

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016



Perquimans Central School student go on Field Trip to downtown Hertford, 8

OCT 19 REC'D

50 cents

Debate over second wind power project resumes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The debate over a second wind power project in Perquimans County resumed on Monday, but even if a local decision is reached this week the issue probably still won't be resolved, officials say.

Representatives from both sides have said a legal

appeal to any decision will happen and the courts may ultimately decide the issue.

Apex Clean Energy is involved in quasi-judicial hearings on a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Timbermill. The application was filed in May and after review by the county planning board, the hearings before the county board started in September. Before Mon-

day's hearing started in the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex, the Perquimans County Commission had already met for about 28 hours over five nights on the issue. Perhaps because of the judicial nature of the hearings — only expert witnesses are allowed to speak — or perhaps because of the length of the hearings, only a few dozen people attend-

ed Monday's hearing. A year ago, the courthouse annex courtroom was packed to overflowing.

Monday's hearing was the first of three more this week. The board met again on Tuesday and there is a Saturday session at 9 a.m. if needed.

Chad Essick is one of the lawyers representing local opponents of the Tim-

bermill plan. When the sessions ended in September, they had a witness, Robert Rand, who was testifying but didn't get a chance to be cross-examined by lawyers for Apex before the evening came to a close.

Essick said Rand wasn't available Monday, so instead Perquimans County Commission Chair Janice Cole allowed Essick to present a

new witness and the board would take up Rand's cross exam on Tuesday.

Essick presented Mike McCann, a property appraiser from the Chicago area. Apex presented its own property appraiser as a witnesses last month. The impact of a wind power project on property values

See WIND, 3

County recovering from storm

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than a week after Hurricane Matthew dumped 14-inches of rain, Perquimans County appears to be drying out and things are returning to normal.

Perquimans County Emergency Management Director Jonathan Nixon reported Monday that Chinquapin Road remained washed out and there was still high water on Gregorys Lane in Woodville, but other roads were clear.

Highway 37 (Belvidere Road) was closed until Friday because water was crossing the road. About 18-inches water did flood an activity area at Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church, forcing church members to tear out the drywall and insulation in the walls and flooring.

All the water caused sewer systems to fail in Hertford and Winfall during the storm. It also raised water levels in a storage lagoon operated by the Albemarle Utility Company. To deal with that, AUC got permission from the state Department of Environmental Quality to spray effluent on its approved spray fields beyond the normal limit. That will create the runoff of about 15,000 gallons, which will be disinfected with chlorine. All of the runoff will be on property owned by AUC.

Local students were

See STORM, 2



Top, a N.C. Department of Transportation pickup truck drives through a low spot on N.C. 37 in Belvidere Friday afternoon. The road was reopened to traffic after nearly a week. Right, workers remove road barriers on N.C. 37 near Layden's Supermarket Friday, marking the reopening of the road in Belvidere.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS



Police probe shooting

From staff reports

The Hertford Police Department is investigating a shooting Saturday morning that sent a man to the hospital.

Police were contacted about 2:30 a.m. Saturday by Vidant Chowan Hospital reporting that a man had been shot.

Lt. Webb responded and contacted the victim, Marvin Woodard, according to Police Chief Douglas Freeman.

See SHOOTING, 4

Schools see lunch demand soar

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The introduction of higher quality food and a different way of serving it is prompting a surge in the number of students and even adults buying lunch in a Perquimans County school cafeteria, according to school officials.

Through the first six weeks of the school year, Perquimans County cafeterias were serving about 1,200 student lunches a day out of a school system with 1,600 students. Last year the figure was about 850 to 900 lunches a day. The increase runs across the board from stu-

See LUNCH, 4

Church demolishes old house to make room for growth

Heavy equipment makes quick work of demolishing a home at 211 W. Market St. in Hertford Monday morning.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The demolition of a 105-year-old home on West Market Street Monday will pave the way for future expansion of Hertford United Methodist Church and provide long-needed parking spaces for now, church officials say.

"Some residents mourn the loss of the house they say they fought to save.

Don Hurst, a member of the church, said the property at 211 W. Market St. was purchased about six years ago. It sits next to the church's parsonage, which in turn sits next to the church.

"When we looked at the house we were not

looking at the house, we were looking at the land for future expansion," Hurst said.

But the original idea was to use the three-story, 4,000 square foot home for meetings for a while.

That proved to be problematic," Hurst said. One February the utility bill was about \$800.

"The house had dete-

riorated faster than we thought it would and we just couldn't afford to keep it open for one or two groups," Hurst said.

Hurst said the church was open to giving the house house to someone interested in moving it to another site.

"We couldn't get an es-

See CHURCH, 3

Crawford trust to provide ongoing scholarships

From staff reports

The estate of the late Dr. John Crawford and his wife Betty is expected to provide enough scholarship money to endow an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a local student through the Perquimans Coun-

ty Schools Foundation.

Officers of the foundation made an announcement of the gift this week.

Dr. Crawford retired from his practice as a physician in Virginia Beach in 1973 and began a second career working for Family Planning in northeastern North Carolina. Both he and his wife moved to Hertford where Betty's mother had grown up and where there were relatives and friends.

As the couple grew older, they moved to the Outer

Banks in 2005 to be closer to family. But during their years in Hertford they were active members of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Betty worked in the school system and volunteered in the hospital and on the rescue squad. John was a member of Hertford Rotary and led tours at the Newbold-White House.

Dr. Crawford died in September 2007. His wife died in June.

But two decades ago they executed a trust agreement

as a part of their estate planning to ensure that support would continue even after their deaths for the things they loved. They named Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Perquimans school's foundation as beneficiaries under the agreement.

EVMS was named as a two-thirds beneficiary under the trust. The Perquimans foundation is to get the other third. In cash, that represents more

See CRAWFORD, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The late Dr. John Crawford and his wife Betty have left a portion of their estate to the Perquimans County Schools Foundation.



6 89076 47144 2