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**Maddie Carpenter Awarded Champion Senior Showman Title at 4-H Showmanship Banquet**

On Friday, January 19 Guilford County hosted the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Banquet. Maddie Carpenter represented Anson County 4-H and was awarded the Champion Senior Showman title for the 2023 4-H Farm Credit Showman Circuit. Anson County 4-H could not be prouder!

4-H participation is open to all youth regardless of sex, race, religion or national origin. For more information about 4-H in Anson County contact Samuel Cole, Jr. 4-H Agent at 704-694-2915.



**Insurance Companies Ask for Whopping 42.2% Average Rate Increase for Homeowners' Insurance**

**Anson County proposed increase is 26.1%**

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced that the North Carolina Rate Bureau filed a rate filing with the North Carolina Department of Insurance asking for an average statewide increase in homeowners' insurance rates of 42.2%.

The Rate Bureau has asked for the rates to become effective Aug. 1. The North Carolina Rate Bureau represents companies that write insurance policies in the state and is a separate entity from the North Carolina Department of Insurance.

This rate filing follows the homeowners' insurance rate filing that the Department of Insurance received from the North Carolina Rate Bureau in November 2020, where the Rate Bureau requested an overall average increase of 24.5%. That filing resulted in a settlement between Commissioner Causey and the Rate Bureau for an overall average rate increase of 7.9%.

A public comment period is required by law to give the public time to address the proposed rate increase. There are four ways to provide comments:

- Two public forums were held on January 22
- Emailed public comments should be sent by Feb. 2 to: [2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov](mailto:2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov).
- Written public comments must be received by Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III, by Feb. 2 and addressed to 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201.

All public comments will be shared with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If Department of Insurance officials do not agree with the requested rates, the rates will either be denied or negotiated with the North Carolina Rate Bureau. If a settlement cannot be reached within 50 days, the Commissioner will call for a hearing.

To see a specific table of proposed homeowners' rate increases across the state visit: [ncdoi.gov/2024-territories-ncrb-proposed-rates](http://ncdoi.gov/2024-territories-ncrb-proposed-rates).

**Causey issued the following statement on January 22 to clear up any confusion regarding the recent filing made by insurance companies:** "Many North Carolina citizens have already told me how worried they are about the recent filing made by the N.C. Rate Bureau requesting to homeowners' insurance rates, and they've got good reason to be concerned. An average increase of 42% statewide, and as high as 99% for homes on the coast is a lot.

But first let me be clear – the Commissioner of Insurance in North Carolina does not set insurance rates. The Rate Bureau is an organization created by the N.C. General Assembly. The Insurers in the State that write certain lines of personal insurance, including homeowners and automobile, are the members of the Rate Bureau. It is the Rate Bureau, and not the Commissioner of Insurance, that submits proposed insurance rates to the Department of Insurance for consideration.

Under our laws, the Commissioner has 50 days from the filing date to review the Rate Bureau's proposal to determine whether it meets certain very technical, mathematical standards. In addition, during this 50-day review period, the public may submit comments on the Rate Bureau's proposal. Consumers can do so by submitting those comments in writing to us via mail or email by February 2.

I also scheduled a public comment forum that took place today as another way for the public to express their views, and some speakers at that forum said that I should have attended. But, the Rate Bureau has accused the Commissioner of Insurance in the past of prejudging a rate request before a notice of hearing may be issued. So, it is important that I not appear to have prejudged the request before our review is complete. However, I have heard the comments today and the countless comments submitted by our citizens, and I take them all very seriously.

During this 50-day review period, which expires on February 22, the Department's actuaries, attorneys and consultants are working tirelessly to determine whether the Rate Bureau's proposed increase is "excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory."

If it is, I will call for a hearing on the matter and will fight for our consumers to ensure that any proposed increase is reasonable and actuarially sound. Since I have had the honor to serve as your Commissioner of Insurance, I have strived to ensure that any proposed increases to your insurance rates are fair, and I will continue to do so now and in the future. But, just to be clear, although the Rate Bureau submitted the requested increase, the request has not been approved.

Consumers who have questions about their insurance can visit [www.ncdoi.gov](http://www.ncdoi.gov) or call the department toll free at (855) 408-1212.

**Town of Morven LEGISLATIVE HEARING**

In accordance with Section 5.3-3 (B) of the Town of Morven Development Ordinance (MDO) and NCGS160D Article 6 inclusive, the Town of Morven Town Council has scheduled a LEGISLATIVE HEARING for Monday February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Morven Town Hall located at 301 E Main Street, Morven, NC 28119.

The purpose of the HEARING is to receive the Planning Board recommendation, staff and public comments, and take formal action on the following Zoning Map Amendments:

1. CASE ZMA24-001 Parcels at/near 7988 US-52 (Parcel Identification Numbers 649012968069, 649012968241, and 649012967396). The applicant has requested the rezoning of 3 parcels undeveloped parcels along US 52 from Single-Family Residential (SFR-3) to US Hwy 52 Commercial District (C-52). The application is for a general use rezoning, where no specific land use is being proposed.

At its January 10, 2024 regular meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request finding the rezoning was compliant with the adopted Town of Morven Comprehensive Plan and was reasonable and in the public interest.

The public are invited to attend and offer comment consistent with the Town's applicable rules of procedure. Questions can be directed to Town of Morven at (704) 851-9321.

Individuals with a disability who wish to attend/participate are asked to contact the Office of the Clerk to the Town Board at (704) 851-9321 no later than 12:00 noon on February 2, 2024 so that adequate plans for accommodation can be arranged.

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**Town of Polkton NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**



The public is hereby advised that per N.C.G.S. 160D-601, a public hearing on the Land Use Plan will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the Polkton Fire Department, located at 61 West Polk Street, Polkton, NC 28135.

The 2024 Town of Polkton Land Use Plan provides a blueprint for growth and development over the next 20 to 30 years. When viewed as a guide, the document is intended to present the basic description of the Town of Polkton now and into the next few decades.

Copies of the Land Use Plan are available at Polkton Town Hall for public inspection during normal business hours until the budget is adopted.

All persons wishing to comment on the proposed Land Use Plan shall attend the hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Polkton Fire Department to offer comments.

**Jerricka B. Napier**  
Clerk to the Board/ Finance Officer