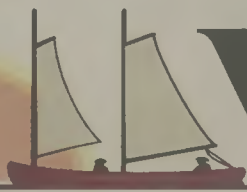


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Edenton overpowers Perquimans 55-12, 8

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2016

50 cents

Wind hearings to continue next month

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The debate over a wind power project in Perquimans and Chowan County will continue next month. The Perquimans County Commission spent more than nine hours over two nights last week listening to testimony from the developer of the proposed project. That wasn't enough to hear

all the witnesses for Apex Clean Energy, nor was it enough for the attorney for opponents of the project to present his witnesses. Unlike a typical county commission hearing, the meetings last week were considered "quasi-judicial proceedings" and resembled more of a court trial than a county meeting. In all Apex presented seven witnesses over the two-day

period. The next hearings are planned for Sept. 20-21. Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said a third or four day might be added to that schedule, but that it hasn't been decided yet. At issue is if the plan to erect 104 turbines, each upwards of 600-foot tall, meets with the county's zoning

See HEARINGS, 4

Chowan delays hearings

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted last week to delay the second night of the hearing on a conditional use permit application

for the Timbermill Wind Project for a month to give Commissioner John Mitchener an opportunity to participate. The hearing will resume on Sept. 26 at Swain Auditorium, beginning at 5 p.m.

Mitchener was absent from the Aug. 23 session because of a medical emergency, County Attorney John Morrison announced at the meeting, which was held at the

See DELAYS, 4



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Commissioners and Perquimans County Library board members break ground Monday on the new \$3 million library.

Library started, playground finished

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

In the span of a week Perquimans County broke ground on a new \$3 million library and held a ribbon cutting on a new \$350,000 all-inclusive playground.

The library will be located next to the Albemarle Commission building on Church Street. Construction should be complete by this time next year. The playground is located at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

The library event marked five years of work for Bill Ross, the chairman of the Perquimans County Library Board. He said the credit the Perquimans County Commission for making the library a reality.

"Our commissioners had the courage and the vision," Ross said. "This is something for

See PLAYGROUND, 7



Seven girls play on a four-seat teeter-totter last week during the ribbon cutting for a new \$350,000 playground at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Bridge options debated

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

State officials are taking another look at an option to replace the S-Bridge in Hertford with another swing bridge.

The option, known as Alternative B was one of the three in final consideration, but it was rejected in part because of the cost (\$32 million) and because it would leave downtown Hertford without a link to the Winfall side of the river for upwards of three years. Downtown merchants have said that would be devastating for business.

The option favored by the N.C. Department of Transportation, known as D-Mod, would cost \$19.3 million and it would keep traffic flowing between Winfall and Hertford except for a nine-month period.

The argument over what and where to build has lasted for more than five years, but the dispute with the State Historic Preservation Office (HPO) has been active for the past 18 months.

The dispute largely hinges on the impact a new bridge will have on the historic

See OPTIONS, 7

Hundreds go back to school on Monday morning

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than 1,600 students returned to school Monday morning in Perquimans County.

Some showed up at the wrong school.

Hertford Grammar School Principal Jason Griffin was out front greeting the returning students there when his two-way radio alerted him of a problem. A young girl was dropped off at HGS instead of Perquimans Central.

Griffin resolved the problem quickly but radioing the

driver of a school bus that was already headed to Central so the girl could get to where she needed to be.

"We have that happen every year, it's not a problem," Griffin said.

HGS will be home to an expected 430 students this year, an increase over last year. Griffin said he's seen increases over the past few years. Overall the school system was expecting more than 100 new students this year. According to school officials, the projected enrollment is 1,890 and 1,618 students showed up the first day.

Transporting hundreds of students on buses - especially on the first day - is always prone to a few issues, but Monday's opening went well according to Teresa Beardsley, the spokeswoman for the school system.

"Everything went smooth this morning with transporting students to school," she said.

"By having parents update information to the transportation office by Aug. 4 and hosting the Back to School Bash where we were able to see a lot of parents

See SCHOOL, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Students recite the Pledge of Allegiance Monday morning at the start of the school day at Hertford Grammar School.

Grant for \$15K to help teach etiquette

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Having the grades to get into college is just part of it. Having the ability to adapt to new social surroundings can be just as big an issue.

With that in mind, the Perquimans County Education Foundation and the school system's GEAR UP program applied for and got a \$15,000 grant to provide etiquette instruction and cultural experiences to some high school students.

The goal of the program is to expose students to proper etiquette such as appropriate greetings, table

County schools honor top teachers

From Staff Reports



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Holly Winslow, Amy Parker, Rhonda Meadows, Tina Mathis were honored as their school's Teacher of the Year earlier this month.

Four veteran Perquimans County teachers were honored as their school's "Teacher of the Year" earlier this month.

Amy Parker, a fifth grade teacher at Hertford Grammar School was named the top teacher for the overall school system. She will now compete on a regional level, then perhaps on the state and national level.

The others honored were

See TEACHERS, 7



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See GRANT, 7