

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

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Bronze winners, 6

Timbermill Wind project may be suspended

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The developers of a proposed wind power project in Perquimans and Chowan counties got a double dose of bad news last week.

A Superior Court Judge upheld Perquimans County's decision to reject the Timbermill Wind project. Then in the early morning hours Friday, the N.C. Gen-

eral Assembly passed a bill imposing an 18-month moratorium on all wind energy projects.

The second decision may force Apex Clean Energy to suspend the project.

"This is an anti-business moratorium shrouded as a pro-military measure," said Apex President and CEO Mark Goodwin. "In even the best circumstances, developing a wind project in-

volves time and risk. An 18-month delay coupled with the near-certainty of additional red tape means we will almost certainly have to suspend Timbermill Wind if House Bill 589 becomes law."

The bill goes to the governor who can veto it, but so far the General Assembly has shown it has the votes to override that.

Supporters of the bill say

the moratorium grants time for state officials to determine if wind projects pose a problem for military operations. Military officials have said a number of times they don't and there are safeguards already in place to make sure that doesn't happen.

"It's unfortunate that a small number of elected officials were able to hijack what should have been a

bright moment for clean energy in North Carolina," Goodwin said. "House Bill 589, as passed, threatens private property rights and jeopardizes hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in rural economies. This moratorium sends a clear signal that wind energy is not welcome in North Carolina while selfishly seeking to divide the renewables industry. This is not

the behavior of a pro-business, pro-property rights legislature.

"It's worth reminding everyone that in addition to other facets of permitting, there already exist clear, thorough reviews at both the federal and state levels for potential wind energy interactions with military installations."

See WIND, 3

Schools look to spend reserves

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The Perquimans County School Board voted unanimously last week to raise teacher supplements and add some new positions and pay for it by using money from their reserve account.

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman said the fund balance got a windfall in the past year because some positions weren't filled. As a result the reserves, which had been \$395,000 a year ago, grew to about \$500,000.

At Cheeseman's recommendation, the board agreed Thursday to turn around and spend the unexpected savings by raising teacher supplements, hiring a coordinator for digital learning, and contract for a curriculum program. The total cost will exceed the \$100,000 in growth in the fund balance account, but will still leave the school system a comfortable buffer, he said.

"The school board just wanted to show our employees and the county commission that they are appreciated," Cheeseman said. "When the smoke clears it (the fund balance) will be about \$250,000 left."

School systems are recommended to have enough money in reserves to operate for one month.

"This keeps us in the safe-

See SCHOOLS, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Chad McCann tees off on the 12 hole during the third round of the Biggs Classic at Albemarle Plantation on Friday.

McCann holds lead after three rounds

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to an early deadline because of the Fourth of July postal holiday, final results of the Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Classic were not available for this edition. Also parade and fireworks coverage happened after the deadline, but will be featured in the next edition.)

BY MALCOLM SHIELDS
The Daily Advance

Chad McCann posted a 2-under par

69 to hold a slim lead after the third round of the Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Classic on Friday.

McCann (-12) is two shots ahead of second place Brian Richey, who is at -10.

McCann and Richey were the final group to tee off on Friday.

Richey posted his second consecutive strong round of the tournament as he shot 4-under par 67 on The Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation.

A 7-under par 64 third round moved

Thomas Bass into third place at -9.

Mark Silvers posted his third consecutive round under par with a 4-under par 67 to sit in fourth place at -8 for the tournament.

McCann was open about the fact that score-wise, it wasn't his best round of the tournament as he overcame a bogey on six and a double bogey on seven during the round.

"I battled pretty hard. Hit a lot of bad shots, a lot of good shots, but my

See MCCANN, 2

DOT now favors truss design

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The new S-Bridge may look a whole lot like the old one.

Plans to build another metal truss bridge are part of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) sent to the U.S. Coast Guard last week by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Shelby Reap, an architectural historian at DOT, has seen the plans for the new bridge and how they compare.

"It will look very similar," Reap said. "It won't be identical, but it's very, very close."

Building another truss bridge is a reversal of DOT's earlier stance. Just last November when DOT met with parties in the debate, DOT ruled out building another truss bridge. DOT originally wanted to build a fixed high-rise bridge like the one that carries traffic on U.S. 17 Bypass. But in 2016 DOT changed their preferred option to a swing span - like the S-Bridge - but without the metal truss over it.

Since November, DOT has had a change of heart.

"We figured nobody does trusses anymore, but it turned out that a truss is probably a better option for a swing span from a structural standpoint," said Jay McInnis, a DOT engineer who has been spearheading the project for the last several years.

Because the new bridge will swivel to allow boat traffic in and out, weight is an issue. The more the bridge weighs, the more energy it takes to move it. The advantage of a truss bridge design is it's both light and strong.

See TRUSS, 3

Sheriff White promotes Reid to 'Chief Deputy'



REID

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Reid has been elevated to the number two position of Chief Deputy, Sheriff Shelby White announced last week.

"I picked Tom for is leader-

ship," White said. "He's well known in the community and he goes above and beyond to help people. Even on his days off, he calls in to make sure that inmates are transferred here. He's got good people skills, knows a lot of folks and can talk to people."

While the Perquimans Coun-

ty Commissioner approved creating the position of chief deputy, it did not create a new position. Reid, a 14-year veteran of the department, has been assigned to road patrol duty. Sheriff White has nine road patrol deputies and promoting Reid will technically leave him with eight. However White said

Reid, 58, will continue to do road patrol as needed.

Reid said that's not an issue. "I have no problem with that," Reid said. "It's not about me. It's about the department and the community we serve."

It marks the first time in

See REID, 2

Church opens economic center

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

A church in Winfall opened its doors last weekend to help Perquimans County residents who need help in finding a job.

Spirit and Truth Ministries will run an Economic Development Center out of space in the building at 206 W. Main St. in Winfall.

The first session was held on Saturday. Pastor Arthur Manigault said future sessions would depend on what people need.

"At first we're looking at doing this twice a month," he said. "It depends on the needs of the community."

Manigault hopes the center can offer job referrals, job etiquette training, a course on interviewing skills, GED preparation and a car-buying program. The church also offers free Wi-Fi and fax machine access.

"For a lot of people they don't have access to Wi-Fi

and fax and they're looking for employment. We can also help them prepare resumes."

Manigault knows that something as simple as access to a fax machine can be important.

He also said having reliable transportation can also mean the difference between getting a job and keeping it and not getting a job. Manigault has worked with two car dealerships in Elizabeth City and has some connections.

See CENTER, 2

BONNER FINALIST FOR AWARD



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michael Bonner, a Perquimans County native, accepts a check for \$25,000 on The Ellen DeGeneres Show in January. Bonner teaches at South Greenville Elementary. See more on Bonner on Page 2.

