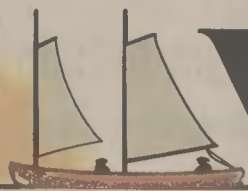


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



PCHS BASKETBALL COACH RESIGNS, 2



Puttin' on the ritz: Area dancers perform at recital, 4

LIVED

MAY 25 50 cents

"News from Next Door"

MAY 25, 2011 - MAY 31, 2011

Planners OK permit for wind farm

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The county planning board has recommended approval of a conditional use permit to allow a commercial-sized wind farm in Perquimans County.

Last week, planners

unanimously agreed to recommend that county commissioners approve the CUP application submitted by Atlantic Wind, LLC during a special called commissioners meeting June 8.

The planning board's recommendation for ap-

proval is contingent on conditions that the wind turbines noted on the company's current plans, can't be located closer to property boundary lines of residents who have not leased land for the project. Any turbine location changes must be brought

back before the planning board for review.

"The planning board members felt sensitive to the local residents who wanted additional setback requirements," said Donna Godfrey, county planning director. "Board members felt that the con-

ditions met the landowners' request half way. The conditions don't allow the turbines to get any closer."

Planning board member Brenda Lassiter, a landowner whose property is included in the land leased for the wind project in the

Desert area, recused herself from the vote, Godfrey said.

The first publically-heard opposition to the local wind farm project was voiced two weeks ago when planning board

See WIND FARM, 8

Local crabber drowns

From staff reports

A commercial fisherman is believed to have drowned after apparently falling overboard into the Little River near the Pasquotank-Perquimans county border on Monday.

The body of Joseph Franklin Richardson, 55, of Tyner was found a short distance from his boat by other commercial fishermen who became alarmed when Richardson's vessel was spotted circling with no one aboard, said Lt. Norman Watts of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The boat was found about a half-mile west of Symonds Creek, two miles from the mouth of the Little River off the Albemarle Sound. Richardson's body was found in that vicinity but nearer to the Pasquotank side of the waterway, Watts said.

Richardson reportedly was not wearing a personal flotation device, he said.

A commercial fisherman reported spotting Richardson crabbing alone at the site about 11:30 a.m., but did not see Richardson when he returned a short time later.

Instead, he saw Richardson's boat circling slowly with no one onboard, Watts said. Other fishermen at the popular crabbing site joined in the search and reportedly found Richardson floating in the water about noon before rescue personnel arrived, Watts said.

"This is obviously a time when the crabbing season is starting up, and we have a lot of commercial fishermen out at this time," said Watts.

Wildlife officials are investigating, but there does not appear to be anything suspicious about the incident, Watts said. For now, the incident has been classified as a "falling overboard" accident, he said.

Once N.C. Wildlife arrived on the scene, the body was delivered to a private boat ramp off Puddin Ridge Road in Perquimans County for transport by Perquimans Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Responding to the incident were representatives from N.C. Wildlife, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Marine Patrol and the Perquimans County EMS, Watts said.

The Coast Guard reported the incident was already being handled by local law enforcement by the time its crew arrived.

Wildlife officer John Beardsley is the investigating officer.

STROLLING DOWNTOWN HERTFORD



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

A large crowd turned out for fun and fellowship during the Friday Night Stroll on the historic courthouse square.

300 attend first Friday night event



Ladies from Holiday Island sell crafts during the Friday Night Stroll on the courthouse square.

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Downtown Hertford was busy Friday night.

About 300 people turned out for the first Friday Night Stroll focusing on the town's business district. Folks sampled food, crafts and information offered by vendors, shopped in various stores that stayed open late, and listened to a variety of local musical talent.

"It definitely exceeded my expectations," grinned Susan Cox, president of the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce which sponsored the event.

Jennifer Bunch, with the Perquimans County High School Band Boosters, said her group was pleased at the response.

See FRIDAY NIGHT, 8

Market opens today

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Market at Missing Mill opens today offering a variety of vendors from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Missing Mill Park.

Easy-listening music and a free cup of freshly-brewed coffee will start off your marketing experience as you browse such items as fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh Angus beef, eggs, seafood, organic donuts, hand tools/wooden tools, bird houses, benches,

and much more.

"We think we have thought of everything to make your market day enjoyable," pointed out Harmon. "We even have a place to 'park' your dog while you shop, complete with water bowls and treats!"

Among the new features this year, representatives from the Veterans Administration will be on hand at the market to help local veterans fill out paperwork and establish files as a public service to the veteran community.

The market will also feature special products on the third Wednesday of each month. For example, June is recognized as

Banks sets 100 record in final race

Breaks school record with 4th state title

By CHIC RIEBEL
The Daily Advance

Leroya Banks put an exclamation mark on the greatest high school track career in local history when she set a 1A state meet record in the 100-meter dash en route to capturing her fourth state title Friday at North Carolina A&T.

Banks, a senior at Perquimans, won the race in 12.10 seconds, erasing the previous mark of 12.12 set by Evette Brown of South Stokes in 2002.

Banks, who won the 200 as a sophomore and the 100 and 200 as a junior, is the first area athlete ever to win four state championships in track. Shaqwita Copeland, a 2006 graduate of Perquimans, had won three.



"I'm really happy about winning and getting the school record (for state titles), but I'm kinda sad, too, because it was my last race in high school," Banks said.

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
PHOTO BY BRUCE CHAPMAN

Leroya Banks of Perquimans bears down as she crosses the finish line to win the state 1A title in the 100 meters, Friday. Banks set a meet record with a time of 12.10 seconds as she won her fourth state crown.

"I was a little nervous before the race because I knew I had to win this one. I was just focused on trying to win."

Concerned about a possible false start, Banks did not react instantaneously to the starter's gun.

"But just a few yards into it, you could see she was going to win," Perquimans girls track coach Don-te Sutton said. "She just pulled away at the end."

"It was a great performance for her last state meet."

See BANKS, 8



See MARKET, 8