

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Perquimans High School principal speaks at recent Rotary event, 3

Sister testifies about decade of sexual abuse

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An 18-year-old woman testified to a jury Monday about how six of her brothers sexually abused her over the span of 10 years starting when she was a little more than 4 years old.

On trial is Aaron Jackson, a 21-year-old former Perqui-

mans County resident. If convicted on all charges, he could spend the rest of his life in prison. He and five brothers were charged with sexually abusing their younger sister when the family lived on Chapanoke Road. The trial was scheduled



JACKSON

to start Tuesday, but jury selection took less time than expected, so Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett had the case proceed Monday afternoon. The jury consists of seven men and five women. The case is being tried in the Perquimans

County Courthouse. Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Karpowicz maintained the abuse started when the victim was about four and a half years old. The five other brothers accepted plea agreements and were jailed. The parents also accepted plea deals and were sentenced to prison. There is another brother, younger

than the victim, that was not charged with abuse and an older sister who was not part of the case.

Court-appointed attorney Danny Donahue represented Jackson. In considering jurors, he asked if any had "sibling rivalries" with their own brothers and sisters. In his opening statement, he quoted a poem's lines of

"Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." Donahue argued that the alleged victim has never told the same story the same way when she'd been questioned about the case and hinted she has mental issues. The alleged victim admitted to several

See TRIAL, 2

Planners to mull wind farm project

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Planning Board is scheduled to consider plans for a \$300 million wind power project this week.

The first meeting was Tuesday night. If required, a second meeting will be held tonight at 6 p.m. at the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex, 110 N. Church Street.

The project proposed by Apex Clean Energy, a Charlottesville-based company, would straddle about 15,000 acres of Perquimans and Chowan counties. The prospect of turbines as tall as 600 feet has prompted fierce opposition from some area residents. In previous meetings, more than 100 people have packed commissioners meetings and more than 900 people have signed a petition in opposition to the project.

Industrial-sized wind power projects are allowed under Perquimans zoning rules, but they require a conditional use permit. The five-member planning board reviews CUP applications and then makes a recommendation to the Perquimans Board of Commissioners, which has the ultimate say on the project.

See WIND, 2

CAREER LEARNING



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Middle School students crowd around the crew of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter that made a visit to the school on Wednesday, June 8. For more on local programs designed to promote careers in technical education, see the July 20th edition of *The Perquimans Weekly*.

Coast Guard rescue swimmer Keith Williams gives a high five to a Perquimans County Middle School student during the Coast Guard aircrew's visit to the school. The visit was part of a Career and Technical Education outreach program.



Search for missing boater called off

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The active search for a boater missing in the Yeopim River was called off Sunday afternoon.

John Poandl, 56, of Dudley, was last seen alive on July 6. He and another man were on board a pontoon boat and decided to take a swim and the boat drifted away. Poandl lives in Dudley, a small community in Wayne County, but according to Perquimans County tax records, he also owns property at both East Hidden Valley Trail and Whispering Lane in Holiday Island.

On Monday N.C. Wildlife Service Master Officer Johnathan C. Beardsley announced the formal recovery effort was over.

"As of yesterday at 1 p.m. the organized search for Mr. Poandl was called off," he said.

"There has been some citizens volunteering their time to search (and) we have no way of knowing if any of them are continuing their search," he said.

"We just ask that if anyone finds anything to contact us at 800-662-7137 and to be sure and record the latitude and longitude."

See SEARCH, 3

Chowan board votes 3-2 to hire wind energy consultant

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — The Chowan County Board of Commissioners, by a split vote, has elected to hire a firm with wind energy project experience to review the conditional use permit application for the proposed Timbermill Wind Energy Project.

The board voted 3-2 at its July 5 meeting to hire the firm HDR to review the permit application submitted by Apex Clean Energy Inc.

Apex, a Charlottesville, Va.-based company, has proposed building a 300-megawatt wind energy facility in the Bear Swamp area of Chowan and Perquimans counties.

Much of the land in the

proposed project area is owned by forrest management company Weyerhaeuser. Most of the remaining land in the project area is owned by local farmers.

Chowan Commissioner Emmett Winborne's motion to hire HDR to perform a technical review of the CUP application by Apex passed with Commissioners Alex Kehayes and John Mitch-

ener voting against it.

In addition to the proposal from HDR, the county received a proposal from Energy Ventures Analysis Inc. — a firm backed by some members of the public who were concerned that HDR would be too prone to view the project favorably because of the company's experience in the wind power industry.

In an extensive presentation at the meeting, County Attorney Lauren Arizaga-Womble explained to commissioners that the ordinance does not require hiring an expert to review the permit.

But if the board wishes to retain an expert, she said, "who you retain and bring on is in your discretion."

The purpose of the es-

crow account required by the wind energy ordinance is to cover county expenses related to the project, she said, and she added that she understood a primary purpose of the escrow account was for staff to have access to an expert in the review of the CUP application, since wind energy is so technical.

See CHOWAN, 2

SBI helping probe theft of cigarettes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A state agency has been called in to help the Hertford Police Department investigate a burglary Saturday at Jackson Wholesale in which thieves made off with 5,000 cartons of cigarettes.

Police were dispatched to the business at 300 Ocean Highway South shortly before 5 a.m.

When officers arrived, they found a Ford E450 box truck owned by the company had been driven through the side gate of the business.

According to police Chief Douglas Freeman, thieves damaged four security cameras and a security control panel and stole a security camera DVR unit.

The cigarettes were apparently taken away using the company's 2010 Ford Econoline cargo van.

"Due to the circumstances surrounding the break-in, the N.C. State Bureau of

READY FOR BEACH VOLLEYBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Workers put the finishing touches on a beach volleyball court at the Perquimans County Recreation Center last week. Brown Land Developing performed the work.



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