

WIND

Continued from 1

center operates the "relocatable over-the-horizon-radar" system that provides "critical surveillance capability to support the US Southern Command Counter Narcoterrorism mission," she explained.

The ROTH receiver is in southern Chesapeake, putting it roughly within 30 miles of the Amazon wind farm in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties. That's raised questions about whether the wind farm's turbines would cause too much electromagnetic interference and risk blinding ROTH to illicit activities off the southern east coast. After years of negotiations,

and based on modeling from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Labs, the Navy and wind farm developer Avangrid Renewables struck a deal in 2014 to allow 104 turbines to be built in specific locations, and to study their impacts in their first year of operation.

That agreement wasn't good enough for 10 Republican state lawmakers, including Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort, and a retired Marine major general who urged the incoming Trump administration to shut down the wind farm. In a letter publicized in January 2017 — less than a month after the farm started operating — they called for shutting down the farm due to its "imminent, highly likely, unacceptable threat to our national security."

Today, it appears that letter had little impact. The wind farm is operating normally, according to the developer, and the Navy is continuing to study it — although it's too soon to say how well it's getting along with the ROTH receiver.

"Evaluation of data from post-construction field measurements to validate the results of the 2014 predictive modeling by MIT Lincoln Labs is ongoing," Draughn-Fraguada said Friday. She explained that Lincoln Labs, the Forces Support Surveillance Support Center and the Naval Research Laboratory collected data from specific turbines in January 2017, followed by data collection for the entire wind farm in July 2017.

She continued that, if the

field testing reveals more than the allowable interference, the Navy and Avangrid must consult with technical experts to figure out how to reduce it. Notably, the Navy's agreement provides the wind farm cannot be forced to stop operations without a clearly defined national security emergency.

Though Avangrid is "generally pleased with the performance of the project," it's not speculating whether its turbines are causing acceptable interference or not, based on an email from Avangrid spokesman Paul Copleman. Copleman said he deferred to the Department of Defense as to whether the wind farm has lived up to the 2014 modeling.

As the region waits for the

Navy's determination, The Daily Advance also asked Cook whether he still believed the wind farm should be shut down. Cook reiterated Friday that his "position has always been that if the interference to the ROTH facility could not be fully removed, then the offending turbines should be shut down." Notably, the letter Cook signed describes the "preferred option" as "shut down this project permanently," with the "secondary option" being to require shutting down any and all turbines causing significant interference.

During the debate about shutting down the wind farm, Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, vocally defended the wind farm, urging fellow Republicans to visit the

site. That visit led to House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, softening his opposition to the project.

On Friday, Steinburg said he wasn't aware of any further efforts against the wind farm — though he wasn't told in advance about the shutdown letter either, he acknowledged. He also said the military and Avangrid have a great working relationship, based on conversations he's had with Naval personnel, and the threat of a shutdown is hopefully over.

"Everything I've seen indicates this issue has been resolved," he said. Steinburg also added the developer still hopes to build up to 46 additional turbines, but he's not sure if or when they'll press forward with them.

PRISON

Continued from 1

Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Pellini and Emily Davis did an "awesome job with the evidence that they presented to the court."

Prior to sentencing, Bramble called Ames' mother, Samantha Bunch, to testify.

Bunch, in asking Tillett to show her son leniency, told the judge she had been married several times, and that while she was married to Ames' father, her son had witnessed his father being violent toward her. She said her son was a good student who played football and ran

track. She also said he had earned a high school diploma while incarcerated.

Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Pellini, however, asked Tillett to impose a life sentence without the possibility of parole, claiming Ames had neither apologized for Graham's death nor shown any remorse about it. Pellini also said Ames had essentially destroyed two lives: Graham's and Brunson's.

Prosecutors maintained throughout the four-day trial that, although Brunson acknowledged firing the gun that killed Graham, Ames planned the slaying. Brunson in fact testified during Ames' trial that it was

Ames who handed him the handgun used in Graham's slaying and who told him to shoot Graham.

In her closing argument to the jury on Friday, Pellini reiterated that Graham's slaying was Ames' plan. She noted that after Brunson shot Graham at the park, both he and Ames drove to Ames' mother's residence without stopping to alert law enforcement about what had happened. She noted Ames did, however, tell both a woman living at his mother's house and a cousin in a telephone conversation about Graham's slaying.

