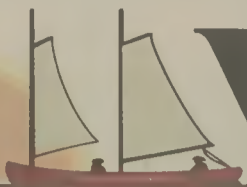


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates baseball set for new season, 6

"News from Next Door"

MARCH 5, 2014 - MARCH 11, 2014

50 cents

## Two more solar projects proposed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The same company that first proposed building a 100-acre solar power project in Perquimans County more than three years ago will be back before the

county planning board next week to ask for conditional use permits for two more.

Solar Green LLC's original project was off U.S. 17 near the Perquimans-Chowan County line.

One of the ones being

reviewed next week is in Winfall and the other is a 92-acre site near County Line Road and south of Drinking Hole Road.

The Winfall board is slated to hold a public hearing on Monday at 6:30 p.m. The county planning board

meets the next night at 7 p.m.

The county has already approved three other solar projects, including the original. Combined the five solar projects would cover 527 acres, the largest of which being 155 acres.

That's small compared to the potential footprint of the wind farms that have been proposed.

The Desert Wind project that would straddle the Perquimans-Pasquotank county line would cover 25,000 acres. It's been

stalled and no construction has taken place.

A second wind farm has been proposed on the other side of the county. Apex Clean Energy, Inc. has proposed a 10,000-acre

See PROJECTS, 7

## STUDENT HONORED BY PRESIDENT



SUBMITTER PHOTO

Robin Todd works with second-graders at Perquimans Central School recently.

## Todd recognized for volunteer work

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Robin Todd's academic achievements alone should be enough to qualify her for a presidential recognition, but that's not why President Obama honored her last month.

Todd was given the President's Volunteer Service Award for what she does outside the classroom at Perquimans County High School.

The senior spent more than 200 hours volunteering within the past year. That works out to be nearly four hours a week, 52 weeks a year.

She manages it on top her work in the classroom and her after-school job as a scorekeeper at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. The job keeps her busy most every weekday night plus Saturday.

Yet in the classroom, she's an academic superstar.

She's been a straight "A" student her entire life. She's part of the

Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) program and in ninth grade she started taking college courses on-line.

She racked up 18 semester hours for college during her first three years in high school and is on track to accumulate 33 college credit hours by the time she walks across the stage at PCHS for graduation in June.

And unlike some incoming college students, Todd also has a clear vision of what she wants to do.

"I'd always thought I wanted to get into health care, that is what I really wanted," Todd said last week. "But when I started working with kids, everything changed."

Twice a week, Todd goes to Perquimans Central School and works

with children there after class.

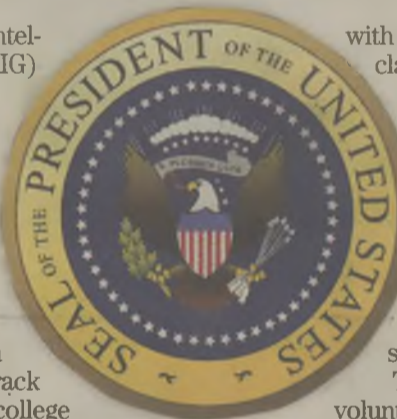
Part of that urge to be a teacher could be because her mother, Yvonne Honza, works at a church pre-school. Robin also has two younger sisters.

Todd said she's been volunteering in some fashion for as long as she can remember.

"In ninth grade I started documenting it (volunteering) and starting my own fundraisers."

She's been heavily involved as a volunteer for Relay For Life, an event that benefits the American Cancer Society. She's also been involved in getting her classmates to also pitch in. The team has raised

See TODD, 7



## Fired teacher gets job back

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A teacher who took the Perquimans County Schools to court after she was denied career status and fired in 2012 was back at school this week.

School board attorney John Leidy confirmed Monday that Vanessa Joyner had been offered her job back and was scheduled to return to Perquimans County schools on Monday.

Both a Superior Court Judge and the N.C. Court of Appeals ruled that the school system was wrong by not granting Joyner career status — also known as tenure. The courts ruled Joyner deserved to get her job back plus back pay.

The cost of defending Joyner's lawsuit has been largely borne by the N.C. School Board Trust. The trust has represented the school district in the case since July 17, 2012. According to Brenda Lassiter, a school spokesman, the school district has spent \$7,809 in local money on the lawsuit.

The school system and Joyner are in negotiations over the issue of back pay. Joyner had six years of experience in the Perquimans Schools when she was let go in May 2012. A teacher at that level earns about \$31,000 a year from the state plus gets local supplements. Last fall Joyner was teaching in the Bertie County school system.

Ralph Hollowell, the school board member who brought up issues with Joyner's performance, said last week he was ready to let the issue go.

"I caught heat, but I did what I thought was right," he said last week. "I've learned that no matter what

See JOB BACK, 7

## Newcomers to get shot at local boards

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

There will be at least four new members on two local boards after the May 6 election in Perquimans County.

As of the deadline Friday, four people had filed for one of the three slots on the county board. Four people also filed for the three openings on the school board.

Only one of the sitting county commissioners — Ed Muzzulin filed for another term and only Ralph Hollowell is seeking another term on the school board.

Ben Hobbs and Tammy Miller-White did not seek re-election to the county board.

Long-time school board member Walter Leigh also didn't file.

School board member Wallace Nelson decided to instead file for the county commission. Leigh was first elected to the school board in 1990. Nelson was on the school board from 1992 through 2000, and re-joined the school board in 2006.

Neither Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley or Clerk of Court Todd Tilley has any opposition and will run unopposed.

Hollowell, 47, filed last Tuesday. He originally wasn't sure he would seek a second term on school

See NEWCOMERS, 7

## PCHS to host Ambassadors

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

An all-star basketball team that includes Sheriff Eric Tilley, Hertford Mayor Horace Reid plus coaches and staff from the school system and other members of the community will be playing March 17 in a charity game at Perquimans

County High School against the Harlem Ambassadors.

The cheerleaders will also include school staff and Winfall Mayor Fred Yates.

Making sure all the rules are followed will be four officials including Judge J.C. Cole and Hertford Police Chief Doug Freeman. The announcer will be Clerk of

Superior Court Todd Tilley according to Brenda Lassiter, a spokesperson for the school system.

In the audience will be Quinyotta Pettaway, a former Perquimans basketball star who is wrapping up her college playing career at Clemson University.

See AMBASSADORS, 7

## Perquimans Weekly wins awards

From staff reports

The Perquimans Weekly won second place in the General Excellence category at the annual

awards ceremony hosted by the N.C. Press Association last week.

The announcement came during the group's annual winter meeting in Chapel Hill on Thursday.

The Tideland News of Swansboro won first place for general excellence for community newspapers with a circu-

lation of less than 3,500. The Perquimans Weekly placed second and The News-Journal of Raeford was third.

Of The Perquimans Weekly, the judges wrote "strong editorials, good flow of news throughout, advertising is well done."

See AWARDS, 7

## EARLY START ON JOB SEARCH



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Stephanie Fuller shows off a computer program dealing with speech pathology during a career and college fair held at Perquimans County High School, Thursday. Nearly 20 business and agencies participated in the GEAR UP event. GEAR UP aims to encourage students who might not otherwise consider college a glimpse at what higher education can do and what careers it can lead to.



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