

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Christmas Performance held, 6

Indian Summer Festival's fate uncertain

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After 35 years, the sun has set on the traditional Indian Summer Festival.

Historic Hertford Inc. will no longer put on the traditional two-day festival in September, according to HHI President Lynne Raymond.

"Sometimes you have to recognize that something has just run its' course," she said last week.

"After this year's festival we started looking at it and evaluating if we wanted to do it again," she said. "It's hard to do everything at once. We talked about doing a kid's event later on next year and breaking it (the

festival) down into different events focusing on one thing at a time."

HHI will hold an Indian Summer Festival Car Show on that first Saturday after Labor Day, the same day the traditional festival, she said. HHI is also planning on doing other events, but not packed together like they are for the traditional

festival.

One event HHI is looking at is a beer and wine tasting as a ticketed event.

Raymond said putting on the two-day event was a massive undertaking involving more than 100 volunteers.

"We usually get started planning for it in February," she said. "Every year we've

been having trouble getting vendors and we had a lot of trouble this last time, especially with food vendors. Every year it gets a little less and a little less," Raymond said of both visitors and vendors. "Every year it gets more and more difficult to pull it off."

The festival used to be a decent moneymaker for

HHI, Raymond said.

"Originally we cleared \$10,000," Raymond said. "Now we do about one fifth of that."

Raymond applauds the support the festival's has had from the local fire department, police department and public works.

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Construction is starting to take shape on the new Perquimans County Library. The project is expected to be complete this summer.

WIND, SCHOOLS MAKE HEADLINES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Top-10 lists abound this time of year. Instead of ranking our own, we offer some suggestions. You may have some ideas of your own and you can rank them as you please.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

But some of the stories might include:

WIND POWER: Love it or hate it, wind energy made a lot of headlines in 2016.

The year started with Perquimans County under a self-imposed moratorium on any new wind power project. One project, Amazon Wind Farms East, was approved years ago and was under construction for most of the year. About half of the 104 wind turbines in the Amazon project are located in Perquimans County. But the prospect of another wind project, Timbermill Wind, that drew fierce opposition last year.

The moratorium ended in February, but the controversy didn't die down. In August the Perquimans County Commission started a series of seven quasi-judicial hearings on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Timbermill.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

After years of delays, construction started last month on a new boat ramp near the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

In the end, one commissioner - Matt Peeler - was recused from voting because a majority of the other five commissioners said he couldn't deliver a fair decision because of previous e-mails on the issue.

Finally when it came to a vote two

commissioners - Fondella Leigh and Wallace Nelson - said they were not convinced that Timbermill wouldn't impact property values. A third commissioner, Chairman Kyle Jones, said

See TOP STORIES, 2

Board to discuss sheriff's opening

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County Commission was set to review six applications to replace retiring Sheriff Eric Tilley when they Tuesday night.

The sheriff is an elected office in North Carolina and Tilley has two more years left in his term.

The commission had several options on how to replace Tilley, but the commission ultimately makes the decision. Chairman Kyle Jones said the entire commission decided early this month to open the door for people to apply.



TILLEY

"It's the most fair, open and non partisan process," Jones said.

Tilley is a Democrat. In some counties the local political party has the sole authority to nominate a replacement to present to the board, according to Neil Emory, an outreach associate with N.C. Association of County Commissioners. In Perquimans County, the options are open.

"Some counties take applications and other counties choose to appoint," Emory said Thursday. "He (Jones) contacted us because he wanted to make sure they'd looked at all the options and to have an open process." Tuesday's discussion of the applications was scheduled to be in closed session. According to Jones, Tilley has asked to speak to the board at that time.

Jones said the board may decide at that point to make the names of applicants public.

Mike Tadych, a Raleigh attorney who consults for the N.C. Press Association, said state law does not require counties to list the names of sheriff applicants. He said on the flip side there is nothing in the law that prohibits counties from doing so.

Appointing a new sheriff is not a new thing in Perquimans County. David Lane was elected in December 1994 and resigned the job in July 1998. Ralph Robinson was ap-

See OPENING, 3

Man charged with killing his wife

BY WILLIAM WEST
The Daily Advance

An Elizabeth City man charged with first-degree murder in his wife's shooting death told police he shot her because she was suffering from dementia and he didn't want her living in an assisted living facility

"like a caged animal," police records show.

Samuel Frank Mansfield,



S. MANSFIELD P. MANSFIELD

73, is charged in the fatal shooting of Phyllis Baccus Mansfield, also 73, in the garage of the couple's home in the 100 block of Golf Club Drive, at the Fairway Estates subdivision, the morning of Dec. 14.

Phyllis Mansfield was a Perquimans County

See MURDER, 2

Habitat to build home on Dobbs Street

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity is joining with Perquimans County groups to build a new home for a veteran and his wife.

Construction on the house for Mike and Rebecca Lyens is set to start in April. American Legion Post 126 has already built a shed on the lot at 608 Dobbs St. that can be used to store materials during construction as well as for other uses once the house is finished.

Mike Lyens served in the U.S. Navy and he has a medical condition has taken away his ability to



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Karyl Rhodes, regional manager for Yadkin Bank (left) and Kimberly Westbrook, branch manager (right) present a check for \$500 to Sally Holloway, president of Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity recently at the site for a new Habitat house in Hertford.

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