Pellini argued that the only reason Ames went to

police the afternoon after Graham's murder was to get there before Brunson did, believing "the first to talk would be the first to walk."

Buttressing prosecutors' case that Ames planned Graham's murder was testimony by Michael Barnak, one of the state's last witnesses on Friday.

Barnak, who testified he had been in and out of jail most of his life, told jurors he had spoken with Ames at Albemarle District Jail following Graham's slaying.

According to Barnak, his cell flooded one day and Ames showed up as part of an inmate cleanup crew. During their conversation, Barnak testified Ames told

him he didn't kill Graham but had planned his murder.

Barnak said he contacted the District Attorney's Office by letter in September, advising prosecutors of what Ames had told him. He testified he wasn't promised anything in return for his testimony at Ames' trial.

During cross-examination by Bramble, Barnak acknowledged he had offered to participate in undercover drug purchases for anti-drug agents. He denied that he had shown racism toward an African-American inmate.

Ames didn't take the stand in his own defense. Bramble maintained throughout the trial that his client happened

to be at the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong person.

In his closing arguments to the jury, Bramble said he believed Brunson testified against Ames out of revenge for his client having gone to the police after Graham's death. He also told jurors Barnak wasn't someone they should believe.

In her closing statement, Pellini told jurors that neither Barnak nor Brunson were great witnesses. She also said Brunson isn't a smart person. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't be believed, she said. When you're trying the devil, you have to go to hell to get witnesses, she said.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

PERQUIMANS COUNTY SHERIFF

■ 1/12 Gary Davis, Howell's Lane, failure to appear, \$500 secured bond.

■ 1/12 Travis Searcy, Wilderness Trail, assault and battery, \$500 unsecured bond.

■ 1/14 Michael Faison, Navajo Trail, assault on a female.

■ 1/16 Michael Faison,

Navajo Trail, domestic violence protective order violation, assault on a female, \$10,000 secured bond.

■ 1/17 Lacy Bunch, West Island Trail, simple physical assault, second-degree trespass.

■ 1/17 Justin Preble, West Island Trail, second degree trespass.

■ 1/17 April Jackson, West Island Trail, failure to appear, \$500 secured bond.

CHARGES

Continued from 1

ago. The town had run out of additional capacity to add more customers.

Reid suggested the water-sewer bills are a bigger issue than the electric bills.

"If you could get 100 customers to Hertford, you would see a change," Reid said. More customers would mean the town could spread the debt service for the water and sewer improvements

over a larger base.

He said when people complain about their "electric bill" some don't grasp that the bill in the town is a combination of electrical use along with water, sewer and garbage. In the case of some smaller customers the water and sewer portion of the bill combined is more than the electrical fee. The electric fee is already a lot lower than it was just three years ago thanks to a deal worked out with Duke Power, but the water and sewer

charges will only fall when there are more customers to share the debt burden that the water-sewer expansion created, Reid said.

But Norman said the problem with people not being able to pay their utility bills is not something some people can control.

"There are a million reasons why it could happen," Norman said.

"These deposits can hurt a person," Jackson said. "We all know that most houses aren't weatherized."

Muriel Harmon, one of the 10 or so residents attending the meeting, pointed to the \$27,000 in uncollectible debt as a sign the town needs to raise the deposit fee, not lower it.

Jackson claims he's trying to look out for poor people

"I grew up poor, and I mean poor. My Mom and Dad both went to prison at the same time when I was a kid. There are people in Hertford who are homeless."

Minzies Creek Sanitary District

Monthly meeting will be held on
SATURDAY, January 27, 2018
AT 10:00am

The Meeting Will Be Held at
139 Treasure Lane, Hertford



Introducing **Paradise Pet Resort:**
A luxury boarding experience

Visit our website or come by for a tour of our new state-of-the-art facility

Paradise PET RESORT
premier pet boarding for dogs
paradisepetresortnc.com

Call now for reservations
252.482.4113

IPADS

Continued from 1

"I'm starting a four-year term, and I feel I need the 256 gig," Jackson said. "It's not like I'm being greedy."

Norman said that much memory wasn't needed.

He said "cloud" services which allow users to upload

and download data are readily available and are free or cost very little.

