

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

JUN 19 REC'D



Retirees have 138 years combined service - 4

"News from Next Door"

JUNE 19, 2013 - JUNE 25, 2013

50 cents

SOLAR PROJECT MAY BE MOVING FORWARD

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Plans for a large solar farm in southern Perquimans County are still on track according to a company spokesman.

Last month Shelley Layden of Solar Green De-

velopment LLC wrote a letter to the Perquimans County Commission with an update on the plans. The county granted a conditional use permit in September 2011 to develop up to 20 megawatts of solar generating capacity on a 100-acre site off U.S. 17. That's enough power to

serve between 2,600 and 2,800 homes and it would be the first large-scale renewable energy project in the region.

What's holding it back is the price a buyer is willing to pay.

Layden said the company has an agreement with Do-

minion Power. But between the time the deal was started and now, the price of power was reduced by 30 percent.

Dan Conrad, a spokesman for the N.C. Utilities Commission said the next step will be for Solar Green to publish legal notices once a week for four weeks. If no-

body objects, the commission will grant Solar Green's request. If there is an objection, the commission will consider it.

The solar plant, while industrial in size, is small compared to the footprint of the wind power project proposed for the other side

of Perquimans County and Pasquotank County. Desert Wind as proposed would cover 20,000 acres and cost about \$600 million. It would produce about 300 megawatts.

Layden said not all of the

See PROJECT, 6

Budget shortfall may hurt schools

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The extra school security officer hired to finish out the 2012-13 school year may not return in the August when classes resume.

The fate of some other personnel also is a question mark.

The schools hired the officer and used reserve funds to pay for the position in the last school year. But there may not be enough money left in reserves to do that again for the 2013-14 school year.

That leaves one Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy based at Perquimans County High School but covering all four of the schools, including the two on the other side of the river.

When the extra officer was in place, he serviced both Perquimans Central School and Perquimans County Middle School.

Perquimans Superintendent Dwayne Stallings said he simply doesn't know at this point where the school system will go. That largely depends on decisions made by the General Assembly and the Perquimans County School Board.

The \$726,000 in capital funds the schools had requested from the county this year included \$243,000 to replace a like amount that the school system had to draw out of the reserve fund this past school year. One of the items it paid for was the resource officer. The county budget provides \$215,000 in

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A PLACE OF HONOR

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PHOTO COURTESY JULIA STAPLETON

An honor guard approaches the flag pole at a new flag circle at Albemarle Plantation on Friday. See story on page 2.

No tax increase proposed for town

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Town of Hertford is proposing no property tax increase and small hikes in the base charge for water and sewer customers in 2013-14.

The budget hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at town hall.

Town Manager Brandon Shoaf is recommending the town keep the property tax rate at 35 cents per \$100 in value. The monthly charge for water customers will increase by \$1.45 from the current \$21.05 and sewer customers will pay \$1.75 on top of the current charge of \$28.25.

"We tried to hold the line as much as possible," Shoaf said last week.

The general fund budget is projected to be \$1.5 million. Of that, \$644,203 goes to the police department and \$314,945 goes to the street department. The water/sewer fund is a separate \$1.2 million operation and the electric department budget totals \$3.1 million. The utilities are operated separately from the general fund and designed to stand on their own. There are no increases projected for the sanitation department.

Electric customers won't see an increase, but town residents should expect to see an increase in 2014-15.

"But increases in the wholesale rate are projected for the years following," Shoaf said.

City workers will not see a cost of living raise this

See INCREASE, 6

Students get technology on loan

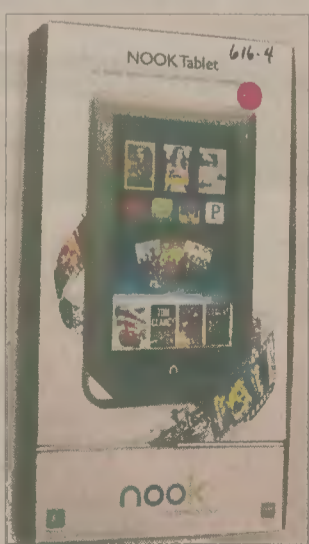
BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than \$17,000 in technology and 3,600 books walked away from the media center at Perquimans Central School one day last month and school officials say that's fine with them.

In fact they encouraged it.

The school system is adopting a program this year that allows students to take home Nooks for the summer.

They not only get the computers, they come packed with books for the children to read over their



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

The box of a Nook is shown here.

\$10 insurance fee.

In exchange their child got the use of a reader valued at \$200 that came preloaded with 42 books. Most of the books are valued at between \$1 and \$4 but some are much more. So the library contained inside each device could cost a parent more than \$150 if they bought the books themselves.

The money to buy the Nooks and book came from a mix of federal Title I funds, Race To The Top money and other money set aside for technology.

As students read the first batch of books, they'll be

See NOOK, 6

N.C. State's return to CWS rekindles memories

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

For 45 years, Freddie and Francis Combs could say they were part of the only N.C. State University baseball team to make it to the College World Series.

They can't say that anymore, and they're fine with that.

The 2013 squad did something that hasn't been done since the Combs brothers from Perquimans County helped their team do it in 1968.

They earned a spot in the 2013 World Series. The Wolfpack beat UNC-Chapel Hill on Sunday and advanced to a game Tuesday night against UCLA.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Freddie Combs speaks to Perquimans High student-athletes during an assembly in Hertford in 2005.

Francis flew out to Omaha, Neb. with the team last Wednesday. His brother took a commercial flight on Saturday.

The Combs brothers were members of the Perquimans County High

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