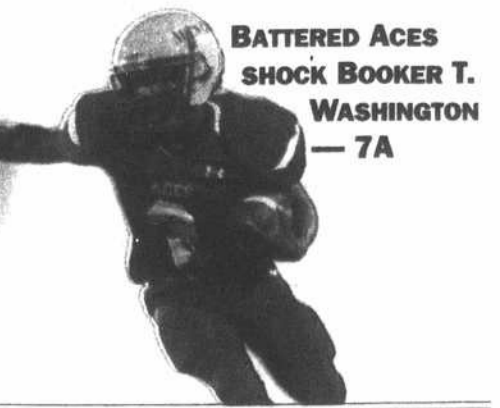


CHOWAN HERALD



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Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Board modifies wind energy ordinance

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners voted 5-1 Monday to make three changes to the 2013 wind energy ordinance.

Following a public hearing on a text amendment to the ordinance that had been

recommended by the planning board, the county commissioners did not adopt the planning board's recommended text amendment. But the board did vote to amend the county's 2013 wind energy ordinance by requiring a \$50,000 escrow account to cover county expenses related to the project;

removing salvage value of materials as a consideration in the ordinance's decommissioning requirements; and eliminating "letter of credit" as an alternative to a cash bond in decommissioning.

Commissioner Alex Kehayes, who expressed concerns about the health

effects of low-frequency sound and infrasound – very low-frequency sound that can't be heard but can be felt – cast the lone dissenting vote.

Commissioner Emmett Winborne made the motion to adopt the three amendments to the existing wind energy ordinance.

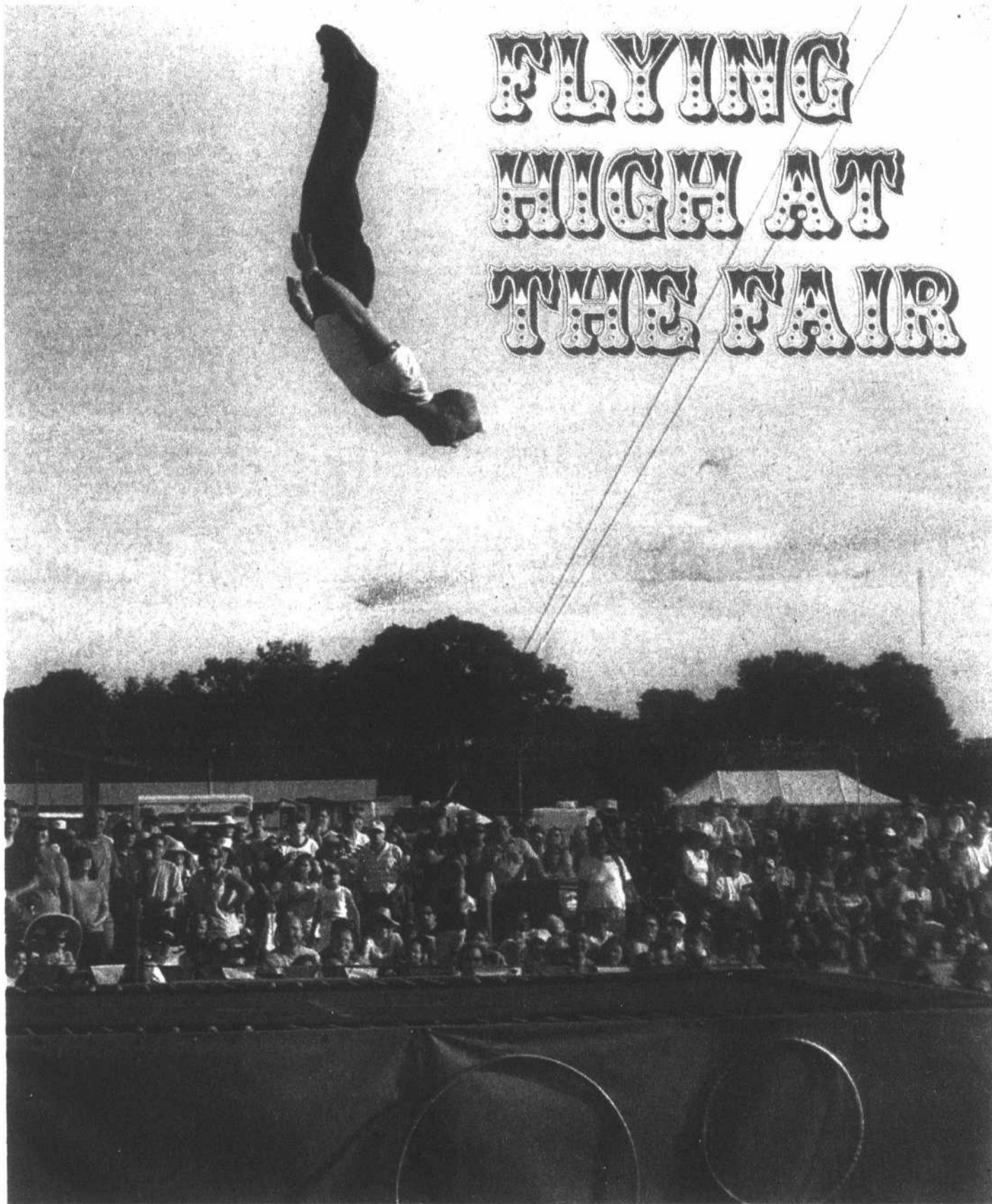
Kehayes supported a noise limit of 35 decibels that had been recommended by the planning board in April. He said the current limit of 55 decibels would not be adequate to protect residents from the health effects of noise and especially of low-frequency sound. He said the 55-decibel

limit and 1,500-foot setback were not adequate to protect public health.

