$900 in attorney's fees.

"As of April 18, 2022, the Perquimans County Clerk of Superior Court reports that Mr. Jackson has made no payment against this amount, nor has he returned the \$3,000 to the town," the resolution states.

Jackson said the original payment from the town was \$6,000 and he had repaid \$3,000. He said he would not comment further about the matter because it had been discussed in a closed session and he wanted to get legal advice before saying anything else.

Jackson said the matters cited by the town council go back to a time before the current councilors were elected. So they don't really have firsthand knowledge of the matters, he said.

GOSS

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Perquimans after retiring from a job in the Cleveland, Ohio, area where he had worked on infrastructure and community development projects. His initial plan was to just enjoy retirement, he said.

"But I decided I couldn't play golf every day," Goss said.

Goss began looking for ways to use his skills and was hired as Perquimans' part-time economic development consultant, a job he would hold for about 15 years. Goss was paid about \$23,000 a year by the county under an annual contract.

"He has done a great job for Perquimans County and I think his move is totally dictated by family concerns," Perquimans County

Manager Frank Heath said when asked about Goss' resignation.

Discussing Perquimans' largest ongoing economic development project, Goss said the Marine Industrial Park grew out of the strategic plan that he had worked on for the county.

In his resignation letter Goss expressed regret that he will not be around to see the boat basin project at the MIP through to its completion. He has been a key player in the development of the park and the basin project.

"I feel bad that I will not be around to see the Phase 1 Inner Basin become a reality," Goss said in the letter. He also expressed hope that he will be able to come back for a grand opening at the basin.

For the time being Heath will head up the county's economic development

efforts. Heath said that once the county budget for 2022-23 is adopted the county will advertise the economic development consultant's position and begin a search. The position will probably be part-time to begin with, Heath said.

Heath said the board will have to take a close look at economic development in the budget for the coming year. Goss worked hard for the county and frequently put in extra hours because of his love for Perquimans, he said. It might be hard to find someone else who will be as willing to do so much at the same pay rate, he said.

Goss' letter encourages the county to move forward with filling the economic development director position.

"Filling this position is important since once the basin is reality, I think there will be a lot of interest in companies locating within the Marine Industrial Park," he said in his letter.

Goss also said it's important to find someone local to replace him on the NC Task Force for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies.

"I think it is important for someone to represent NENC on the Task Force that is familiar with the issues," the letter states.

INVITATION

ATTENTION PARENTS OF PRIVATE/HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES IN PERQUIMANS COUNTY

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 4:00pm in person at the Perquimans County Schools Central Office, for private/homeschool representatives and parents of private/homeschool students with disabilities. The purpose of this meeting is to allow these parties an opportunity to consult with representatives from Perquimans County Schools about the proportionate share of federal funds that are available for regular and special education services for the 2022-2023 school year. Please contact Dr. Kanika Griffin, Chief Academic Officer of Student Services or Mr. James Bunch, Assistant Superintendent at 252-426-5741 if additional information is needed.

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