

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015

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50 cents



Northeast Dragway helps raise more than \$15,000, 4

Panel recommends tighter rules on wind power



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Planning Board is recommending tighter restrictions on wind power facilities, but not the one-mile setbacks that some opponents want.

The recommendation would require a half-mile setback from any residence. The setbacks from property lines and roads would remain as they are — two and half times the height of the wind turbine, or about 1,500 feet or about three-tenths of a mile based on a 600-

foot-tall structure. A subcommittee of the planning board was recommending the half-mile setback include the nearest property line or right-of-way, not just a half-mile to the nearest address. "I'm not against the project, but I'm listening to citizen's

concerns," said Brenda Lassiter, a planning board member who served on the subcommittee. "I felt like we've compromised and it wouldn't kill the project." The planning board consists of Paul Kahl, Lewis Smith, Donald Manley, A.O. Roberts

and Lassiter. Kahl said he did not vote because as a rule the chairman only votes in the case of a tie, he said. Roberts opposed the motion. The planning board was asked to review the

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STUDENT PROJECTS TAKE FLIGHT

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Rockets filled the skies over Hertford Grammar School earlier this month as part of a program designed to engage fifth-grade students in science, technology, engineering and math.

The NC STARBASE program began in 1993 with the N.C. Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte. To date, it's served 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties.

Through a weeklong program, students were able to put abstract things like Newton's Laws of Motion into practical use.

"STARBASE has always been a great program for students," said Jason Griffin, the principal at HGS.

"The STARBASE program provided our students with fun and engaging activities that align with the national science standards. The activities this past week have introduced our students to STEM-based careers and have provided them with hands-on learning experiences centered around science and math."

Providing the guidance were two teams of educators totaling 12 people. One group came from Fort Fisher and the other was from Charlotte.

One of them was Rick Thomas. He spent 30 years teaching eighth grade science.

"I hope that this program

See PROJECTS, 7



Instructor Rick Thomas (left) watches while ShaMaurie Downing and Caleb Barnard launch their rockets earlier this month at Hertford Grammar School.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Instructor Rick Thomas (left) shows students how to pack the parachute inside their rocket last week at Hertford Grammar School.

Hoffler, Lennon file for office

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Two more candidates have filed for seats on the Perquimans County Commission.

Last week Alan Lennon and Joseph Hoffler added their names to the list that includes incumbent Kyle Jones. The other two incumbents, Janice Cole and Matt Peeler have said they will not seek new terms.

The filing period for the March primary runs until Dec. 21.

Both Hoffler, 75, and Lennon, 39, said they were encouraged by friends to run for office.

"I never really considered running for a political office before," Hoffler said. "However, as openings occurred on the county commission, many county residents

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Hertford's Johnson honored with 'excellence' award



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Phil Johnson speaks last week during a ceremony honoring "Men of Excellence" sponsored by River City Community Development and held at Albemarle Plantation.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Phil Johnson, a Hertford resident and regional sales manager for Pepsi, was honored last week as one of the five finalists for a "Men of Excellence" award.

The Elizabeth City-based River City Community Development Corp. put on the event during a breakfast program at Albemarle Plantation. Twenty-three men were nominated.

Five of the nominees were in turn presented finalist awards. The other four finalists were Petty

Officer Alex Szilagyi, Elizabeth City Mayor Joe Peel, Chaplin John Mabus and community advocate Hezekiah Brown.

In all 11 of the 21 nominees serve in the Coast Guard and one is a captain on the Elizabeth City Police Department who was also dressed in his uniform.

That wasn't lost on Johnson, who works for Pepsi.

"I'm looking out on a sea of blue (uniforms)," Johnson said. "That's big stuff. I sell Pepsi — a little sugar and carbonated water."

James Spagh, the pastor of Bagley Swamp Wes-

leyan Church, nominated Johnson for the award.

"What you say is important, what you do is important, but why you do the things you do is very important," Spagh said.

He cited one example when Johnson agreed to go north with recovery crews after Hurricane Sandy. Johnson jumped right in and started shoveling muck out of a vacant movie theater.

"None of the people knew him (Johnson) and he wasn't selling

See 'EXCELLENCE', 2

Democrat to challenge Cook

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

While Rep. Bob Steinburg remains unopposed, the state senator who represents Perquimans County will face at least one challenger next year.

Brownie Futrell announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for District 1 of the North Carolina Senate on Friday.

The seat is presently held by Bill Cook, a Beaufort County Republican who is seeking a third term. Futrell is a retired Beaufort County newspaper publisher.

"As I have talked to folks around the district, they tell me they want a senator that will stand up for the core issues that families care about and fight for their interests rather than the special interests in Ra-



COOK



FUTRELL

portunity and economic security for all the people of northeast North Carolina."

Futrell is the son of the late A.E. Futrell who served three terms in the North Carolina Senate from 1965 to 1972. He was

See SEAT, 2

COLONIAL BELLS



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Novice bell players Donna Angell, Joan Earnest, William Cross and Earline Cross try their hand during a Colonial Christmas event held at the Newbold White House. See more photos of the event on Page 5.



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