

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

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Artist, PAL benefactor Pardue dead at 79



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Water Turtles swim program again gets funding boost



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Lady Pirates sweep Knights in volleyball on the road

Google to buy 100% of power from Timbermill project

Apex plans to invest \$350M in local economy

VERNON FUESTON
Chowan Herald

EDENTON — Google, the multinational tech giant, will purchase 100% of the power generated by the Timbermill Windfarm in Chowan County once the project becomes operational, Apex

Clean Energy announced Tuesday. The Timbermill project will consist of 45 wind turbines on 10,000 acres, Apex said. Construction has already begun on the facility, which is expected to go online in late 2024. Once the project is operational, Apex will become Chowan County's largest taxpayer.

The announcement came at a breakfast meeting Apex sponsored for local civic leaders,

businesses, and potential contractors at Edenton United Methodist Church on Tuesday. The 345-foot turbines will generate 189 megawatts of electricity, with each wind turbine producing useable electricity 90 percent of the time. That amount of power is comparable to what is used by 47,000 homes each year.



VERNON FUESTON/C
HOWAN HERALD
Jimmy Merrick of Apex Clean Energy presents a PowerPoint program on the company's proposed 45-turbine wind facility during a breakfast meeting to explain the project to local business and civic leaders at Edenton United Methodist Church, Tuesday.

More PROJECT | A6

'Great first day of school'

Nearly 1,700 back in school

Facilities upgrades eyed as students return to classes

REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools went back to class Monday with a number of facility improvements on the horizon.

"We had a great first day of school across our district yesterday," Superintendent Tanya Turner said Tuesday.

The stage is set for a good year, according to Turner.

"We are fully staffed preK-8 and our few vacancies at the high school are all covered by our teachers teaching through their planning periods or highly qualified retired teachers filling those areas which is so exciting for our students," Turner said. "All of our students are receiving free breakfast and lunch this year. Our middle school now has art which is an exciting addition to our curriculum and will help our



PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS PHOTO
Students arrive by school bus on the first day of classes at Perquimans Middle School, Monday. Nearly 1,700 students are enrolled in the Perquimans County Schools for the new year.

students meet the graduation requirements."

Turner said last week that Perquimans County Schools was expecting about 1,693 students, which is 40 more students than last year's enrollment of 1,653.

Turner also said bus transportation went well for a first day of school.

"Our transportation department did a great job preparing for the first day," Turner said. "All in all, transportation ran smoothly for a first day of school with only typical problems that will easily get worked out."

School officials said last week that students and school officials are excited

about the district's new track and soccer field at the Nixon Athletic Complex, the completed renovations to the softball field and plans for the district's new intermediate school. The school is in the design process and will serve grades 3-8.

More SCHOOL | A6

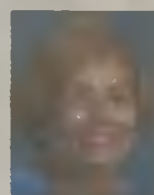
School board omits specific targets in minority biz policy

White: Policy should include hiring targets

REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Perquimans County Schools officials have opted for a policy that encourages opportunities for minority-owned and female-owned businesses but does not set a specific target for doing business with those firms.

The school board voted at its Aug. 22 meeting to adopt a policy that calls for making a good faith effort to provide opportunities for "historically underutilized businesses" to do business with the school district. But the policy stops short of establishing any kind of target



percentage that the district would attempt to achieve. A motion

by board member Anne White to add a goal to the policy failed to get a second.

White said she likes the language of "aspire to." She said setting a goal does not require anything to be done, but provides the school district something it can aspire to.

She said she believes it is important for the school district to be clear about its commitment to inclusivity in all areas, including opportunities to do business with the schools.

More BOARD | A6



PHOTO COURTESY PAM HADDEN
Hertford's Indian Summer Festival will be held in downtown Hertford Friday and Saturday, Sept. 8-9.

103 vendors sign up for Indian Summer Festival

Two-day Hertford fest is Sept. 8-9

REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Indian Summer Festival has grown to the point where more streets will need to be closed to accommodate the activities.

"The Indian Summer Festival looks like it will be a huge, huge success," Town Manager Janice Cole said at the Town Council work session Monday evening. "We have a lot of vendors."

The event this year is set for Sept. 8-9.

Town Council voted at the work session to close not only a section of Church Street downtown, but also Market Street between Church Street and Covent Garden. Town officials said Monday that there were 103 vendors for the festival, up from about 80 last year.

And Councilman Jerry Mimplitsch said that there could have been as many as 30 more vendors had there not had to be a cutoff for logistical purposes.

"Wow!" Mayor pro tem Ashley Hodges responded. "One hundred vendors from where we started is just unbelievable."

More FESTIVAL | A6

Hertford hopefuls address flooding needs

REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Candidates for mayor and town council in Hertford believe the town is moving in the right direction to mitigate flooding concerns, but also acknowledge that much more needs to be done.

Both mayoral candidates and the four town council hopefuls in the town's Nov. 7 election were recently asked a question about the town's stormwater infrastructure needs and the town should pay for them.



Hodges



Rouse



Waters

Only Town Councilor Ashley Hodges, who is running for mayor, and first-time town council candidates Keith Rouse and Rhonda Waters responded. The newspaper did not receive answers from mayoral candidate Reginald White or town council candidates Gracie Felton and Virginia Harvey Powell.

Both Hodges and Waters cited the importance of infrastructure maintenance

and repair in their answers. Rouse said he did not know enough about the issue to offer specific ideas right now, but indicated confidence in the overall direction of town management.

PW: What else needs to be done to improve stormwater drainage and flood resilience in Hertford? How should the town pay for it?

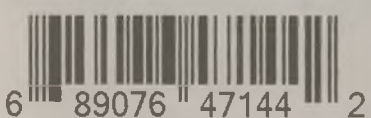
Mayoral candidates
Hodges: "At a minimum we need to replace or repair most of our wastewater and stormwater collection piping, relocate critical infrastructure out of the flood plain, and build

and maintain flood mitigations like retaining walls, living shorelines, and drainage ditches.

"These items range from modestly pricey to enormously expensive, so we must be strategic in how we fund them. Manager Cole and her staff are developing a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan to map out future investments and ensure utility rates adequately cover expenses, which is a minimum requirement to continue seeking millions in federal and state infrastructure funding.

"It's also crucial to avoid taking out additional debt in whatever we do, as our current debt load is the major reason for the high utility rates we pay today.

More ELECTION | A6



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