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20 CENTS



Three's company for turtles

the murky waters of the Perquimans River by U.S. 17 Business in Hertford, leaving nothing but a piece of wood

utting out of the water and into the sun. Or maybe it was photographer Jan Raby

of the DAILY ADVANCE who frightened the turtles off their sunny perch.

Washouts hurt treatment plant

Hertford's waste treatment plant is in violation of state standards, and the problem apparently stems from the inadequacy of the facility, according to an assessment made by plant inspectors last spring.

During a routine inspection in April, representatives of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development found the waste treatment plant to be in violation of state efficiency limitations, a problem reflected by excessive amounts of water entering the facility during heavy rains.

When too much water enters the plant, a washout occurs, and thus all human waste-eating bacteria are destroyed. The result is the dumping of water not sufficiently free of wastes into the Perquimans River.

According to plant manager Roy Perkins, the facility suffered such a washout as the result of heavy rains about one week prior to the April inspection date, an occurrence he holds accountable for the excess of human wastes found to be entering the river at that time.

All of the waste-eating bacteria were destroyed, said Perkins.

Perkins said that if no bacteria is alive to "eat" the human wastes, it is inevitable that some reach the river. "The lighter solids will float into the river," said Perkins, "but the heavier solids sink to the bottom and are pulled out into the sledge drying beds."

But washouts, according to Perkins, are the exception, rather than the rule.

"They (washouts) do not happen frequently," said Perkins, "the one in April was the only one we've had this year."

In a letter written to Hertford Mayor Bill Cox last month, Neil S. Griggs, of the department's central office in Raleigh, outlined enforced recommendations the town should take to insure correction of the facility's weaknesses. These include:

- Securing a commercial laboratory in an effort to upgrade laboratory practices
- The plan and eventual installment of an alternative power source for the treatment works
- And an update of the status of the town's 201 facilities planning process.

According to Cox, completion of the 201 process will address all existing problems within the water works, notably the infiltration of excess water into the town sewer lines and manholes. "The 201 plan will upgrade all underground lines and manholes in town," said Cox.

Smoke tests performed last September indicated that ground and rain water were entering the lines through disconnected joints and deteriorating manholes.

The 201 process, begun in 1975, should reach the construction stage by 1982, said Cox.

Approval of funds for the estimated \$1 million project are still pending, according to Cox, who said grant applications had been submitted on both the state and federal levels. Should the applications be approved, 87 percent of project cost will be absorbed by grants.

Three turtles appears to be too much company as first one, then another, and finally all of the shelled critters slip into

Robbers hit Harris Building

As of press time on Tuesday, no charges had been filed against two men who held up Harris Plumbing and Building Supply in Hertford at 12:10 p.m. on Friday.

According to Hertford Police Department accounts, one of the men trained a sawed off shotgun on business owner Edison "Spec" Harris and the other held a knife to the throat of clerk Worth Dale.

Some \$150 was taken from the cash register of the store, and the two were forced into a restroom, along with a customer, Jan Spruill, said officer Michael Jasielium.

The two assailants then took the

wallets of Spruill and Dale. Spruill's wallet contained some \$160 in cash and Dale's some \$19. Harris had slipped his wallet out of his pocket and concealed it before the three were forced into the bathroom.

Jasielium said the men were told to remain in the bathroom, and the two assailants fled the premises. They were seen running up Perry Street, then heading right on Grubb.

Police were on the scene just after they were notified, he said, but could find no trace of the robbers. No one had seen them get into a car, but because they had disappeared so quickly, police

speculated that they had fled to a getaway car parked around the corner.

Six cars patrolled area streets for some two hours following the incident, in hopes that the bandits were still on foot.

Two youths were stopped in a car on Church Street at approximately 2 p.m. and one of them fled, but it was determined that he had been wanted for failure to appear in court on a traffic citation, and the two were not involved in the robbery, Jasielium said.

The Hertford Police Department, The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, the Chowan County Sheriff's Department and the N.C. Highway

Patrol were all joined in the search for the armed robbers.

They found nothing, but early Saturday morning, armed robbers fitting the descriptions given to police in Hertford struck at the Zip Mart in Elizabeth City.

At 1:30 a.m. on Monday, armed robbers struck for a third time in the area, this time at the Fast Fare in Edenton.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt said that it is believed that all three incidents are related, and he expects to arrest suspects on the Harris robbery.

He said that it is now believed that a third man, who drove the "getaway car," was also involved in the Harris robbery.

It's hurricane time and Carolina is overdue

Perquimans County has not, in recent history, suffered a direct hit from a hurricane. But that doesn't mean it couldn't happen.

Talmadge Rose, civil preparedness coordinator for the town of Hertford, presents a scenario in which a hurricane skips across the Outer Banks, picks up momentum as it travels across the sounds, and slams into the waterfront developments that border the Albemarle Sound.

From there, the storm might travel

right up the Perquimans River and into the town of Hertford.

Rose concedes that the chances of such an occurrence are slight, but insists that the county should be well prepared, in the event that it does happen.

"All you've got to do is have one," Rose said. "I'm a firm believer in the old axiom that if something can happen, it will. It's just a matter of when."

Even if the storm does not hit the county directly, wind and water damage can be extreme.

With hurricane season at hand, August

17-23 has been declared Hurricane Awareness Week in the area. Rose is distributing pamphlets offering hurricane and flood safety tips, and hurricane tracking charts.

They can be picked up at area businesses, or at J.C. Blanchard's on the corner of Church and Grubb Street in Hertford.

