

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Don't forget to turn you clocks back 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night.

"News from Next Door"

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Interest grows as election draws closer

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A sign outside the Perquimans County Board of Elections office shows support for a mixed drink referendum.



BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

As the municipal elections draws closer, interest is picking up in Perquimans County.

A candidate forum was held Tuesday at First Baptist Church in Hertford. The event was organized too late to appear in time to get

the information in The Perquimans Week in advance.

Each candidate was asked questions pertaining to leadership and how the future of the town should be managed. Topics included attracting jobs, lowering utility costs,

reducing crime and the education of youth.

Also this week a group called Citizens For Economic Progress ramped up a campaign to get out the vote in favor of a mixed drink referendum in Hertford. Volunteers were out Monday putting on door signs across the town.

How it translates at the polls is unknown. As of noon Monday, 75 people had voted in the four-person Hertford race for two town council seats. Only one person had voted in the Winfall election, which has two people running for three seats.

A week before just 30

See ELECTIONS, 4

Student writes her own play

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A handful of students can say they played the starring role in their high school play.

Hannah Lane can say she wrote hers.

Lane, 17, wrote and will star in the upcoming Perquimans County High School production of "Constancio: Danger of the West." That makes her a first for a PCHS student according to Lynwood Winslow. He's been teaching there for 28 years and teaching drama for 24 years.

"I've had students who talked about doing it," Winslow said.

They didn't follow through.

The segments students have produced in the past can be compared to somebody telling a single joke. They were just an isolated part of a much larger performance. "Constancio" is a seamless performance that runs about two hours.

"This is the first time for a full-length play," Winslow said. "This has a plot and a couple of story lines."

Lane actually did it over the summer.

She admits it wasn't easy. She drew her inspiration from the "spaghetti westerns." It's a sub-genre of films starting the 1960s that involves a good guy coming into town and defeating the bad guys. The genre got its name because Europeans, not Americans, produced the films.

Lane says she gets easily distracted and writing the play on a computer made the lure of pausing and getting on the Internet hard.

See STUDENT PLAY, 8



Kaitlyn Whitehead and Corey Eaddy wait in the jail during rehearsal for the play "Constancio: Danger of the West" at Perquimans County High School. Hannah Lane (below, left) consoles Kelly Hoeltzel during rehearsal.



Hannah Lane (left) participates in a sword fight with other cast members during rehearsal.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Finch finds new role

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Johnnie Finch Jr. earned a college degree in criminal justice in 2003 in order to get a job.

It turns out he wanted a whole lot more.

So in 2009 he went to law school and last week he was sworn in as an attorney in the Perquimans County Courthouse.

Finch, 32, is a native of Elizabeth City who spent his entire public school career in Perquimans County schools.

His mother — Thelma Finch — was a kindergarten teacher in Perquimans for more than 30 years. From the start, she drove her son to school until he became old enough to drive himself.

After graduating from Perquimans County High School in 1999, he enrolled at Elizabeth City State University.

"When I first went to college, I thought criminal justice was a field where I could find a job quite honestly."

Get a job he did. He landed a position at the juvenile detention center in Winfall. Still he wanted more and went back to ECSU and in 2007 earned a degree in sociology.

"I was blessed to work at the detention center in Win-

See FINCH, 4

Va. company proposes turbines on Perquimans/Chowan line

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

A Charlottesville, Va.-based renewable energy company has proposed an amendment to the Chowan County Wind Energy Ordinance that would more than double the permissible height for wind turbines in the county — paving the way for construction of a major utility-scale wind energy facility.

The heart of the proposed amendment is an increase in the maximum

height allowed for wind turbines in the county from 250 feet in the current ordinance to 600 feet.

The text amendment proposed by Apex Clean Energy Inc. is slated for consideration by the Chowan County Planning Board at the board's Nov. 19 meeting.

Dahvi Wilson, a spokeswoman for Apex Clean Energy, said few details are available right now since the company has only recently begun to assess the feasibility of a wind energy project in Perquimans and Chowan counties.

"We are in the early stages of studying the wind energy potential of an isolated tract of timberland that

straddles the Perquimans and Chowan County line," Wilson said. "Initial studies show that this expansive timberland may be ideal for wind energy production due to its wind resource, remote location, and existing electrical transmission and railroad lines."

Wilson said the proposed amendment to the Chowan ordinance would put the county "on equal footing with Perquimans County."

The ordinance would allow a wind farm to be constructed only in the A-1 zoning district and only with a conditional use permit.

The proposed amendment also would increase

See TURBINES, 4

BEST OF BELVIDERE



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Linda White makes an announcement while son Clayton holds a basket with entries in a contest held Saturday at Layden's Supermarket in Belvidere. Businesses in the Belvidere area joined together for the two-day event.



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225 Woodland Circle, Hertford \$119,900 This home has been completely REMODELED on the inside. Fenced in Back Yard with a nice storage building. Behind the home is nothing but OPEN field, great for seeing the Sunsets! Approximately 1288 sq foot home. Ceiling fans throughout. New carpet and tile in bathrooms and Kitchen

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