"We're putting people at risk by not having suitable setbacks and sound restrictions," Kehayes said.

He said he was concerned about the effect on both

See ORDINANCE, 3A



FLYING HIGH AT THE FAIR

PHOTO COURTESY HANSENS SPECTACULAR

Shane Hansen performs on the trampoline before a festival crowd. The Hansens Spectacular family acrobatics show is a highlight of this week's Chowan County Regional Fair. The fair began Tuesday and ends Saturday. Visit chowanfair.com for more information about this week's regional fair.

Husband of senator facing attempted rape charge

■ Ingram is husband of Sen. Smith-Ingram

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

The husband of the state senator who represents Chowan County in the Legislature is due in court on Wednesday to face charges of attempted rape.

Maud Edwin Elliott Ingram, 49, a probation officer with N.C. Probation, was arrested last week after allegations surfaced that he had had inappropriate relationships with his probationers, the State Bureau of Investigation said in a prepared statement.

Ingram, husband of state Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram, D-Northampton, has been charged with one felony count of attempted second-degree rape, one felony count of obstruction of justice and one misdemeanor count of failing to make reports and discharge other duties, the SBI said in a statement issued Friday.

Smith-Ingram, who is in her first Senate term, couldn't immediately be reached for comment on Tuesday. In a statement issued to media outlets in Raleigh, however, Smith-Ingram said she had no knowledge of the basis for the claims against her husband. She trusts the judicial process, she said.

"At this time, I am not able to respond to media requests for information in regard to this ongoing investigation," Smith-Ingram said. "My family and I appreciate your

See INGRAM, 3A



INGRAM

Sackrison back as president of hospital

■ Veteran hospital exec also at helm of Vidant Bertie

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Jeffrey Sackrison, long-time president of Vidant Chowan and Vidant Bertie hospitals, is back in that role following a restructuring at Vidant Health.

Meanwhile, Jeff Dial – who had been serving as president at Vidant Chowan and Vidant Bertie – has assumed an executive position at Vidant Medical Center in



SACKRISON

Greenville. Sackrison is in his second stint as president of the two hospitals in Edenton and Windsor. Previously, he served as president of Vidant Chowan Hospital and Vidant Bertie Hospital from March 2003 until October 2014.

The restructuring that brings Sackrison back to Vidant Chowan and Vidant Bertie as president comes on the heels of a change at the helm of Greenville-based Vidant Health.

A little more than a year

See SACKRISON, 3A

Faith builds a house in storm's aftermath

■ First Presbyterian member: 'It has been a real blessing to us'

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

When Leonidas Parker of the Chapanoke community in Perquimans County first heard that a group of people he had never met wanted to build a house for him, it sounded too good to be true.

But Parker, who lost his home in one of the fierce tornadoes that struck Chowan, Perquimans and Pasquotank counties on April 25, 2014, learned to trust that group – the United Methodist Disaster Response Committee of the N.C. Conference – and now considers them family rather than strangers.

And Saturday the Parker family and its extended disaster response family, including Quaker, AME Zion and Presbyterian volunteers

as well as United Methodists, came together to bless the new house that has been built for Parker.

"I just thank God that I got involved with these people," Parker said during the service of blessing at his new home.

He recalled receiving a phone call from the disaster response group and thinking it was a scam. He had received a little bit of money to rebuild his house after the tornado, he said, and he was reluctant to share what he had received with this organization that was claiming it would use the money to build a house for him.

But he decided to take a first step of faith.

"I gave them a little bit to start with," Parker said.

But he sensed that he needed to

See AFTERMATH, 4A

NC adopts new historic tax credit

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

A revamped historic preservation tax credit program adopted last week by the General Assembly promises to be a shot in the arm for local and regional projects.

Bob Howsare of SAGA Construction and Development Inc., which is restoring the historic Hotel Hinton building on East King Street, said this week that the project would be able to move forward more quickly and with greater flexibility because of the new tax credit.

"The biggest thing is that it makes the project viable," Howsare said. The tax credit will help with financing for the project, he said.

"It's a huge win for people in North Carolina who are trying to do historic rehab," Howsare said.

Howsare said the company also has a long-term contract for purchase of the Southern Hotel building in Elizabeth City, and the tax credit also will benefit that project.

The new tax credit is slated to expire or "sunset" on Jan. 1, 2020.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, said he and other supporters of the historic preservation tax credit pushed hard for its passage.

"We worked very hard – fought like the dickens," Steinburg said. "Those of us who were in favor of them stuck by our guns."

See TAX CREDIT, 3A



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