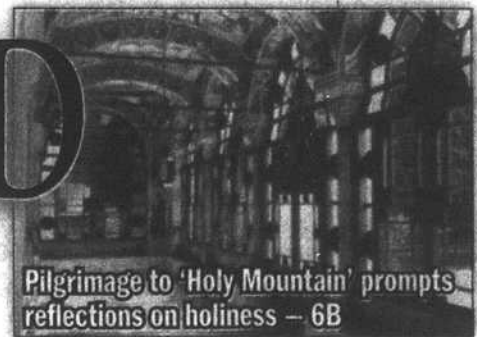


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Wednesday, August 3, 2016



Pilgrimage to 'Holy Mountain' prompts reflections on holiness - 6B

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Planning Board backs permit for wind facility

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

The Chowan County Planning Board recommended by a split vote Wednesday that county commissioners approve a conditional use permit for the Timbermill wind project.

A motion by Planning Board member Linda Peterson to recommend approval of the use permit with staff-recommended conditions passed 3-2 with board mem-

bers Jim Leggett and Jim Robison voting against it.

Peterson, Chairman Warren Hare and board member Bobby Winborne voted in favor of the motion.

In addition to backing the conditions proposed by Chowan Planning Director Elizabeth Bryant, the board also recommended that the Chowan commissioners establish procedures to regularly assess and adjust the cash bond for decommissioning wind tur-

bines and towers to ensure it's adequate to cover all decommissioning costs. Decommissioning refers to the complete removal of the turbines and towers once they are no longer generating electricity.

The Planning Board's recommendation now goes to the Chowan County Board of Commission-

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- Perquimans Planning Board set to review wind facility permit - 2A
- Analyst questions sound studies in Apex application - 2A

ers, which will consider Apex's request for the conditional use permit during a quasi-judicial hearing. The hearing is expected to be held

energy facility and will include about 105 turbines on a 16,000-acre section of Chowan and Perquimans counties.

Apex's Don Giecek said the company was pleased with the outcome of the Planning Board process.

"We appreciate the thoroughness with which the county is approaching this process," Giecek said. "The amount of time and diligence the Planning Board members and

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STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Chowan Tourism Director Nancy Nicholls presents Lt. Gov. Dan Forest with a special gift last week during his visit to Edenton. Forest was treated to a trolley ride through town, accompanied by a group of local business and civic leaders, along with Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan.

Forest visits Edenton, tours historic sites

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

Keith Furlough a tour guide for the Historic Edenton State Historic Sites, points out areas of interest including portraits in the James Iredell House to Lt. Gov. Dan Forest during his visit to the community on July 26.



BY REBECCA BUNCH
 Staff Writer

Lt. Gov. Dan Forest visited a number of local historic sites in Edenton July 26 during a campaign swing through the region.

While in town, Forest took a tour aboard the Edenton trolley. Stops included the Cupola House, the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse, the 1767 Chowan Courthouse, the Edenton Cotton Mill Village and the James Iredell House.

Forest, who was first

elected in 2012, showed a keen interest in the sites and expressed strong support for historic preservation as a way to benefit economic development across the state.

"It has been very important to our administration," he said. "In fact, we hit the ground running."

Forest noted that Secretary of Cultural Resources Susan Klutz has led efforts to encourage visitation and an appreciation of the arts across the state that in turn

See FOREST, 4A

Warrants in home invasion obtained

From staff reports

Felony arrest warrants have been obtained for an Edenton man believed to have fled to Ohio who is wanted for a home invasion and assault last month.

With the assistance of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, Edenton Police have obtained felony warrants for the arrest of 18-year-old Joel Daniel Dilucia, of 1114 Johnson Lane, Edenton.

Dilucia, when apprehended, will be charged with first-degree burglary, felony larceny, felony possession of stolen goods and felony assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

The charges stem from the burglary and assault of a man at his home in the 100 block of W. Queen Street in Edenton on June 7.

