

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

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Perquimans students have fun at recent Special Olympics, 5A

## Utilities commission OK's wind project

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

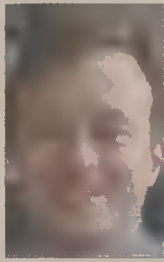
The North Carolina Utilities Commission has approved Atlantic Wind's (AW) application to build a commercial-scale wind farm in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

In an order signed Tuesday morning, the state utilities commission granted the company a certificate

of public convenience and necessity, with conditions, for the construction of a 300-MW wind facility consisting of up to 150 wind turbines in the area commonly known as the Desert. In addition, the commission accepted the company's registration as a new renewable energy facility.

The certificate is conditioned upon the company

not attempting to exercise any power of eminent domain to construct the facility and the constructing and operating the project in strict accordance to applicable laws and regulations in-



Darden

cluding any environmental permitting requirements.

According to the order issued Tuesday morning, AW also filed an application with the state utilities commission seeking a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct an interconnection line of less than one mile in length to interconnect the proposed

facility with the existing VEPCO transmission system. That application will be considered separately from the one that received approval Tuesday.

County Manager Bobby Darden said AW filed an application with the county April 27 seeking a conditional use permit to build up to 68 wind turbines in Perquimans County as well as all supporting com-

ponents like access roads, substations, collector lines, meteorological tower, and operations/maintenance facility.

"It (application) shows the proposed locations for all of these facilities and includes supporting studies required by the county's ordinance," Darden noted. "The approval from

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## WANT FRIES WITH THAT RATTLER?



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Members of the Australian Cycle team watch Perquimans County resident Skip Matthews filet a rattlesnake that Matthews found at his home. Matthews is seen holding the snake (below) soon after killing it with a boat paddle.



## Fried rattlesnake for dinner

Perquimans resident finds 5-foot snake on his property

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Fried rattlesnake with a side of fries, please.

That may have been Skip Matthews's request last week after discovering a nearly five-foot-long rattler on his wife's property out in the county. Matthews killed the rattlesnake with his trusty boat paddle, then cut off the head with a pocketknife, and deep fried it for dinner. Matthews said he has always wanted to taste rattlesnake, so he brought the dead snake to his Hertford home and filleted the snake on the fish table located behind his waterfront house.

Watching Matthews were members of the Australian Cycle Team who competed in the World Cycling Championships last week. Team members rented a Front Street home during their time in North Carolina.

"They were amazed," grinned Matthews. "It is lean white meat. It was good ... a little like chicken with a slight seafood flavor. Eating rattlesnake is something I've always wanted to try, so I can cross that one off my bucket list!"

His wife, Kay, who watched the proceedings from a safe distance, did not try the rattlesnake entree, but opted for leftover pork loin instead.

"You just never know what each day might bring!," she added. "Skip will eat snake again given the opportunity — I just hope the opportunity doesn't avail itself!"

## Fire ruins New Hope home, car

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department has asked the Pasquotank Fire Marshall to look into the cause of a fire that destroyed a New Hope home early Monday morning.

No one was home when the one and a half-story A-frame chalet, located at 123 Long Beach Drive, was destroyed by fire.

"Fire was coming out of the roof when we arrived on the scene," said Durants Neck Fire Chief Jimmy Spivey. "It was fully involved."

A vehicle parked next to the house burned as well.

Spivey said the fire was called in by neighbors who were awakened by the sound of gun shells exploding inside the burning home. Neighbors called in the fire at 12:27 p.m. and firefighters first arrived on the scene just 9 minutes later.

Within one hour, forty firefighters from four departments brought the fire under control and protected the surrounding houses in the Long Beach Estates subdivision. Spivey said firefighters remained on

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STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

A one-story A-frame house located at 123 Long Beach Drive in New Hope burned early Monday morning despite the efforts of four fire departments. A vehicle located next to the house burned as well.

## Services to honor Day of Prayer

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Local residents will observe National Day of Prayer Thursday during two special programs.

The Ministers' Council for Education in Perquimans County will sponsor a prayerful program at noon on the historic county courthouse green. A host of local ministers and leaders will participate in the program. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be continued inside the courthouse.

That evening, the Holiday Island Property Own-



ers Association will observe the special day with a program at the clubhouse beginning at 7 p.m.

Various community representatives, ministers, and church leaders will participate in the program designed to offer prayers for varying needs in the community, state, and nation. This marks the third year HIPOA has sponsored the event.

Highlighting the program will be Representative Annie Mobley. Other elected officials expected to participate include Todd Tilley-clerk of court, Eric

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## Kairos takes ministry to prison

By KRISTIN PITTS  
AND CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writers

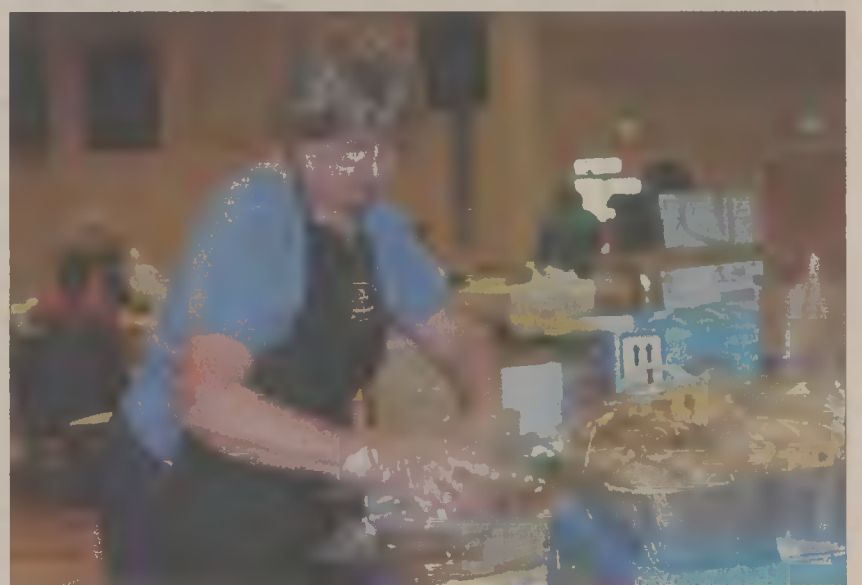
Local church members go inside prison walls twice a year to help inmates find freedom.

Freedom in and through God's love, that is.

The 60 people who filled Evangelical Methodist Church last week were members of the Albemarle Kairos Community, a Christian organization that draws volunteers from 16 churches in the surrounding counties-including Perquimans-that ministers to incarcerated individuals.

Their arrival at Pasquotank Correctional Institute would mark the beginning of their annual 3.5 day spring outreach that begins with a short course in Christianity and continues with prayer and share groups among the residents. The group also organizes a winter outreach event each year.

These events serve as a chance for the organization to minister to incarcerated individuals, as well as



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Judy Atwell of Oak Grove United Methodist in Perquimans County helps pack almost 2,000 dozen cookies distributed during Kairos weekend at Pasquotank Correctional Center.

let them know that they have people who care about them.

Perquimans County native Jeff Haskett has gone on the outreach weekends several times. Last

Thursday, he was enthusiastic on the morning of the retreat. With a smile, he now admits that when he

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