

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirate boys fall to Camden, Edenton, 8

"News from Next Door"

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APEX APPEALS PERQUIMANS DECISION

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Virginia company has appealed a Perquimans County Commission decision to deny a permit for part of a \$400 million wind power project.

Apex Clean Energy filed the appeal Dec. 20 in Perquimans County Superior Court. Opponents of the project filed a cross petition with the court the next day in support of the county decision.

Apex wants to build 104 turbines in Perquimans and Chowan counties, each nearly 600-feet tall. Chowan officials approved the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for that half of the project. Apex announced Wednesday it plans to proceed with the Chowan part of the project.

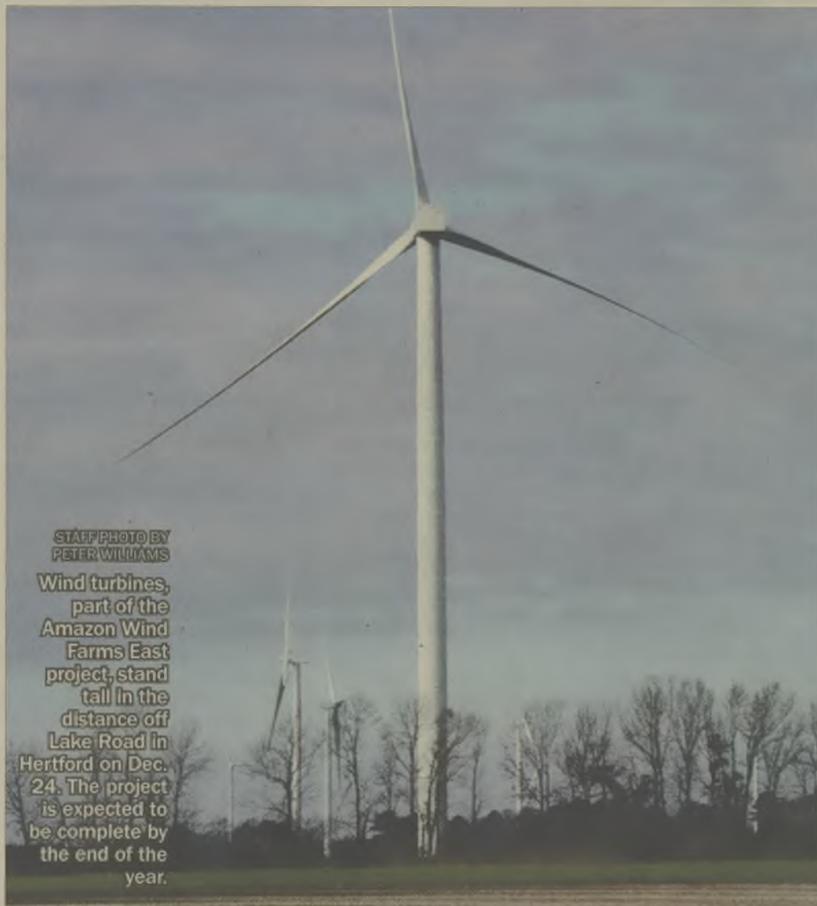
"We remain hopeful that the Superior Court will reverse the Perquimans County denial of Timbermill's permit," said Don Giecek, senior manager of project development for Apex Clean Energy. "This would allow the project to meet its full potential. In the meantime, we will also continue developing the project in Chowan County and pursuing the other state and federal permits required for the project."

Leary Winslow, one of the residents who hired their own lawyers to fight the Apex plan, expressed dismay about the decision by Apex to appeal.

"We are disappointed that Apex cannot accept the decision of our county commissioners on behalf of the residents of Perquimans County," Winslow said. "In an abundance of caution and in order to preserve additional and alternative grounds for denying the permit, we will be filing a cross petition later today."

So far, Apex has paid the Perquimans County's legal expenses related to the Timbermill project. As part of the CUP process, Perquimans required

See LAWSUIT, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS
Wind turbines, part of the Amazon Wind Farms East project, stand tall in the distance off Lake Road in Hertford on Dec. 24. The project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Schools brace for closure of bridge

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Motorists — even those that may never even use Hertford's S-Bridge — are in for change for at least the next three months when it closes.

The temporary closure will also mean many students could be spending more time on the bus and motorists may be seeing buses in places they normally don't.

The bridge will close to vehicle traffic on Jan. 9 and remain closed until late March. During that time the road surface will be removed, repairs made and a new wooden driving surface will be added to reduce the weight.

School officials are warning parents to be prepared for an even longer disruption.

"Although a three-month repair time has been

See BRIDGE, 4

Residents file cross petition in wind case

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A group of nine individuals have petitioned a local court to upload a Perquimans County decision to deny a permit for the Timbermill Wind project.

The cross petition was filed on Dec. 21. In it, attorney Chad Essick also questioned the handling of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) hearings and the vote to recuse Commissioner Matt Peeler.