"This is something he (Jackson) is missing," Norman said. "There is unlimited data on cloud storage. We don't need 256 gigs if we have cloud storage and a drop box."

Councilman Eley said he was probably the worst per-

son to be talking about computers, but he did say the town has a budget and a budget process and suggested the computer issue could be brought up at that time. He also pointed out to the new members that anything they do on a town computer is public and can be released.

Jackson argued the larger iPad was needed for him

and suggested that if council members didn't address getting the bigger iPads they would be doing it later.

"This will cost us more money if we are nitpicking about these now," Jackson said.

The board voted upgrade the iPads based on the motion that each council member will decide what they need.

ROUTE

Continued from 1

those from the Town of Hertford are on record that they don't want to see Hertford bypassed, Welch said. Because of that, DOT didn't include a bypass of

Hertford in the feasibility study.

Two U.S. 17 projects are proceeding with the planning stage. One would create an interchange at New Hope Road. Right now DOT has right-of-way acquisition penciled in for 2023 and construction in 2025.

Another involves building an interchange or flyover at Wynne Fork Road. Welch said right of way is penciled in for 2024 with construction in 2026.

Other projects in the pipeline are on New Hope Road to widen it from Union Hall Road to Woodland Church

Road. It's funded for next year.

There is also a project on Woodville Road from Red Bank Road to New Hope Road.

For more information on the I-87 plan visit <https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/us17-feasibility-study/>

Recycle

Harris completes Army basic training

From Staff Reports

Spencer Harris, a 2017 graduate of Perquimans County High School, recently completed U.S. Army Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga.

Harris remained at Fort Benning after his October graduation to train in his field with a Calvary Scout unit where he completed and

graduated on Nov. 30. Pvt. Harris is now stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY where he will continue training as a 19th CAV Scout and is attending air assault school. Pvt. Harris is the son of Velvet Jennings Harris and grandson of Lois and Bradley Jennings, of Hertford.



HARRIS



Perquimans County TAX LISTING DATES

All persons who own property subject to taxation must list during the month of January. Any persons who fail to do so will be subject to penalties prescribed by law.

Due to legislation, real property and licensed vehicles do not require listing by the taxpayer. However, if you have made any improvements to your real property, you must list that with the Tax Department. All other personal property such as boats, jet skis, unlicensed vehicles, IRP's, farm equipment, businesses, etc. can be listed with the lister in the county Assessor's Office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday starting January 2 through January 31, 2018. You may also list on the abstract that was mailed to you. If you have personal property or made improvements to your real property and did not receive an abstract, please contact our office. These abstracts must be returned to our office by January 31, 2018.

If you are a business and you need an extension, our office needs a letter requesting an extension by January 31, 2018.

If you are 65 years old or older, or totally and permanently disabled, and your income is less than \$29,600, you may qualify for a tax reduction.

Persons owning real property under cultivation, in forest management or horticulture land may qualify for a tax-reduced valuation (land use). If you are not already in the land use program and you feel you qualify, please contact The Tax Office for qualification.

The Tax Office is located at 107 N. Front Street (in the back of the courthouse) Hertford, NC. Our telephone number is 252-426-7010 or 252-426-5564.

Bill Jennings
Perquimans County
Tax Administrator

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

(USPS428-080)

Vol. 86 No. 4

Published each Wednesday.

A publication of Cooke Communications North Carolina, LLC

Established 1934

111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944

Mike Goodman..... Publisher
Peter Williams..... News Editor
Bev Alexander..... Advertising Representative
Phone 252-426-5728 • Fax 252-426-4625
Email: perquimansweekly@ncweeklies.com

Subscription Rates

In Daily Advance home delivery area..... \$26.25*
All other continental U.S..... \$32.50*
*Plus applicable sales tax. Activation fee of \$1.99 will be collected with all new subscriptions. Deactivation fees may apply for early cancellation.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Perquimans Weekly, Hertford, NC 27944

Chamber banquet is Friday

From Staff Reports

The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual Banquet and Auction on Friday night at Louise's Event Center.

Doors open at 6 p.m. when a silent auction starts. The live auction begins at 7:45 p.m. Charlie Layden will be conducting the auction.

Tickets are \$35 and are available at the chamber building on Market Street. The cost for a table of 10 is \$300.