

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016



State Employees Credit Union hosts school supply drive, 8

50 cents

SEP 21 REC'D

Lawyer: Commissioner has mind made up

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Commissioner Matt Peeler had his mind made up against a wind power project even before the first hearing started, according to a lawyer for Apex Clean Energy.

Based on a review of county e-mails, which are public record, Peeler cannot give an impartial decision, according to Henry

Campen, the lead attorney for Apex. The board is supposed to decide what to do with Campen's request today.

In one e-mail Peeler said "I will admit now and in the future I will oppose these things on their health and welfare impacts. I applaud any action that puts a halt or greatly reduces the ability of these wind power plants in our state."

Peeler has long history of

questioning the benefits of wind power as well as the impact of solar projects. He is wrapping up his term on the commission and is not seeking re-election.

Peeler said Tuesday he couldn't comment at this time.

When the first hearing started one last month each commissioner, one by one, was asked if they could rule

See LAWYER, 3

Board to decide 'harmony' issue

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Experts will testify this week, but it will be up to the Perquimans County Commission that has the ultimate say on if a new \$300 million wind power project fits in harmony with

the county.

Chairman Janice Cole made that clear last month when the board met for more than nine hours over two days. Hearings resumed Monday and a fifth day of testimony is scheduled for today at 5:30 p.m. Apex Clean Energy, a

Virginia company, is proposing the project but will require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Apex has the burden of proof to show that the project meets the county's standards. Lawyers Chad

See HARMONY, 3

Farmers react to wind protest

BY REGGIE PONDER
Chowan Herald

Center Hill farmer William Monds said this week that leasing a portion of his land for the proposed Timbermill Wind Project provides a little bit of stability in an up-and-down business.

INSIDE

■ Hearing planned today on offshore wind - 3

"Of all the things I have read in the paper the thing that has bothered me most is people talking about 'the greedy farmers,'" Monds said Monday in an interview at the shop on his farm on Center Hill Road. "I'm not greedy. Farmers are not greedy."

Instead, Monds said, a land lease such as Apex Clean Energy has offered through the Timbermill Wind Project gives farmers a little bit of stability in a very risky business and helps them provide for their families and set aside money for retirement.

See FARMERS, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Morgan White (14) and her son Jayden White (6) take off Saturday during the annual Strides For Scholars 5K at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Morgan White finished in first place in the female division while Jayden finished first among males. The event raised more than \$2,400 for the Junior Women's Club of Perquimans County. The funds will be used for scholarships.

Club raises \$2,400 for scholars

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A small Perquimans County club with members from a four-county area drew more than 50 runners and more money Saturday with a "Strides For Scholars" 5-K at the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

Last year the Junior Women's Club of Perquimans County raised enough money to offer a \$1,000

scholarship for a Perquimans County student.

This time, it raised \$2,400 and may be able to branch out to include a Gates County student as well. Gates County has no state sanctioned Women's Club like Perquimans, Chowan and Pasquotank do but Gates County women are welcome to join the Perquimans Junior Women's Club and at least one does. Membership is open to women age 18-45. The Perquimans

club started in 2011.

"We had over 50 runners, plus kids," said Erin Eure, the treasurer of the club. "That's more than double."

Eure credited the timing of this year's event and sponsors for part of the increase.

At this year's race a mother and her son again took first place. The same mother and the son as last

See STRIDES, 2

Funding may be released soon

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

State officials are now waiting on a federal agency to release the funds to build an industrial-sized boat ramp in Hertford.

The project has been in the works for more than two years and was originally scheduled to be complete in 2015 at a cost of less than \$500,000. Now it appears that construction may be able to at least start by the end of this year at a price tag of \$822,000.

Both county and state officials admit they are frustrated it's taken this long.

Sara Sherman, an engineer for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, said it appears the end is in sight. Wildlife is providing \$516,000 for the ramp, but that money is coming from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Another \$306,000 is coming from a grant from Golden LEAF.

"It's not that we don't have the money, but it's federal money and they have to release it," Sherman said. "We got an update today

See FUNDING, 4

Walkers to again show support for ALS patients

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hundreds of people are expected to walk in Hertford Saturday to support people who may not be able to.

People like Jim Dixon.

The 73-year-old Kitty Hawk resident was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis three and a half years ago. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. At the time doctors gave Dixon between



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim Dixon (red and white shirt) and his wife Barbara pose with other members for an ALS support group that meets in Edenton.

"But my voice is a little crumbly."

Dixon shares the same disease as Major League Baseball legend and Perquimans County native Jim "Catfish" Hunter.

Hunter died in 1999 at the age of 53 and the 16th annual Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Walk this Saturday is named in his honor. The

money raised by it goes to a foundation that directly supports those with the disease in the region. It also has a support group in Edenton and helps operate a clinic in Greenville. For the last few years, the Hertford walk has raised about \$28,000 a year.

Dixon appreciates what the foundation has done. He finished a career as a construction superintendent and he wasn't expecting his life would be like this when he moved to Kitty Hawk six years ago. For him, the first

See ALS WALK, 4

Rotary Club of Hertford to present 'The Difference' Oct. 1

From Staff Reports

The Rotary Club of Hertford will host its 11th Annual Scholarship Fund Raising Concert on Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

Each year the club provides five seniors from Perquimans County High School scholarships of \$1,000 each. In addition it sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship through the College of The Albemarle Foundation for a resident from Perquimans County. The concert will be held in the auditorium at the high school.

Leading off the program

will be "The Center Players" from the Arts of Albemarle in Elizabeth City under the direction of Holly Wright. "The Center Players" is the award-winning integrated performing arts program that provides theatrical instruction for rising third through 12th graders.

Headlining the evening

See CONCERT, 3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The band "The Difference" will be performing in October at the annual Rotary Club Scholarship Concert.



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EDENTON-CROWAN BAND PARENTS PRESENTS
41ST ANNUAL PEANUT FESTIVAL & BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Sat., October 1st
John A Holmes Athletic Complex

• ARTS & CRAFTS, JOHN A. HOLMES HS LAWN 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM •
• PARADE, WATER STREET TO PARK AVENUE, 11:00 AM •
• CHICKEN/BBQ PLATES 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM & 3:00 TO 7:00 PM, \$9.00 PER PLATE FROM LEON NIXON'S CATERING •
• BAND COMPETITION, ACES STADIUM, 3:00 PM, \$7.00, KIDS 6 AND UNDER FREE •