

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2015



Steamers Recap: The 'General' thought is to beat Petersburg, 7

50 cents

## Wind project to start on the ground

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The first visible signs of a \$400 million wind farm project won't be the 300-foot towers or the 50-ton turbines.

Paul Copleman said last week the first thing residents may notice is that some rural gravel roads will get upgrades and that could happen starting in mid August.

Copleman is the communications manager for Iberdrola Renewables LLC, the U.S. division of parent company Iberdrola, SA, a Spanish energy company. Copleman is based in Maine.

Iberdrola and Amazon Web Services held a symbolic groundbreaking for the project on July 14. The first phase involves building 104 wind turbines spread out over 22,000 acres of rural Perquimans and Pasquotank counties. Many of the Perquimans County towers will be in an area north of Swamp Road and Four Mile Desert Road and south of Turnpike Road, according to Perquimans County Commissioner Matt Peeler.

But to make that happen, Copleman said the rural farm roads need to be upgraded.

"It will be some combination of road improvements and new roads," Copleman said last week. "Horace Pritchard talked about that at the press conference."

Pritchard has a 1,300 acre farm on which Iberdrola is planning nine of the turbines. Pritchard will be paid \$54,000 a year and will be able to continue farming. He'll also see his roads improved.

"Several farmers have said it's the road improvements they like," Copleman said. "It will give them better crop access year-round."

Access has to be improved in order to truck in the huge components that make up a wind turbine assembly.

The size of the turbine towers is larger than what was originally proposed for Desert Wind.

"If you go back to projects 10 years ago

See PROJECT, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A photograph provided by Iberdrola Renewables shows a wind turbine farm in operation. The company operates wind projects in more than 15 states, but until now not in the southeastern U.S.

## Search is on for 'super'

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The public is invited to attend two meetings in August to talk about what traits they'd like to see in a new school superintendent.

Dwayne Stallings is stepping down at the end of the year after more than 30 years in education, 22 of it in Perquimans County.

The local school board hired The Masonboro Group, a Wilmington-based consultant, to help in the search.

The first meeting will be Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the media center at Perquimans County High School. A second meeting is set for Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym at Perquimans Central School.

"The sole purpose of finding out what traits are desired in a potential candidate," said Teresa

See SEARCH, 4

## Sewage spills in Winfall

From Staff Reports

About 4,500 gallons of raw sewage leaked into a swamp next to the Perquimans River Monday when a valve failed at a lift station in Winfall.

Melvin Jackson, who was working on the repair, said the leak was reported by a resident next door. The lift station is located near Creek Drive at 374 Winfall Blvd.

The town notified the Division of Water Resources according to a press release.

Jackson said no Winfall customers lost service as a result.

## Project brings some jobs

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

While a new wind power project won't bring many long-term jobs to the region, it will generate a spike in hiring during the construction phase.

Iberdrola Renewables estimates about 250 people will be needed during the construction phase of the project in the Desert straddling Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

Iberdrola has hired Wanzek as the general contractor. Iberdrola spokesman Paul

Copleman said Wanzek in turn will hire subcontractors.

Wanzek has offices in Charlotte and Houston but the main office is in North Dakota.

"Some of these jobs are specialized as they relate to turbine erection, but a lot tends to be civil work," said Copleman said. "Our projects tend to have a lot of local opportunities for local and regional companies."

He ticked off things like tool rental com-

See JOBS, 2



KERI PAMPUCH/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Gov. Pat McCrory takes the stage July 14th for an announcement that Iberdrola will move forward with a wind project in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

## School enrollment should be higher this calendar year

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County School are preparing for another wave of mini growth spurts when classes resume August.

Student enrollment for entire school system is projected to be 1,749 in 2015-16. That's 32 more students than what the system fin-

ished with in June, but 35 more than what the system started with in 2014-16.

But the growth isn't evenly divided among the 13 grades from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Department of Public Instruction is projecting there will be 156 students in kindergarten and third grade next year, while seventh grade is expected to

have just 118.

Some of the ripple in class size goes back to a change in the rule on how old a child must be to start school. In 2009 the General Assembly said students must be 5-years-old by Aug. 31 in order to enroll in kindergarten. The old date was Oct. 16. That meant statewide 13,000 students who would have been able to en-

roll couldn't and they'd have to wait until 2010.

Some of the gaps are the result of other factors.

The third grade class at Hertford Grammar School is projected to have 28 more students than the fourth grade class. The seventh grade class at Perquimans County Middle School is has 20 fewer students than the sixth grade.

Susan Cox, the chairman of the Perquimans County School Board, was at a loss for the fluctuation, but they appear to happen every three or four years.

The kindergarten class is estimated to hit 156. That has implications beyond just kindergarten. The school system's Pre-kindergarten program is also housed at Perquimans Central School.

While the school system encourages parents to enroll their child in Pre-K, the school system isn't mandated by law to take them. Thus the number of Pre-K classrooms fluctuates each year. Next year Cox figures there will be two Pre-K classes. The system has had as many as four classes.

See ENROLLMENT, 2

## Davenport will not seek office again

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Veteran Hertford council member Carlton Davenport will not seek another term on the town board.

The filing period ended

on Friday for November's election. The other two candidates for Hertford seats did file as well as the three incumbents for the Winfall election. There were no challengers.

The Perquimans County Board of Elections could extend the filing period another five days, but the board is in the midst of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Iberdrola Renewables, Chowan Hospital Foundation (CHF) Community Benefits grants, and the Albemarle Community Trust funded the 2015 Water Turtles program for the Perquimans County School system.

## Groups support water safety

From Staff Reports

Financial support from three groups this year made it possible for 160 Perquimans County kindergarten students to participate in two-week program that teaches water safety.

It's the fourth year the school system has held the Water Turtles program.

Iberdrola Renewables, Chowan Hospital Founda-

tion (CHF) Community Benefits grants, and the Albemarle Community Trust underwrote the \$13,000 it cost to fund the 2015 Water Turtles program for the Perquimans County School system. That covered the costs of lessons, transportation to and from the YMCA in Elizabeth City, the purchase of

See SAFETY, 2



See ELECTION, 4



THIRSTY THURSDAY 2 FOR \$3  
FRIDAY NIGHT FRANKS BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

### UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Historic Hicks Field | FMI Call 252-482-4080 | www.edentonsteamers.com

JULY 23 @ 7PM  
vs Petersburg Generals  
BERTIE COUNTY NIGHT

JULY 25 @ 7 PM  
vs Wilmington Sharks  
DAILY ADVANCE NIGHT

JULY 28 @ 7PM  
vs Holy Spring Salamanders  
ALS JIM 'CATFISH' HUNTER FOUNDATION NIGHT

JULY 30 @ 7PM  
vs Peninsula Pilots  
VIDANT HOSPITAL NIGHT

AUGUST 2 @ 7 PM  
vs Petersburg Generals  
SUNDAY FUNDAY OPEN COKE CHURCH NIGHT