

CHOWAN HERALD

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Wind energy regs go back to planning board

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

It will be next month at the earliest before the county commissioners hold a public hearing on a planning board proposal to make the county's wind energy ordinance more restrictive.

Last month, the Chowan

County Board of Commissioners was presented a petition with more than 600 signatures requesting that the commissioners approve recommendations from the planning board that would make the county's wind ordinance significantly more restrictive.

But County Attorney Lau-

ren Womble told the commissioners at their meeting Monday night that the recommendations submitted by the Planning Board on April 6 were not in the form of a text amendment to the ordinance. For that reason, she said, the commissioners would not be able to schedule a public hearing on those

recommendations. The recommendations would have to be drafted as a text amendment before a public hearing could be scheduled, she said.

Apex Clean Energy has proposed the Timbermill Wind Energy Project along the Chowan-Perquimans county line, which is

planned as a 300-megawatt wind energy generation facility.

Don Giecek of Apex Clean Energy told the county commissioners Monday that the Timbermill project is similar in many respects to the Iberdrola facility that recently broke ground along the Perquimans-Pasquotank

line. Giecek noted that both projects are in two different counties, are similar in size and involve vast areas of forest and agricultural land.

Giecek also noted Gov. Pat McCrory's enthusiastic backing of the Iberdrola project at the

See WIND REGS, 4A

Town Hall nearly ready for SMA offices

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

By mid-September town officials expect the offices above Town Hall will be ready for occupancy by Standard Medical Acceptance Corporation.

SMA, a privately held, New York-based company, specializes in valuation and collateralization of healthcare receivables for America's leading banks.

The opening is expected to result in the creation of 26 jobs with an annual payroll of \$1 million, according to company officials.

SMA has said it will be locating its new operations center in Edenton and plans to eventually relocate its main data processing facilities in eastern North Carolina.

A.R. Chesson Construction, headquartered in Williamston, is handling renovations to the second floor space.

According to project manager Adam Hughes, work on the building is progressing on schedule. He said the challenges the



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Paul Gregory hangs drywall on the second floor at Edenton's Town Hall, which is expected to be occupied by Standard Medical Acceptance in a little more than a month.

See TOWN HALL, 3A

Farmers Market group launches Wednesday market

STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

JoAnne Eddy checks out a watermelon as she waits in line to purchase it at the Wednesday Farmers Market that opened at the former Etna Station on North Broad Street for the first time on July 22. The opening drew a crowd to purchase produce, freshly cut flowers and other items.



BY REBECCA BUNCH
Staff Writer

The first ever Wednesday Farmers Market drew more than 200 visitors on July 29, delighting market officials.

The market took place at the site of the former Etna Station on North Broad Street.

"We felt very welcomed to downtown Edenton from town officials to immediate neighbors," said Janet MacKenzie, market manager. "Everyone was very positive and they are looking forward to seeing us each Wednesday."

MacKenzie and Calyb Hare, president of the market's board of directors, said they were especially pleased

to see some folks at the market who had not previously been there.

"We saw a lot of new faces, people that had previously told us they were not able to attend Saturday's market due to their schedules," Hare said. "We had lots of people come by who were on foot, on bikes, or with strollers."

Hare noted that there were also lots of motorists who stopped to look and purchase items and that the parking at the site was "more than adequate" for their purposes which will be helpful to market officials in planning for the future.

MacKenzie said that vendors who were on-site last Wednesday felt good about

the turnout.

"Our vendors were very pleased with the traffic since we were not sure what to expect," she said. "We do however expect this momentum to continue right through the fall."

Among those shopping at the market that day was Joanne Eddy. Eddy said she shops at the market on a fairly regular basis on Saturdays and was glad to see it open on Wednesdays now too.

"I just think it's a great idea," she said.

Eddy said she usually shops at the market for its brown eggs that are from free range chickens and the

See MARKET, 4A

School officials meet with charter school parents

BY REBECCA BUNCH
AND REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writers

A handful of parents whose children are scheduled to attend the charter school in Elizabeth City this fall took Superintendent Rob Jackson up on his offer to meet with him before that happens.

Jackson said the purpose of the meeting they were invited to on Monday night was to help parents make an informed choice. He said the headmaster of the charter school, known as the Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies, had told him

that 22 students from the Edenton-Chowan school system are planning to attend the charter school this fall.

A teacher, a former teacher and her husband were among those who came to sit in a circle with Jackson and other administrators from the Edenton-Chowan Schools in the media center at John A. Holmes High to listen, share information and discuss concerns related to their decision.

Deborah West, who grew up in Edenton and taught in the local school system for many years, said that she left to take a job in the Gates County school system and enrolled her son in school there. Doing so, she said, "broke my heart."

West said prior to her decision several years ago to make a change, her son was being subjected to

COA announces new dean for Edenton-Chowan Campus

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

College of The Albemarle's 2012 Teacher of the Year has been tapped to head the college's Edenton-Chowan Campus.

The college announced Thursday that Charles Purser has been named campus dean of the Edenton-Chowan Campus effective Aug. 3.

A resident of Perquimans County, Purser has worked at COA more than 14 years and most recently was an associate professor of architectural technology and chaired the college's Department of Design, Manufacturing, and Industrial Technology. His salary in the new position will be \$77,052 a year.

Purser is a licensed general contractor and has been a vol-

unteer with Chowan/Perquimans Habitat for Humanity.

Sally Francis Kehayes, a Chowan resident who serves on the college's Board of Trustees, said she had not yet had the opportunity to meet Purser but that after looking over his resume was "very interested and excited" to know he would be leading the Edenton-Chowan Campus.

She said that based on his extensive leadership experience at COA, his background as a community college graduate and his recognition as Teacher of the Year, she believes he will bring great strengths to workforce development, the early college venture with the high school and other aspects of the community



PURSER

college campus here.

"I just think that he is going to be a great addition," Kehayes said.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson said he looks forward to working closely with Purser as the school system and COA continue to grow their cooperative ventures.

"I am looking forward to working with Mr. Purser as we continue to build upon the strong relationship between College of The Albemarle and Edenton-Chowan Schools," Jackson said. "Our students have experienced great success taking college courses at COA while still enrolled in high school

See PURSER, 4A



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See CHARTER, 4A