

P6/C6\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C 001 A0027

PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
110 W ACADEMY ST  
HERTFORD NC 27944-1306

# PERQUIMANS

# WEEKLY



Perquimans falls to Northside, 6

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017

50 cents

## Wind project pulls out of Perquimans

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Apex Clean Energy has shelved plans to build a multi-million dollar wind power project in Perquimans County but will pursue building the Timbermill Wind project in Chowan County where it did win ap-

proval.

The company made the announcement last Wednesday.

In November 2016 the Perquimans County Commission rejected Apex's application to build more than 50 turbines in the Bear Swamp area. Apex appealed the decision but in June Superior

Court Judge Walter Godwin sided with the county. The deadline to appeal that ruling was Wednesday.

"After reviewing our options, we've decided to move forward with Timbermill Wind in Chowan County only," said Don Giecek, the senior development manager for Apex.

"The spacious timber and agricultural lands in Chowan County present an ideal location to build upon North Carolina's clean energy leadership role. Representing over 150 megawatts of clean, safe, renewable energy, Timbermill will provide several decades of substantial tax payments to

Chowan County and will diversify revenue streams for local farmers and landowners."

Perquimans County is already home to industrial-sized wind turbines. About half of the 104 turbines in the Amazon Wind Farms East project are in Perquimans County. Perquimans is

also home to the operations and maintenance facility for the project.

This year Avangrid, the builder of the Amazon project, paid Perquimans County about \$300,000 in property taxes. That was based on an economic develop-

See WIND, 2

## Schools reopen Aug. 28

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Perquimans County Schools are expecting nearly 1,667 students for the start of the new school year on Aug. 28.

The estimate is higher than the 1,597 projected by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and slightly higher than the figure last year, said Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman.

"It's a great time of year," Cheeseman said. "Refreshed people coming back and some new people joining the team."

Students will see a few new faces at Perquimans County High School. There is a new principal — Wayne Price — as well as some new teachers. Price is replacing Melissa Fields, who left the position at the high school to return to be principal at Perquimans Central School.

Cheeseman said the high school had six teachers leave, and three have been replaced.

Among those leaving was Angel White, the long-time head of the agriculture program. White took a position at the county's solid waste and recycling operation on Perry's Bridge Road.

See SCHOOLS, 2



CHEESEMAN



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Hannah McClenny, 6, gets her first look at a solar eclipse in Hertford on Monday.

## Groups view sky show

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

It wasn't the first solar eclipse experience for James Rodgers.

But Rodgers, 68, came to the parking lot next to the Perquimans County Library on Monday to experience it again.

Rodgers said it was 1970 when he had his first taste.

"It wasn't totally dark, but it got darker and after the roosters started crowing," Rodgers said of the experience 47 years ago on King Street.

"I never thought I'd see it again," he said.

Jenna Burge, 19, was there to view Monday's event as well.

"I think the eclipse was awesome. I really didn't know what to expect. I had



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

People use protective glasses to view Monday's solar eclipse at the Perquimans County Library.

See ECLIPSE, 2

## Monument draws little protest

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Elected leaders from across Perquimans County say they won't push for the removal of Civil War monuments.

There are efforts to do just that in Chowan and Pasquotank counties.

Perquimans County Commission Chairman Kyle Jones said hate is what is driving American's problems, not monuments, and removing them could only make the problem worse.

"Personally, it's my belief that this particular monument's presence furthers racism no more than its removal would eliminate the same. But, I think in times like these of tense racial division, it's incumbent upon all of us to consider our neighbor's point of view, and have a healthy skepticism of our own opinions, whatever race we may be. If we allow ourselves to be bogged down by the minutia of these sorts of issues, we'll never be able to progress on a grand scale. I think we all have to be aware of the people on both sides of the issue who seek to divide us for their own personal or political gain."

Perquimans County is home to two Civil War monuments — one honoring Black Union soldiers and another one honoring white Confederate soldiers. There have been no apparent efforts to have either one removed according to county officials.

Both monuments are in Hertford. The monument to Black Union soldiers was erected in 1910 at the corner of King and Hyde Park streets. It was the location of the county's first black school, library and church.

The second one was erected in 1912 on the courthouse lawn by the Perquimans County Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The fact that Hertford has two monuments makes the town unique, said County Commissioner Joe Hoffer.

See MONUMENT, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Dave Johnson (left) presents a Bible to Mike and Rebecca Lyens at a dedication for their Habitat for Humanity house on Dobbs Street in Hertford on Wednesday.

## Crowd dedicates new Habitat home

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Mike and Rebecca Lyens will live at the new house at 608 Dobbs St., and a host of organizations met last week to celebrate.

The couple are the newest Habitat for Humanity residents in Hertford. The organization uses volunteers to help lower the cost of building a modest home.

The residents have to pay off the mortgage.

"Thank you for coming out and I'd like to thank the people who are not here," Mike Lyens said.

He served in the Navy and had a job in the concrete industry, but a disease has mostly robbed him of his almost all his vision. Still he visited the site across from Hertford Grammar School as much as possible during construction.

"It took a whole lot of people in the community to make this come together,"

said Ron Cummings.

One speaker quoted Psalm 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder's labor in vain."

And the home was a labor of love said the builders who worked on it for almost five months.

Perquimans and Chowan counties share the same Habitat for Humanity local affiliate. The Rocky Hock Lions Club in Chowan was one of the groups that helped make the home pos-

sible.

Dave Johnson of the Rocky Hock Club presented the couple with a Bible.

The State Employees Credit Union helped with the financing.

Bill Ross, a Hertford SECU board member, offered his thanks. The state SECU earmarked \$10 million to build a new Habitat house in every county in North Carolina. By doing so,

See HOME, 2

## Police: Second shooting suspect arrested

From Staff Reports

A second suspect has been arrested in a shooting that left three people injured in the Wynne Fork Court housing development last month.

Hertford Police Chief Douglas Freeman said Quintin Lashaun Porter was arrested in the Raleigh area by the State Bureau of Investigation on Aug. 16. Porter, 25, lived in the 200 block of Hogs Neck Road.



WILLIAMS



PORTER



JONES

Both Porter and Tyrell Shawndell Williams, 30, are charged with six counts of felony discharging a weapon into an occupied dwelling. Williams, a resident of Hollowell Drive in Winfall, remains at large. The shooting happened July 19.

Hertford police picked Porter up transported him to Albemarle District Jail where he remains under \$800,000 bond.

A third suspect, Ervin Jordan Jones, 26 has also been

See SHOOTING, 2

## Bill targets human trafficking

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A bill that regulates North Carolina's massage parlors to crack down on human trafficking is an important first step to tackling the problem, said Dianne Layden.

Layden, a Belvidere resident, is a member North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork

Therapy, which helped write the bill. She's also a member of a board that targets human trafficking.

She said the problem is real and it's all around the state, calling it modern day slavery.

"People don't believe how big it is," Layden said earlier this month.

See BILL, 2



6 89076 47144 2