



**SONGS OF LOVE** NEWS VALENTINE'S DAY QUARTET BACK FOR ANOTHER YEAR

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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See What's Happening in the county, 3

50 cents

FEB 01 REC'D

## Commissioners meet over wind project

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

County commissioners from Perquimans and Pasquotank counties sat down with state lawmakers last week to support the Amazon wind farm that straddles both counties.

The meeting was in response to a letter sent by a

half dozen N.C. lawmakers, including the leaders of the House and Senate to President Donald Trump's nominee for Homeland Security director John Kelly. The letter warns about problems with the Amazon project and asks him to take action. The letter said the Amazon project stands to harm the U.S. Navy's over-the-horizon

radar system and needs to be shut down or at least further studied.

Rep. Bob Steinburg (R-Chowan) called the meeting Tuesday at the Perquimans County Recreation Center. Steinburg wasn't consulted at the letter and disputes the charges it makes.

Nine state leaders, including Steinburg and House

Speaker Tim Moore, attended the meeting last week.

Steinburg said after the meeting he felt good that the project won't be shut down.

"I believe in my gut that this particular project is going to continue," Steinburg said. "I do not believe its' going to be shut down."

Steinburg said he believes opponents of clean energy

have been using the idea that wind power poses a threat to the military as "straw man" defense. The term is used for something intentionally misrepresented proposition that is set up because it is easier to defeat than an opponent's real argument.

"Opponents of this project have thrown up every kind of argument under the sun

and they've all be refuted," Steinburg said.

The General Assembly opposition isn't the only issue. Congressman Walter Jones and two are pushing a measure that would prohibit wind projects near military bases.

"Congressman Jones is

See WIND, 2

## RETIRING SHERIFF GETS SURPRISE

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Friends say outgoing Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley is rarely at a loss for words.

But he was on Friday when a TV crew from Arizona showed up at his retirement party to announce they were giving him an all-expense-paid trip to go deer hunting in Texas.

"I was stunned," Tilley said. "I looked at the video and it's like I wasn't excited, I didn't know what to think."

"You've seen him speechless a lot," said his wife Sherry.

What started with an off-hand comment to his wife Sherry in December turned into a dream vacation for the retiring sheriff.

Tilley explained he was home with his wife and he was watching the show "The Journey" on The Outdoor Channel. The show selects special people and surprises them with exotic hunting or fishing adventures.

"We were going to something in Elizabeth City and I said, 'wait, wait, I want to see who they pick."

"On the trip in the car, Tilley I was telling her it was so cool it is that they would show up out of the blue and do this,"

See TILLEY, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Retiring Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley reacts with surprise and shakes the hand of Davie Watson, the executive producer of the T.V. show The Journey last week.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Sherry Tilley (left) looks on as her husband Sheriff Eric Tilley talks to a deputy Friday at Tilley's retirement party.

## Economic development solutions sought

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Gov. Roy Cooper's pick to be Secretary of Commerce admits there is no magic bullet to boost the economy in the state.

But Tony Cooper has some ideas, and the Perquimans native said he's keenly aware of the issues rural areas face.

"I lived in rural North Carolina, I grew up in rural North Carolina and having been in the private sector and the public sector I understand the tools of the economy. There is not a simple answer. The first thing is talent and that means a solid K-12 system, and the universities and community colleges.

"The next thing you have to look at is the infrastructure."

That includes natural gas, roads, water and sewer utilities and high-speed Internet access."

Copeland suggested that building closer ties to the Port of Virginia would be a good step, but said "there is no one-size-fits-all solution."

"When we look at northeastern North Carolina we know a lot of commerce flows through the Port of Virginia. I remember when Ford

See DEVELOPMENT, 6

## Perquimans students rack up big wins in regional show

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Chowan Herald

Perquimans County art students nearly swept the awards for outstanding middle school and high school work in a Multi-County Student Art Exhibit sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council.

Perquimans High students took first and second place. In the middle school category PCMS students took first,



ALLEN BROWN

second and third. Students from John A. Holmes Chowan Middle School and Gates County Middle School also picked up awards.

Students and their teachers were recognized during an awards ceremony at the CAC Gallery in downtown Edenton that also included an opening reception with food prepared by Chef Leslie Lippincott and her Culinary Arts students at the COA Edenton campus.

Cash prizes of up to \$150 were presented to the winning students or the teach-

See WINNERS, 4

## Support sought for youth

From Staff Reports

In the wake of the success local students had in a regional arts council, the Perquimans Arts League is mounting a campaign to make sure they have what they need.

"It's so amazing that the

students did so well with so little to work with," said Sheryl Corr, the president of PAL. "They are really pretty desperate for supplies

PAL has adopted a donation drive - Show Your Love: Adopt an Art Room - to support arts programs

in our local schools by collecting art supplies the schools need.

PAL is launching the collection drive now to support and raise awareness that March is Youth Art Month. Youth Art Month

See SUPPORT, 4

## Man objects to selection process

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

One of the people who was passed over for the sheriff's job is questioning the process the Perquimans County Commission used in making the decision.

Joe Campbell, 74, said

he wasn't given a chance to interview with the board before they made the decision after a closed-door meeting Jan. 17.

"They classified me as a loser," Campbell said last week.

Campbell insists that his beef is not with the Perquimans Sheriff's Office. He blames the Perquimans County Commission for not being open and fair.

See CAMPBELL, 3

## CHAMBER BANQUET



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

People browse auction items Friday night at the annual Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Banquet held at Louise's Meeting Place. Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce executive director Sid Eley (left, right photo) gestures while new Chamber President Gina Wharton looks on Friday night at the annual chamber banquet and auction.

