

## Official: Timbermill project in harmony with area

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor

An official with Apex Clean Energy testified Monday that the proposed Timbermill Wind Project would be in harmony with the surrounding area.

At a meeting-judicial hearing that began Monday night on the application by Apex Clean Energy Inc. for a conditional use permit for that portion of the proposed 300-megawatt wind energy generation facility that would be located

in Chowan County - roughly half the project would be located in neighboring Perquimans County & the Chowan County Board of Commissioners heard testimony from Don Giecek, a senior development manager with Apex, on the proposed project's harmony with the area and general conformity with the county's land use plan.

In response to questions from Henry Campen, an attorney representing Apex in the matter, Giecek testified that most of the land leased for the project is agricultural land or Weyerhaeuser-owned timberland.

### MORE INSIDE

■ Board rejects motion to stop permit hearing - 3A

The county's zoning district for agricultural areas with low-density residential uses, Giecek said.

Bill Brian, an attorney representing neighboring property owners who oppose the project, objected to the basis Giecek had

provided for his assertion that the project would be in harmony with the area.

John Morrison, an attorney advising the county, asked Giecek if he would provide a "better foundation."

In response to further questioning, Giecek said he had been in the area a great deal and looked at the properties included in the project. He added that he also had been on many of the adjoining properties. After hearing Giecek's additional testimony, Morrison instructed

the commissioners that they could accept the testimony from Giecek and give to it whatever weight they chose.

Brian asked a series of questions challenging Giecek's claim that the Timbermill Wind Project would be in harmony with the surrounding area. In response to Brian's cross-examination, Giecek acknowledged there were "a couple" of properties in Chowan County that are not part

See PROJECT, 4A

## SUMMER READING A BIG HIT WITH YOUNGSTERS



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Gary Shelton talks to kids during his magic show.

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor

The Summer Reading Program at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library came to a magical conclusion last week.

Gary Shelton of New presented his magic show for the youngsters on the morning of Aug. 16. Also that day, children got a

chance to take home prizes for their participation. After the magic show and prize presentation everyone went to the waterfront for a picnic with hot dogs.

Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, was on hand to greet the children. He told the kids that when he and other legislators are in Raleigh one of the things they spend a lot of time discussing is how they can

do more to help children. He said one of the best ways to do that is by supporting public libraries.

Jennifer Finlay, director of the local library, said he appreciated Steinburg's support in the most recent budget for increased funding to regional library systems.

The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library is part of the Pettigrew Regional Library.

Steinburg said he has always been supportive of local libraries. In addition, he said, Finlay and other librarians in the region had reached out to him and emphasized the importance of state funding for libraries.

"I wholeheartedly agree about the importance of our libraries

See READING, 2A

## Suspect in home invasion arrested

From staff reports

The suspect in a June home invasion and assault has been arrested in California, Edenton Police reported.

Joel Daniel Dilucia, 18, was arrested on Aug. 10 around 11 p.m. Eastern time in Mt. Shasta, CA. after turning himself into authorities.

Edenton Police are now waiting on extradition and his return to North Carolina to face the criminal charges in this case.

On Tuesday, June 7, around a.m., officers responded to a burglary and assault that occurred at 108 W. Queen Street, Edenton.

With the assistance of the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation, the Edenton Police Department obtained felony warrants for the arrest of Dilucia, 1114 Johnson Lane, Edenton, NC. The charges are First Degree Burglary, Felony Larceny, Felony Possession of Stolen Goods and Felony Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury.

## New faces on board as local schools open next week

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Jeff Williamson is excited about teaching American history in a town where a lot of that history happened.

Williamson is starting his first year as a social studies teacher at John A. Holmes High School. He is one of 23 new staff members among the approximately 303 employees. There are no new administrators.

School opens in Chowan County on Monday.

Two teaching vacancies remain as the school system seeks to fill positions for a math teacher and an Exceptional Children's Program teacher.

The Edenton-Chowan school system will begin the 2016-2017 school year with a projected enrollment of 2,083 students.

