

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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50 cents

"News from Next Door"

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Life on the farm – wind farm, that is

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

This past harvest season, Illinois farmer Frank Legner III combined his soybeans in the fields as wind turbines churned out energy around him.

The Livingston County farmer raises 2,400 acres of corn and soybeans on his family farm, much of which is surrounded by the 300 megawatt Streator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm (Cayuga Ridge). Cayuga Ridge, which has 150 wind turbines, is the largest wind project developed by Iberdrola Renewables (IR) as of May 2010. It is the same size as the wind project proposed by IR for the desert area straddling Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

Like the crops that grow on his land, Legner took his time before leasing his Illinois land to IR during the Cayuga Ridge wind farm siting process.

"We went to Iowa to see one (wind project)," he said during a telephone interview. "We actually parked in the yards of farmers and talked with them to find out how it worked for them, and what they would do differently. We researched it thoroughly before we signed. We were one of the last ones to sign here. Once you sign, you are in it for the long haul."

Legner said farming operations continued with



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEGNER FARMS

Legner Farms in Livingston County, Ill., produces soybeans and corn in farming operations surrounded by wind turbines.

little changes made based on land leases since the wind farm went into operation just over a year ago.

"We are able to do our day to day farming operations," he said. "We have made a few minor changes here and there, but we evolve with it."

His advice to local farmers whose land will be used for the local wind project?

"As with any walk of life, use due diligence," he said. "Go see one. Become educated on it as much as possible. Figure out how it will fit in with your long-term operations."

Legner has created a website for Legner Farms and several photos on the site show farming operations with the large wind turbines in the background.

Cayuga Ridge was the largest wind farm oper-

ating in Illinois when it reached commercial operation last March. The Tennessee Valley Authority, the nation's largest public power provider, buys power from the Cayuga Ridge wind farm project under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

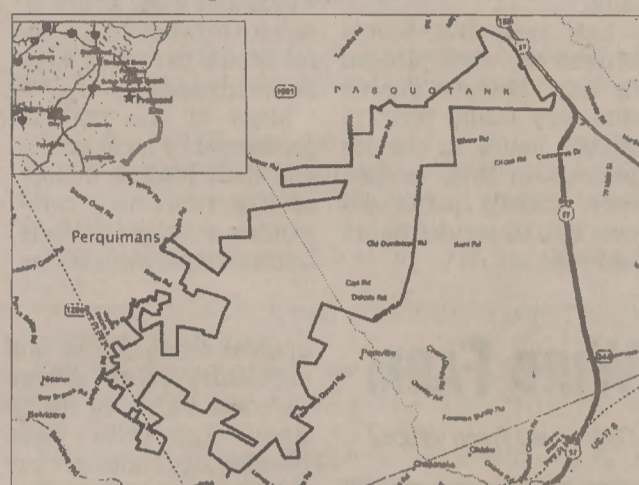
Local wind project

The North Carolina Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing in Elizabeth City next week on the Desert Wind Project (DWP), a proposed 300 megawatt wind farm that includes 150 wind turbines. The public hearing will be held March 10, in the Pasquotank County Courthouse Courtroom B beginning at 7 p.m.

According to the application filed with the state utilities commission,

Atlantic Wind LLC (owned by IR) plans to build the project on 20,000 acres in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties and will consist of meteorological towers, conductors, switches, substations, a maintenance building, and up to 150 wind turbines generating 750-950,000 megawatt hours per year. The operation will connect to an existing 230 kilovolt transmission line owned by Dominion North Carolina Power. The project area is bound by U.S. Highway 158 to the north, U.S. Highway 17 to the south and east, and County Road 1002 to the west. After construction, only 1-2 percent of the project area will be used. The rest of the land will continue to be farmed or used for forestry purposes.

The turbines' height at the highest blade tip posi-



GRAPHIC COURTESY APPLICATION FILED WITH STATE UTILITIES COMMISSION

The bold boundary lines indicate the outline of the proposed Desert Wind Project planned for Perquimans and Pasquotank counties, according to a map included in Atlantic Wind LLC's filings with the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

tion would be a maximum of 575 feet.

Both Perquimans and Pasquotank counties have approved ordinances regulating wind turbines including setback, sound and shadow flicker requirements.

Construction is expected to begin in 2012 and be in service by January 2013. According to the application paperwork, the wind farm will be operated by 15-20 full time workers consisting of a plant manager and technicians overseeing maintenance done on the turbines. A control center in Portland, Ore., home of IR, will continually monitor and control the local facility and will provide remote operation and control of the turbines as well as collecting data from them 24

hours a day.

The energy output is estimated to be enough to power 55-70,000 homes.

