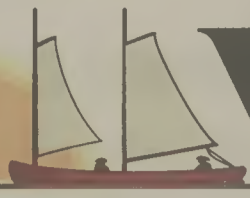


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016

50 cents



Williams expected to play big role this football season, 6

## Planning board recommends wind project

**BY PETER WILLIAMS**  
News Editor

The Perquimans County Planning Board recommended approval of a plan to build a \$400 million wind project in Bear Swamp last week.

The board voted 4-0 in favor of three of the findings and 3-1 on the fourth. There are five members on the planning board, but one

### IN RELATED STORIES

- Amazon Wind Farm project to produce power in December - 2
- Chowan urged collect full value for wind project - 2

- A.O. Roberts - is abstaining from voting on the Apex project because his mother-

in-law owns property in Chowan County that would be part of the Timbermill project.

The planning board is an advisory body and the action last Tuesday has no binding authority. It's just a recommendation to the six-member Perquimans County Commission which is to consider the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) later this month. The meetings are set

for Aug. 24-25 at 5:30 p.m. at the courthouse annex.

Leary Winslow, one of the opponents of the project, said Tuesday's action hasn't changed anything. "Regardless of what the planning board voted, it would still go to the commissioners for the quasi-judicial hearing. So nothing has changed. Now it goes to the commissioners with a 3-1 vote to recommend

the CUP. I believe our planning board was in way over their head and just wanted it off of their plate. We would have rather seen a 2-to-2 vote but in the overall picture it doesn't really matter."

Charles Woodard, the owner of Woodard's Pharmacy and resident of the area near the Apex wind project, was more blunt.

"I hope the county zoning

board realizes that they have signed the death certificate for Perquimans County for 30 pieces of silver," Woodard said.

Woodard is one of four people running for one of three seats on the county commission.

Some supporters of the Timbermill Wind project point to the fact that the

See WIND, 2

## Some phone service disrupted

**BY PETER WILLIAMS**  
News Editor

Some wireless phone customers in the Holiday Island, Snug Harbor and Albemarle Plantation area were without service for nearly a week after lightning damaged a transmission tower on Holiday Island Road.

The problem apparently started July 28 and continued until Aug. 3.

Karen Schulz, a spokesman for Verizon, said not all service was impacted.

"As soon as the severe weather moved out, our engineer teams and partners began repairs."

She said 4G LTE data network was quickly fixed. It processes data sessions and voice over LTE calls.

However the 3G EVDO network that runs off the same tower was still down.

Several Verizon customers contacted last week said the outage was a serious problem.

Annie Gavin said when she could get to technical support, she was told the problem was with her phone, not the network.

"I just had two surgeries and I can't call 911 from the house," she said.

Sherby Hines, 70, figured when the problem first started she assumed it would be

See PHONES, 3

## BAND PRACTICE



Perquimans County High School band members Kaylynn Watson and Armando Feliciano play while Billy Deloach, Preston Sablon, and Taylor Hollowell practice behind them last week during drills at the high school. The Perquimans football team is scheduled to start the 2016 season at home Aug. 19 against South Creek.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Donna Harris steps off her moves during practice with the Perquimans County High School band last week.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The new Hertford Fire Department ladder truck will give the department capabilities it doesn't have now.

## Town to buy ladder truck

**BY PETER WILLIAMS**  
News Editor

Hertford officials agreed last week to spend \$638,000 for a new fire truck now instead of waiting until sometime next year.

In a special meeting Wednesday, the Hertford Town Board voted 4-0 to enter into an agreement with the USDA to finance the replacement vehicle.

The town has two fire engines and the oldest is about 24-years old. The agencies that rate fire departments for insurance purposes recommend replacing them at 20 years.

In response, this spring the town board agreed to set aside \$100,000 of its reserve account as half of a down payment. The plan was to set aside the other \$100,000 in the 2017-18 budget.

The old truck is a fire engine, and a new engine would cost about \$400,000. The new vehicle will be a ladder truck, and it will serve both capacities as an engine and a ladder truck, said Fire Chief Drew Woodard.

"When you're spending that much money, it makes sense to plan for the future,"

See TRUCK, 3

## COA grant to benefit local high school

**BY PETER WILLIAMS**  
News Editor

A grant means the College of The Albemarle will be able to expand services at Perquimans County High School and two other high schools as well as the satellite COA campuses.

Last month COA was awarded \$288,492 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In all 81 projects in 32 states got funding.

The money will go to pay

for two-way video conferencing equipment. It will allow staff at PCHS to provide programs to students from COA and anywhere else that has the technology. The instructor and the classes will each be able to see and interact with each other no matter where the instructor is.

COA was outfitted with video conferencing equipment 18 years ago and some area high schools got it as well. But over the years

the equipment became outdated and some broke and wasn't replaced.

Dr. Susan Peck, COA's coordinator of distance education programs she said Perquimans County did keep the old system updated, but the new system will go a step beyond that. The monitors will be touch screens.

"This is more a hybrid," she said. The University of North Carolina uses similar systems to stream

instruction to dental students from the main campus in Chapel Hill.

The old system could send content one way. The new ones allow face-to-face interaction and the screens are 65-inch, far bigger than what used to be offered.

The addition will help COA's satellite campuses as well. Peck said they currently don't have video conferencing equipment. The main campus is in

Elizabeth City, but COA operates from facilities in Edenton as well as Currituck and Dare counties.

Peck couldn't say when the new course offerings may be available, but she hopes they can have one or two courses by spring.

"The possibilities are quite endless," Peck said.

The first to use it in Perquimans are likely the students who are dual-en-

See GRANT, 3

## Farmer's market to waive fees for vendors this week

**BY PETER WILLIAMS**  
News Editor

Vendors who might be interested in participating in the Hertford Farmer's Market but have held off have a chance to try it for free this Saturday. The Hertford market is being sponsored by Perquimans County High

School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. Participation has been steady since May 21, but it hasn't grown.

"We have about five to eight vendors every week," said Angel White, the FFA teacher at the high school. The market is held from 8 a.m. until noon at Missing Mill Park on Grubb Street in Hertford.

There is a fee to participate as a seller. There is a one-time \$10 application fee plus \$10 for each time the vendor comes.

"So you're looking at \$20 even if you just come once," White said. "Some people who may be interested might not be sure they'd sell enough to make worth while."

It was White's FFA students that suggested waiving the fee for one weekend to see if that might attract more vendors. The market is mostly run by the high school students, with support from White and members of the local FFA alumni organization.

"We were brainstorming and they came up with the

idea," White said.

The one-time-free offer is open to commercial growers as well as to home gardeners who might simply have more produce than they can use. It's also open to people who make homemade crafts.

"If somebody doesn't have enough to sell, and they want to donate produce they can donate it to the FFA and we'll sell it."

To take advantage of the offer, contact White no later than noon on Thurs-

See MARKET, 3



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Organizers of the Hertford Farmer's Market are opening up the market to anybody who has produce or crafts to sell for non fee this Saturday.



6 89076 47144 2