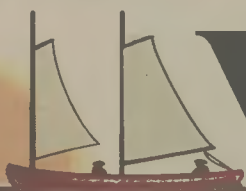


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017



PCMS holds groundbreaking, 6

JAN 18 REC'D

50 cents

King's memory is honored



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Rep. Bob Steinburg (left) presents The Order Of The Long Leaf Pine honoring Clayton Griffin to his widow, Omedia Griffin Monday at a Martin Luther King Jr. event at Riddick's Grove Baptist Church.

Griffin receives Long Leaf Pine award

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be more coverage of the Martin Luther King Jr. events in the Jan. 25 edition of the Perquimans Weekly

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The annual Perquimans County celebration of the life and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also touched on the life of another man who made a difference.

The late Clayton Griffin was honored Monday at Riddick's Grove Baptist Church. Griffin died in September 2015. In his life he served in a gang prevention and mentoring program.

It was for that service that Rep. Bob

See MLK, 4



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Vanora Brothers (right) presents a certificate from the Perquimans County NAACP to Sheriff Eric Tilley Monday at a Martin Luther King Jr. event. Tilley is retiring at the end of the month.

Teacher makes a splash with video

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

What started as a challenge to get students excited about doing well on a test turned into a viral on-line video and brought national attention to Perquimans County native Michael Bonner last week.

Bonner is a second grade teacher at South Greenville Elementary in Pitt County. Last week he was a guest on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and got the surprise gift of \$25,000 for his school plus iPad minis for students.

Out of 36 schools in the Greenville school district, Bonner admits South Greenville was the least popular.

That's why Bonner asked to go there. He figured he'd go to South Greenville for a few years after graduating from Elizabeth City State University.

Out of the 21 kids in his classroom, just one is white. Bonner is black and 6-foot-5.

Male teachers in second grade are rare. Male, black second grade teachers are even more rare.

"We used to have more (white students), but when Greenville offered open enrollment a lot of kids whose

See BONNER, 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michael Bonner, a Perquimans County native, accepts a check for \$25,000 on The Ellen DeGeneres Show last week. Bonner teaches at South Greenville Elementary.

Town adopts business registration system

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Town of Hertford is requiring all business owners register their business, pay a \$25 fee and undergo what they say is a basic background check.

"(It is) just so we know who's doing business in town," Town Manager Brandon Shoaf said in an e-mail about the new registration system. "It's only a registration, not a license, and only a public information search."

Police Chief Douglas Freeman said the registration is a way to keep "unsavory" people from doing business in the town.

He said it was prompted in part by out-of-town crews who came into town offering to do work, like vinyl siding and not doing the job.

"We are not doing a criminal records check, traffic check through DPS (Department of Public Safety) on each person," Freeman said. "We're not doing that. Everything we're doing any individual could do on their own. We're not trying to invade their privacy and we're not trying to dig into backgrounds."

The search will look into Better Business Bureau records as well as sex offender registries, Freeman said.

The application form asks for some basic information as to

the location, phone number and name of the business. It further asks for the federal ID number and state registration number if the business is regulated by a state occupational board.

The owner has to sign the document and give their date of birth and driver's license number.

Until 2014 the state law allowed municipalities to charge for business licenses based on gross profits.

See REGISTRATION, 4

Leaders try to fight Amazon wind project

BY PETER WILLIAMS AND JON HAWLEY
Staff Writers

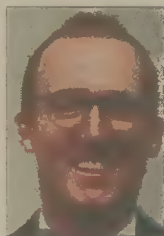
State Sen. Bill Cook and the leaders of the General Assembly are asking the incoming Trump administration to kill the almost-operational Amazon Wind Farm US East.

In a letter that House Speaker Tim Moore's office shared Thursday, the speaker, Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, eight other lawmakers, including Cook, R-Beaufort, and retired Marine Maj. Gen. Robert Dickerson wrote a letter to President-elect Donald Trump's transition headquarters asking that the wind farm in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties be shut down.

They claim the wind farm will interfere with long-range radar at the Navy's Northwest Annex in Chesapeake, Virginia, and thus represents a national security threat.

The letter drew immediate response from local elected leaders.

"The premise of their argument is that DoD would have let a project proceed that interfered with national security," Perquimans County Commission Chairman Kyle Jones said. "I'm no expert on that sort of



JONES

See LEADERS, 3

Sen. Cook defends wind letter

BY JON HAWLEY
The Daily Advance

State Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort, defended his call to shut down the Amazon Wind Farm US East, arguing in an email Friday that he was putting the military's interests ahead of "taxpayer-subsidized wind projects."

Cook is one of 10 lawmakers, plus a retired Marine major general, to call last week for the administration of President-elect Donald Trump to shut down the 104-turbine wind farm in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

They argue the turbines will generate interference in long-range radar activities at the Navy's Northwest Annex in Chesapeake. They wrote the wind farm should be permanently shut down or, barring that, turbines that cause more than 5-percent signal loss should be shut down until problems with them can be fixed.

See COOK, 2

Badawi says Wind agenda is faulted

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A Perquimans County couple that fought the construction Amazon Wind Farms East in court before it was built are applauding an effort by some members of the General Assembly to shut the project down before it becomes fully operational.

"I am thrilled," said Gigi Badawi, a Swamp Road resident.

Badawi and her husband Stephen Owens argued that the state improperly allowed the permitting for the project. An administrative law judge rejected the claim.

Now the top leadership in the N.C. General Assembly is appealing to the incoming



BADAWI

See BADAWI, 2



6 89076 47144 2