According to the application, the local wind project is needed to help electric power suppliers in the state meet the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) requirements. Under the law, investor-owned utilities in the state are required to meet up to 12.5 percent of their energy needs through renewable energy resources or energy efficiency measures by 2021. Rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric suppliers must meet a 10 percent REPS requirement by 2018.

IR is in discussions with

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Wagon Train on entertainment trail

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Excitement is mounting for the Friends to Freedom Wagon Train slated to ride through Perquimans County in two weeks.

Plans call for nightly entertainment in two popular spots to help welcome the horse and wagon riders expected to come to the county from various parts of the state. The fun begins March 17-20.

Riders will begin arriving March 17 at the Newbold-White House (NWH) campsite in preparation for the actual ride that begins the next day.

Sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association (PCRA), the three-day equestrian wagon trail is expected to draw hundreds to the event that will commemorate the great migration of Quakers from Perquimans County and other areas of



FILE PHOTO

The Friends to Freedom Wagon Train will ride through Perquimans County March 17-20.

the South during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The commemorative event is not an accurate reenactment but will include people in a variety of costumes and horse-drawn buggies and wagons as well as horseback riders in modern dress.

In addition to the NWH

campsite, a second campsite will be held in Belvidere. Riders will travel from NWH to Belvidere on March 18 where they will camp overnight and enjoy the hospitality of Belvidere folks. Beginning at 3 p.m. in Belvidere that Friday, the public may enjoy food, kid games, hay rides, craft

vendors, and live music at the areas of Layden's Store and the community building.

The Belvidere Volunteer Fire Department will offer hamburger steak plates for \$8.

Tickets are available from Belvidere firefighters or at the NWH.

Entertainment in Belvidere will include a camp fire and a country music show featuring Barbara Jean and Company (Tanya Saunders and Lacey Jean).

The Saturday ride (March 19) will take riders from Belvidere over the historic S-bridge and back to the NWH for camping.

Saturday evening's entertainment line-up at NWH includes parading through downtown Hertford at 3 p.m., then enjoying food and fun back at the campsite.

See TRAIL, 3

Snug Harbor man hit by car

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

An 18-year-old Snug Harbor man was injured Feb. 23 when he was struck by a car while walking on Snug Harbor Road.

Trooper J.F. Langley Jr., with the North Carolina Highway Patrol, said Anthony Shawn Cohen was walking on Snug Harbor Road just southeast of Dogwood Drive around 7:22 p.m. when Cohen apparently tried to get out of the path of one vehicle and accidentally stepped in front of another vehicle traveling in the opposite direction.

Cohen was struck by a 1998 Chevrolet driven by 24-year-old Scott Decker, also of Snug Harbor, police said.

Cohen was taken by Perquimans EMS to Chowan Hospital where he was treated for a broken leg and other injuries and later released.

Neither alcohol nor speed played a part in the accident, Trooper Langley said.

No charges were filed.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH: 60 LOW: 47
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY

HIGH: 67 LOW: 55
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY

HIGH: 73 LOW: 39
SCATTERED T-STORMS

Educators, band to raise funds for Bell family

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A group of educators and friends from around the state will come together Saturday night to entertain and help raise money to benefit the family of Lesley Alligood Bell, a Hertford Grammar School teacher who died in January.

The Fun'Raisers will play music and entertain at Perquimans County High School March 5 from 6-9 p.m. as a tribute to the former nationally board certified teacher, teacher of the year, and instructional specialist. Funds

raised will assist the family which includes her husband, James, and two young daughters.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$10 each.

"We have just been together since December and formed this group specifically for the Lesley Bell Tribute Concert and Fundraiser," explained Dave Edwards, band member. "The band consists of musicians who have a total of 50 years of combined experience in live performance. Four of the members are current educators, three of whom work for the North Caro-



lina Virtual Public School and the Exceptional Children Director from Dare County Public Schools. We wanted to use our God-given talents to help the Bell family raise money to offset the enormous medical bills incurred during Lesley's sickness. We believe that music is also a way to bring people together in a positive setting."

Edwards said the band's name is a play on the word fundraisers.

"We took out the 'd' so that people would see that we want to have 'fun' while raising money for a great cause," he added.

Bell died Jan. 21 after being diagnosed with cancer just a few months ago. She taught fifth grade and had 25 students this year, said Perquimans County Schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter. She had taught in the school system for over 12 years.

She was a former Teacher of the Year, and received her National Board certification.

In fact, school officials

say Bell had been promoted to instructional specialist when she developed health problems.

As usual, Bell began her school year enthusiastically and was attending a work session last fall when she began to feel badly.

She left school and drove to the hospital. That was her last day at school.

Bell suffered several health issues and was eventually diagnosed with cancer in the fall.

She was team captain for the HGS Relay for Life team and had worked tirelessly to help raise thou-

See CONCERT, 2