A 3-2 majority of the board voted to prevent Peeler from voting on the CUP application based in part on a series of e-mails he wrote opposing wind power.

"Several of the board's decisions, made before its deci-



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PAUL & KRISTI COPELAND RESIDENCE

sion on the ultimate issue of whether to grant or deny the application, violated constitutional provisions and were

based on errors of law," Essick said in his petition.

On the issue of Peeler, Essick maintains Apex had

e-mails from Peeler before the first hearing started on Aug. 24 but didn't seek to have Peeler recused until

SUBMITTED PHOTO

A simulation shows what the Timbermill Wind project may look like from the home of Paul and Kristi Copeland on Bear Swamp Road. Sept. 24.

The decision to recuse Peeler "set a dangerous precedent in North Carolina, if that decision is allowed to stand, for allowing board politics to significantly alter the potential outcome of quasi-judicial proceedings through the guise of alleged 'potential bias,'" Essick wrote.

Peeler did not seek reelection and is no longer on the county commission.

The petition is being filed by Leary Winslow and Alli-

See PETITION, 2

Red Cross steps up blood drives

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The American Red Cross is making a push for blood donations over the coming weeks, including one blood drive Thursday and three more in Perquimans County in January.

"In the winter months and during the holidays we tend to see a dip in donations as many of our regular donors are traveling and enjoying time with friends and family," said Bernadette Jay, an external communications manager for the Red Cross. "Where available we've extended hours for blood drives in addition to operating additional drives to help prevent any shortfalls in demand for hospital patients in critical need."

The blood drive Thursday is from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Fire Department.

See RED CROSS, 4

Couple files petition against Chowan board

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — A Paradise Road couple opposed to the proposed Timbermill Wind project has filed a petition in Chowan County Superior Court asking that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the project be revoked.

Patrick Flynn filed the appeal on behalf of himself and his wife, Belinda

Flynn. The Flynn's own and live on property next to a tract that is part of the proposed Timbermill Wind Project.

Last month the Chowan County Board of Commissioners approved a CUP for the Chowan portion of the Timbermill Wind Project, a 300-megawatt wind energy generation facility proposed for the Center Hill and Bear Swamp areas of Chowan and Perquimans

counties. Perquimans officials denied the CUP request for the Perquimans portion of the project. Charlottesville, Va.-based Apex Clean Energy Inc. announced this week that it is appealing the Perquimans decision.

Also, a spokesman for Apex said Wednesday that the company had determined it would be economically feasible to move forward with a project sited

entirely in Chowan County and intends to pursue such a project.

The appeal by Patrick and Belinda Flynn alleges that the project will harm the value of their property — reducing the value by as much as 22 percent.

"Timbermill's own evidence shows conclusively that the project will damage the value of adjoining and abutting property," the appeal states.

The appeal also cites a likelihood of harm to personal health, especially for Belinda Flynn, who suffers from vertigo.

Much of the appeal focuses on environmental studies that Apex Clean Energy performed in preparation for the Timbermill project but did not submit to county officials as part of the application for a CUP.

See CHOWAN, 2

Girl beats disorder, father dies

BY JOSH SHAFFER
The News & Observer

Nine years ago, Zelene Turner watched helplessly as her infant daughter shook from seizures, lost hair and turned red without a fever — symptoms that took weeks to diagnose.

Then doctors discovered the truth: Jayla lacked a thymus gland and suffered from DiGeorge syndrome, a rare immune disorder that leaves victims vulnerable to the

HOW TO HELP

■ An online campaign to assist the Turner family can be found at www.gofundme.com/in-memory-of-jj-turner.

common cold, usually fatal by age 2. She turned to her husband, J.J., and said, "Our baby is going to die."

But Jayla Turner did not die, thanks to the thymus transplant surgery that is only performed at Duke University Hospital. She walked into Duke for a follow-up exam on Wednesday — a fourth-grader who likes "Charlotte's Web" and recess.

At 9, her immune system is healthy enough now that she can tolerate measles and mumps vaccines. "Look at the VIP today," said a nurse who passed Jayla in the hall at Duke. "Y'all got a miracle."

But this year, a new shadow has fallen over the Turner family. J.J. Turner, Zelene's husband and Jayla's father, died on the day after Thanksgiving at their home in Perquimans County. He was watching television at night and died of natural causes at 52 — likely a heart attack, his wife said.

His death strikes an especially hard blow because J.J.

See TURNER, 4

FOOD DONATED



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Stephanie Bateman (left) delivers a ham and other Christmas meal items to Jesslie (Leroy) Byrum Jr. Saturday in Hertford. An anonymous corporate donor provided the food and Bateman, the new owner of Larry's, prepared it for dozen families for Christmas. The same donor provided 10 meals for Thanksgiving.

