

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

APRIL 27, 2011 - MAY 3, 2011

50 cents



Perquimans High AD Horwat to be honored with NCHSAA award, Page 7

Schools seeking \$2.6M in local funds

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Schools plan to ask county commissioners for \$2.6 million in local funds for the 2011-2012 school year.

That amount is about 12 percent more than last

year and reflects increases for fuel, hospitalization, and retirement costs.

In addition, the schools will seek \$218,204 in capital outlay funds to pay for school projects, the same amount funded last year.

The regular instruction budget shows an increase

of \$150,000 for two teacher positions as well as two teacher assistants. Other teacher and teacher assistant positions in the school system are funded through state, federal, and grant funds.

The proposed budget reflects nearly \$40,000 more

next year for diesel fuel, just over \$19,000 more for plant maintenance, an increase of \$7,500 in plant operations, nearly \$5,000 more for athletics, a \$4,500 increase for the schools' community relations budget, and nearly \$4,000 more for executive administra-

tion (increase in cost of office supplies and employee benefits).

Budget items seeing a decrease from last year include office of the principals (\$2,700 less), and vocational programs (\$1,000 less).

The proposed budget

will be presented to county commissioners for consideration on May 9.

The local expense budget was approved contingent upon current information that workman's compensation, tort liability, etc.

See SCHOOLS, 4



SUBMITTED GRAPHICS

An artist's rendering of the field house for the proposed new athletic complex at Perquimans County High School.

Leaders see plans for athletic complex

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A detailed design for the high school's proposed outdoor athletic complex was presented to county leaders recently. Now, they just have to find the money to build it.

James Overton, Sr., with Albemarle and Associates, Ltd., showed both county commissioners and county board of education members a detailed design that includes separate football and soccer fields, an 8-lane track, 1,500 seat bleachers, six tennis courts, field house, concessions, ticket booth, parking, storage, restrooms, and two practice fields for both football and soccer. The proposed athletic complex would be built on 33 acres located across the street from Perquimans County High School.

"This design is a reflection of what the community is looking for," said Overton in presenting the design concept.

Designers are expected to develop cost estimates for the proposed project next month. The project is expected to be built largely from donations and future fundraisers.

"We need to start those fund-raising efforts," said Amy Spough, chairman of the Perquimans Board of Education (BOE).

A fund-raising committee for the high school athletic complex has been formed. BOE members Susan Cox and Arlene Yates will serve on the



committee as well as representatives of county commissioners, community organizations, and local businesses.

"We already have \$750 for the project," added Cox, referring to the mon-

ey raised recently during a track meet sponsored by PCHS track stand-out Laroya Banks as part of her senior project. "This is a great design. It's community friendly as well."

The proposed concept

offers separate entrances and parking for football and soccer, as well as a bus parking lot located near the field house. A larger concession stand and larger bathrooms would be located at the

An artist's rendering from an aerial view of the proposed new athletic complex at Perquimans County High .

football entrance with a smaller concession stand and smaller bathrooms located at the soccer entrance.

The field house would provide separate locker rooms for men and women with showers, a training room, team rooms, storage, and offices for coaches. The press box would provide storage space underneath and offer even more restrooms.

Including the current parking spaces located at the high school, the proposed athletic complex would bring the number of parking spaces available for high school events to 400. Overton pointed out that the number of high school students having to cross the road to use the athletic facility during the day would not be significant.

"I've been told that the facility won't be used during the school day for physical education, except tennis," he said. "When used after school hours, the kids will drive over to the facility."

County commissioners provided \$35,000 to the BOE earlier this year to begin the design process on the project after BOE members agreed to a five-year option on the property across from the high school. The 33 acres is owned by Dr. William Nixon of Wilmington, a PCHS graduate.

Grants for wind project approved

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners approved economic development incentives Monday night to help locate the state's first commercial-scale wind farm partially in Perquimans County.

Following a public hearing during which no opposition to the project was voiced, commissioners unanimously approved the annual cash grants needed for Atlantic Wind LLC (AW) to invest \$240 million in the county's portion of the Desert Wind Project. The wind farm is projected to build 150 wind turbines in Perquimans County on 20,000 acres straddling the Perquimans/Pasquotank border in a rural farm area commonly known as the Desert.

"I fully support the project," said Horace Pritchard who owns land in both counties that will be leased for the project. "I was one of the first to sign up. I don't know of any other project out there that will ask for any less services from the county. The company (AW) says they will fix the roads and drainage out there. They have been working hard on the project for the last several weeks. I have nothing but good to say. I can only call this project a windfall for all of us."

The incentive package calls for the county to pay a percentage of the company's real estate and personal property taxes back to the company up to 30 years respectively

See GRANTS, 4

Schools save on utilities

From staff reports

Jonathan Nixon loves to deliver good news.

Nixon, director of maintenance, construction and custodial services for the Perquimans County Schools, did just that recently when he notified Perquimans Board of Education members

that the school system has saved over \$81,000 in utility costs during the first three quarters of the 2010-2011 school year.

Nixon says the school system saved \$41,290 in electricity costs, \$33,508 in the cost of natural gas, and almost \$6,500 in water savings during the school year's first three quar-

ters. Conservation efforts and implementing load management equipment at the high school helped, he said.

The school system has used nearly 148,000 kilowatts less this school year than during the first three quarters of the school year last year.

Railroads get upgrade funds

From staff reports

The N.C. Board of Transportation has awarded more than \$1.9 million in state funds to nine small freight railroads through the Short Line Infrastructure Assistance Program (SIAP) including the railroad that runs through Perquimans County. The

grants will be used to help finance track/bridge rehabilitation and construction projects.

The investments are part of a statewide effort to upgrade transportation infrastructure required to retain and attract industry and reduce truck traffic/maintenance on state highways.

See RAILROADS, 4

Hertford police chief, sergeant face assault charges

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

The Hertford police chief and a police sergeant are facing misdemeanor

assault charges for allegedly striking a man with a firefighter helmet during a May 2010 altercation.

Police Chief Joe Amos and Sgt. Shawn Swindell were charged April 20 with assault inflicting serious injury for an incident that required Kenneth Castro Ferebee, 50, to receive medical treatment that in-

cluded seven staples to his head, warrants state.

The warrants were filed last week in Perquimans County District Court at the request of the State Bureau of Investigation and after District Attorney Frank Parrish reviewed the SBI's report of the incident.

Parrish said he decided

to file the charges about two weeks ago after asking the SBI last summer to conduct a probe. He declined further comment on the charges.

Amos and Swindell, both 36, face court dates of July 6. Both were placed on administrative duty in the police department, said Hertford Town Manager

John Christensen.

Generally, the term "administrative duty" means a law enforcement officer is removed from patrolling streets and other policing tasks and instead is assigned to a desk job.

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley said Amos remains administrator of the Hertford Police Department.

Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley said he found out about the charges Wednesday morning because the magistrate's office is down the hall from his office.

Tilley said after a pair of SBI agents took out the paperwork, "I kind of knew what was happening."

See CHARGES, 4