Of those, according to Michelle Maddox, human resources director for the school

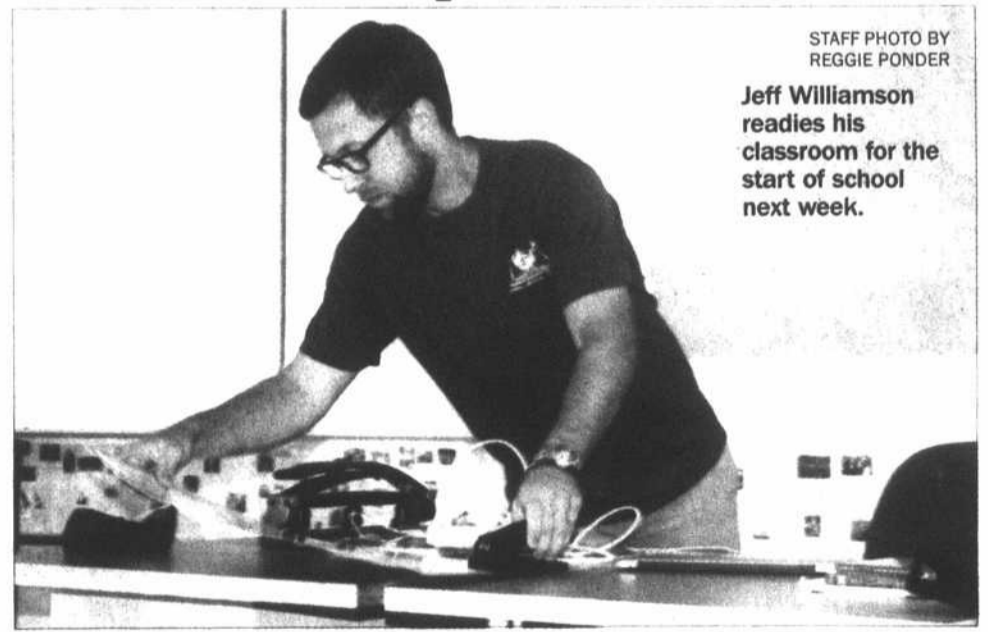
system, there are 37 students at John A. Holmes High School in dual enrollment with College of the Albemarle.

Williamson, a West Virginia native who holds bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University, has lived in Edenton three years but taught the past three school years in neighboring Bertie County. He said he has been excited about the prospect of teaching American history in history-rich Edenton. Maddox said that there are 11 legislated school holidays on this year's calendar and 14 teacher workdays.

"Barring no inclement weather to force a change," Maddox said, the last day of school for students is June 9, last day for teachers, June 15.

School lunch prices will rise slightly during the coming school year, according

See SCHOOL, 4A



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

Jeff Williamson readies his classroom for the start of school next week.

## Town council eyes downtown revitalization projects

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

Potential projects that could be covered under a North Carolina Division of Rural Economic Development Downtown Revitalization Grant could be considered by the town council as soon as its Sept. 13 monthly meeting.

The slate of ideas was



©2009 The Chowan Herald  
 All Rights Reserved

moved forward at the recommendation of Public Works Committee chair Jimmy Stallings following discussion during council's monthly work session Monday night.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that the special \$95,000 appropriation secured with the assistance of Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, could be used to fund projects including construction of a monument honoring Hugh Williamson of Edenton, a signer of the U.S. Constitution, at Queen Anne Park on the downtown waterfront.

The establishment of the

monument at that location would require relocating of the Lighthouse Bell presently in the park to a location near the 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse and issuance of a certificate of appropriateness by the town's Historic Preservation Commission.

Judge Terrence Boyle told the council that the establishment of the Williamson monument would bring "tremendous benefits" to the town.

"People will be curious about Hugh Williamson," he said.

"We are also asking for you to consider an appropri-

ation of the grant to DDE for initial implementation of the Public Arts Initiative plan," Knighton said. "It will be the road map for public arts initiative for years to come."

Knighton suggested that \$15,000 of the grant be set aside for Destination Downtown Edenton (DDE) for implementation of the plan.

DDE Executive Director Jennifer Harriss said that the initiative was something of which her organization was extremely proud because it had involved outstanding work by facilitator Geraldine Plato and such a high degree of public participation.

"It has been such a communitywide effort," she said.

Harriss said she and DDE were looking forward to working creatively with the Chowan Arts Council headed by president Regan Cox and others to put the community on the map when it comes to public arts projects.

Knighton also explained the options that could be funded with the remaining \$20,000 of the grant including paving that would connect parts of missing sidewalks or perhaps to pay for engineering work to design a system of new streetlights for the downtown area or a business incentive plan to

encourage economic development.

But Councilman Bob Quinn said he felt the most pressing issue was putting in a sidewalk on Water Street, as suggested in an email by Mayor Roland Vaughan. As it currently is, he said, it presents a hazard to drivers and pedestrians.

"It's been my view that we're really looking at a horrible accident waiting to happen," he said. "It's a dangerous situation for the town."

According to Knighton, the deadline to submit proposals to be funded by the grant is Sept. 1.