

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ Sept. 22 - Corey Scott Venters, 26, of Icaria Road, was arrested on

one misdemeanor count of larceny and one misdemeanor count of possession of stolen property.

INCIDENTS

■ Sept. 22 - Larceny at

Dollar General on North Broad Street.

■ Sept. 21 - Obtaining property by false pretense at the Duck Thru on Virginia Road.

■ Sept. 20 - Breaking and entering and larceny on East Queen Street.

■ Sept. 13 - Injury to personal property on Wedgewood Apts.

CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS

■ Sept. 22 - Malik Davon Mabine, 20, of Greenhall Road, was ar-

rested on one felony count of statutory sex offense with a child under the age of 15.

INCIDENTS

■ None reported.

Peeler recused from Perquimans vote on wind energy

BY PETER WILLIAMS
The Perquimans Weekly

When the Perquimans Board of Commissioners makes its decision on whether to grant a conditional use permit for the Apex Clean Energy project, it will be without Commissioner Matt Peeler.

The board voted 3-2 Wednesday night to recuse Peeler from any vote on the \$300 million project.

The board's decision follows release of emails by Peeler including one to state Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort. They appear to show Peeler's desire to stop or severely limit wind power in the state.

"I will admit now and in the future I will oppose these things on their health and welfare impacts," Peeler said in one e-mail.

Voting for recusal were

board Chairwoman Janice Cole and Commissioners Fondella Leigh and Ed Muzzulin. Voting against recusal were Commissioners Wallace Nelson and Kyle Jones.

The emails were brought to the board's attention by Henry Campen, the lead attorney for Apex. He said they showed Peeler could not make an objective decision on Apex's permit request, even though that's what Peeler agreed to do during the board's first quasi-judicial hearing on the request. Campen asked the Perquimans Board of Commissioners to recuse Peeler from the permitting decision.

Cole asked the other commissioners if they wanted to comment on the request from Campen. After about two minutes of silence, Cole said she'd start.

Cole said while it was possible for Peeler to separate his legislative role from his role as an impartial decider in the permit request, Peeler has consistently fought wind development, even the Desert Wind project which the board of commissioners had already approved.

"He took a position that he wanted to do anything he could do to stop the project," Cole said.

Leigh said she was bothered by the email in which Peeler said, "I will admit now and in the future I will oppose these things on their health and welfare impacts."

Muzzulin pointed out that all six commissioners attended a workshop in May where lawyers explained the quasi-judicial hearing process and were advised not to have contact with

anyone involved in matters being considered at those hearings.

Jones said Peeler's emails help erode the public's trust in elected officials and the email to Sen. Cook was particularly troubling.

"It was a poor decision to do that," Jones said.

For his part, Peeler responded that he could be objective on the Apex request when he was asked if he could be by Nelson. Peeler pointed out that, while he's opposed to solar projects because he believes they don't really fit in a rural area, he did vote for one of the four projects that have come before the board during his tenure as a commissioner.

"I couldn't say no to it because the evidence said I had to say, 'yes,'" he said.

Following the vote, Peeler left his seat on the stage

at the historic Perquimans County Courthouse where the board was meeting and took a seat in the audience.

Leary Winslow, one of the group that is fighting the Apex project, was critical of Wednesday's decision.

"Commissioners have their mind made up," Winslow said. "I've been told this for the past 10 months but it was ever so prevalent last night. The disrespect and bias from the chair was completely unprofessional. It has become extremely obvious she has an immovable bias in favor of the Timbermill project. Commissioner Peeler actually did a great deal of research on the pros and cons of wind energy and formed an educated opinion. For that he was recused."

The county commission has scheduled two more hearings on the Apex project for Oct. 17-18.

The fact that Peeler can't vote on the project eliminates the chance there will be a tie vote.

With some elected bodies, there is an odd number of members and the chairman can vote to break a tie. The Perquimans board has six members, including the chairman. With Peeler recused, there are five that can vote.

The votes are rare, but there was one in February. The board was considering increasing the setback between wind turbines and homes to one half mile (2,640 feet). Peeler was among three commissioners that supported the larger setback but the other three opposed so the vote ended three-to-three. As a result, the motion died and setback wasn't increased.

Apex presents testimony on safety, appearance

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

The company applying for a local permit to build the Timbermill Wind Project presented evidence Monday on the safety and visual impact of the 48 wind turbines proposed for the Chowan County portion of the project.

Apex Clean Energy Inc., the Charlottesville, Va., company that has applied for conditional use permits with Chowan and Perquimans counties for a 300-megawatt wind energy generation facility in the Bear Swamp and Center Hill areas of the two counties, presented a number of witnesses at a hearing Monday night before the Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

Tracy Butler, an engineer responsible for project de-

sign for Apex, was accepted by the board as an expert in civil engineering.

Butler testified that the project would comply with the requirements of the county ordinance. He said the wind turbines were designed to withstand hurricane force winds and that in his professional opinion the project would not materially endanger public safety.

Once it's up and running the project will have a local staff of about a dozen people, mostly turbine technicians, and a site manager who will be on call 24 hours a day to ensure proper operation, Butler said.

In addition, the facility will send data to the remote operations control center, which is staffed 24 hours a day, Butler said.

Bill Bryan, an attorney representing opponents

of the project in Chowan County, pressed Butler on the turbines' ability to withstand hurricane force winds. Butler stood by the statement.

Bryan asked Butler what would be the maximum wind speed a turbine would be able to withstand. Butler said he didn't know but added the turbine manufacturer would have that information.

Asked about the collapse of turbines, Butler said a handful had collapsed out of tens of thousands that had been installed.

Butler testified that the turbines are grounded for protection from lightning strikes. The blades also are designed to stop rotating in extremely high wind - what is known as a "cut out speed," Butler said.