Police have received information that Dilucia has left the state and may be living and working in Ohio. Anyone with additional information about the June 7 break-in and assault or Dilucia's location is asked to call the Edenton Police Department at 482-9884 or 482-5144 and ask for Sgt. Laura Wilkins.

Edenton-Chowan school board races uncontested

From staff reports

All three races for the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education this year were uncontested as filing ended Friday at noon.

In District 2, political newcomer Paul Clifton is seeking the seat currently held by John Guard, the board's chairman. Guard did not file to seek reelection.

Clifton, 38, serves as an ex-officio member of the Edenton-Chowan

Education Foundation and said having his own kids in the local schools is a big motivation to serve.

Clifton is a senior vice president with the State Employees Credit Union. He attends Open Door Church, is a PTA member and is a former PTA treasurer.

Another candidate making a first bid for elective office, Joan Hoggard White, has filed for the District 3 seat



JORDAN

currently held by Kay Wright. Wright did not file to seek reelection.

White, 55, is a native of Bertie County. She is the director of the Out of the Box Childcare Center in Edenton.

Under her leadership during the past three years, the center has gone from a two-star state rating to



WHITE

a five star facility, the highest rank available in North Carolina.

White has an extensive background in education, including working for the Bertie and Perquimans County school systems.

White said a desire to contribute to the betterment of the lives of children in the community had influenced her decision to run.

Board member Gene Jordan has filed to hold to seek reelection to the District 1 seat he holds.

Jordan, 58, a farmer, said there are a lot of important decisions to be made in the days and weeks ahead that will have a significant influence on the future of public education in the community and that he wanted to be a part of the process.

Among the most significant is the future of John A. Holmes High School, he said.

Public speaks out on Timbermill Wind Project

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Editor

Public comment last week on the conditional use permit application for the proposed Timbermill Wind Project ranged from enthusiastic endorsement to concerns that the facility could make neighbors sick.

More than two dozen members of the public spoke at the July 26 meeting of the Chowan County

Planning Board. The board voted 3-2 the following night to recommend that the Chowan approve a conditional use permit with conditions and the conditional use permit application by Apex Clean Energy Inc. for the proposed 300-megawatt wind energy facility in the Center Hill and Bear Swamp areas.

The Timbermill site is located in both Chowan and Perquimans counties, and Perquimans officials currently are involved in their own permit review process.

Supporters of the Timbermill project stressed economic value to the county and long-term environmental benefits, while detractors

questioned those benefits and raised concerns about the project's potential effects on property values and health.

Speaking in support of the project, Frances Inglis said the Timbermill Wind Project would be the largest single taxpayer in the county, providing needed revenue for local schools and other needs. She said she feared local property tax rates would go up without the wind project's addition to the tax base.

Inglis also said Apex had been working to minimize negative effects of the turbines such as bird deaths, noise and shadow flicker. She said the reality of cli-

mate change makes it imperative that communities support the development of alternative energy sources such as wind power and solar power.

Speaking on the other side of the issue was Belinda Flynn, who said she and her husband, Patrick, are restoring a historic property near the site of some of the turbines in the Timbermill project and don't want to have to move away because of infrasound from the turbines.

She said she likes green energy and indicated she and her husband plan to install solar panels and small wind turbines on their own property. But utility-scale wind

facilities such as Timbermill generate inaudible noise or infrasound that can harm human health, she said.

Especially vulnerable to the effects of infrasound, Flynn said, are people with vertigo, older people and the very young.

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Director Win Dale recited a resolution adopted by the Chamber's Board of Directors in October 2015 in support of wind energy projects in the county. Glorious Elliott of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education read a similar resolution of support that was adopted by the school board in September 2015.

Paul Waff, a local contractor, spoke in support of wind energy projects as a boon to local business. He said his own company has earned money by storing and handling turbine components for the large-scale wind energy project in the desert area of Perquimans and Pasquotank counties. Noting businesses pay a hefty portion of local taxes, Waff said a wind energy facility in Chowan would add significantly to the county's tax base and help keep the tax rate down.

Waff said wind energy technology keeps getting better and many of the ob-

See PUBLIC, 4A



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