John Hecklau of the firm Environmental Design and

Research testified about the project's visual impact.

Under cross-examination by Bryan, Hecklau said the farthest away he had been able to document a clear open view of the turbines was three and a half miles.

Hecklau testified that in many instances the view of the turbines would be screened by trees or buildings in the foreground. He acknowledged under cross-examination that the degree of the visual screening could be diminished if the trees were cut down.

Hecklau defended the methodology used in the visual simulations under vigorous cross-examination.

Robert O'Neal, a certified consulting meteorologist, testified about ice drop, ice throw, blade drop and blade throw.

Testifying that the maximum distances based on

dimensions in the Apex plan had been calculated at 1,235 feet for ice throw and 905 feet for ice drop, and 225 feet for blade drop and 742 feet for blade throw, O'Neal said that even under worst case conditions the blade drop, blade throw, ice drop and ice throw should be less than the distances from the nearest occupied buildings.

For that reason, O'Neal said, ice throw, ice drop, blade throw and blade drop should not be considered to pose a threat to public safety in Chowan County.

Noting the focus on distances from occupied buildings, Bryan asked O'Neal if it wasn't possible that someone could be working in a field near a turbine and be endangered by ice throw or blade throw because of proximity to the turbine.

O'Neal acknowledged that was "theoretically possible" but said an occupied structure is where you are most likely to find people.

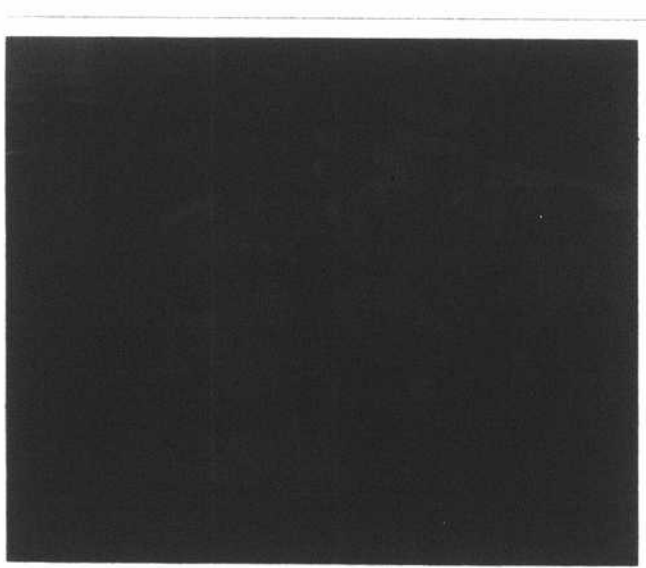
David Phillips, Apex's director of environmental permitting, said the project does not at this time require an Environmental Assessment as defined in the county ordinance. But he said numerous other environmental approvals would be required, including requirements under the Clean Water Act and review by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Phillips said the company is working especially to minimize the project's impact on birds and bats. He said he met most recently with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission on Sept. 7.

ATTENTION
Arrowhead Beach Homeowner's Association
Are you tired of paying **HIGH ASSOCIATION DUES!!**
All property owners at Arrowhead Beach are welcome to respond.
252-370-3429 or edentonyachtservice@yahoo.com

Introducing **Paradise Pet Resort**: A luxury boarding experience
Visit our website or come by for a tour of our new state-of-the-art facility
Paradise PET RESORT
premier pet boarding for dogs
paradisepetresortnc.com
Call now for reservations 252.482.4113

CHOWAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Edenton, N.C.
RUSTON HOWELL DVM KELLEY DURUMAN DVM CHRISTIAN FORD DVM
Small Animal Medicine & Surgery
BOARDING AVAILABLE
Appointment Preferred
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00 - 5:30 • Sat, 8:00 - 12:00 noon
1515 PARADISE ROAD, EDENTON
www.chowananimalhospital.com • 252-482-4113



FILE PHOTO

The Elizabeth City State University Planetarium will host a series of Halloween shows on Monday, Oct. 31 from 4-6:45 p.m.

JOIN THE MANTEO ROTARY ON OCT 8
18TH ANNUAL MANTEO ROTARY **INSIDE SLAM**
CASH PRIZES, TROPHIES, MUSIC, FOOD & SILENT AUCTION
Under the tent at the Maritime Museum in Downtown Manteo!
REGISTRATION BEGINS OCT 7th AT 4PM
WWW.ROCKFISHRODEO.COM
FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION
Or call Bobby Harrell, 252-441-7867, or Skip Morgan, 252-216-6800

Halloween show slated for Oct. 31 at Planetarium

From staff reports
Khan Planetarium at Elizabeth City State University will celebrate Halloween on Monday, Oct. 31 from 4-6:45 p.m.
The Planetarium will present Moon Witch (star show), a Halloween Laser Light Show, The Halloween Show (star show) and October Night Skies.
All shows are free and by reservation only. For specific show times and to make reservations, call (252) 335-3SKY.

BANKRUPTCY
STOP Foreclosure
STOP Lawsuits
STOP Car Repossession
STOP Tax Levies and Garnishments
Call Allen C. Brown Attorney
#252-752-0753
A Debt Relief Agency helping people eliminate debt through bankruptcy

CHOWAN HERALD
(USPS 106-380) Vol. 81, No. 38
Published Every Wednesday
Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC
Entered as a second-class matter August 30, 1934 at the Post Office of Edenton, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Daily Advance home delivery area \$27*
(Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, parts of Gates)
Elsewhere in continental United States \$46
*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions.
Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The Chowan Herald • P.O. Box 207 • Edenton, NC
Telephone: (252) 482-2623 Fax: (252) 482-4410
rponder@ncweeklies.com