According to Rose, the area is overdue for a major storm. He said that two hurricanes came across the county in the mid-fifties, but both had lost momentum over land, lessening damage.

Since that time, however, the number of mobile homes in the county has increased dramatically, as has waterfront development.

Rose expressed particular concern about occupying a mobile home during a hurricane. "Anyone in a mobile home should get out," he said.

The county school buildings are primary evacuation centers for hurricanes. Rose said the buildings will be more likely to house persons fleeing the Outer Banks area than county residents.

Those who do use the facilities will be required to bring along blankets, cots, and foods needed for special diets.

Rose said that the county has been so fortunate in the past that a sort of complacency towards hurricanes has developed.

Some residents, he said, might even secretly want to go through a hurricane. But this attitude can be dangerous, he said.

When Hurricane Camille hit the Texas Gulf Coast in 1969, many guests who were

celebrating with a hurricane party at a beach-front motel were killed. A wealthy resident who refused leave his concrete and steel reinforced home died along with his family when the whole structure washed out to sea.

There would be no shortage of advance warnings of an approaching hurricane.

He said the problem would be getting residents to heed those warnings. "It would be a matter of taking that information to heart," he said.

New recreation director hired for county

A new recreation director has been hired for Perquimans County.

Mac Sligh, 24, of Greenville, N.C. accepted the position Friday, and will officially begin his duties Monday, August 25.

Sligh graduated from East Carolina University with a B.S. degree in Parks and Recreation in 1979. Upon graduation,

he worked with the Boy's Club of Pitt County as physical director, a position which entailed coordination of all major sports, gymnastics, and other recreational activities.

He has also worked with the recreation departments in Greenville and in his hometown of Laurinburg, N.C.

Although Sligh said he had not had time to fully acquaint himself with the county's recreational program, he said it appeared to be in good shape. "The program appears to be a sound one," said Sligh, "and I would like to expand upon it."

Sligh is engaged to be married in March, and hopes to locate a job in the

area for his fiancée, who holds a master's degree in adaptive physical education.

Sligh will fill the position left vacant by former recreation director Billy Wooten, who left Hertford last month to assume a position within the Rocky Mount recreation department.



Fishing-cycle

Fred Forehand travels by bicycle to his favorite fishing hole on the Perquimans River in Hertford. Asked if the fishing is

good there, Forehand responded, "A fish is a funny fellow. Some days he'll bite and some days he won't bite at all."

30 cents tax rate

Winfall adopts 1980-1981 budget

The town of Winfall adopted a budget of \$69,444.06 for the 1980-1981 fiscal year beginning July 1 at its August 4 meeting.

The town tax rate for the year is set at 30 cents per \$100 property valuation, expected to generate \$14,784 in revenue.

The expenditure side of the budget includes \$5,820 in water bond payments, \$2,500 for salt to be used in treating town water, \$250 for chlorine to be used in treating the water, and \$6,000 for current to operate the water plant and town street lights.

Also included in the budget is a \$400 figure for telephone, \$1,500 for insurance,

\$8,500 for street work, \$1,200 for office supplies, and a \$3,500 stipend for the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department.

Gas is projected to cost the town \$3,000 in the current fiscal year, and other items budgeted include \$2,000 in repairs to equipment, \$2,000 in repairs for water system, and \$1,500 in miscellaneous expenses.

The largest chunk of the Winfall budget goes for salaries paid to town employees, a \$24,000 sum.

The town budget includes a \$7,164.06 surplus expected to be left over at the end of the fiscal year.

On the revenue side of the budget, \$1,924.67 is expected from the beer and wine tax, \$3,682.67 from the franchise tax, \$352.68 from the intangibles tax, and \$5,615 from the sales and use tax.

Town property taxes are expected to generate \$14,784.55, with revenue sharing kicking in an additional \$14,272. The Powell Bill fund for road maintenance adds \$7,605.32 to the town coffers, while interest on certificates of deposit adds \$3,361.76.

The water system is expected to generate \$16,847, and a \$1,117.95 surplus

is carried over from the 1979-1980 fiscal year budget.

In other business at last week's meeting, W.C. "Bill" Meekins of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph presented information on PROUD, a program that would help revitalize the town through a clean up, paint up, fix up campaign.

Meekins left brochures on the program, sponsored jointly by United Telephone Systems, with each council member.

The council also increased insurance on buildings from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Land records management grant set

Governor Jim Hunt announced this week the awarding of \$7,000 in state matching funds to Perquimans County to improve the county's land records system.

Hunt said the grant was one of 21 being made this year to counties for a total of \$233,000. "The state funds are being matched on a 50-50 basis with local dollars as a part of the state Land Records Management Program," Hunt said.

"Perquimans County has demonstrated a real interest in improving its system of land records management and these state funds will help the county in its effort," the governor added.

Governor Hunt said the county will receive state funds upon completion of the project.

In the first year of land records modernization, the county will use the funds to start the development of modern orthophoto base maps.

County tax supervisor Keith Haskett translated this to mean that aerial photographs will be taken of all land in the county, and property boundaries transcribed on to the photos.

The number of acres of each parcel of land will be indicated, and each parcel will be given an identification number.

With the numbered parcels, it will be possible to identify the owner, his address, and other pertinent information to

be used for tax purposes.

The state land records management program was begun by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1977. The program was honored by the National Association of Counties at its annual convention this summer. A part of the state Department of Administration, the program was showcased as one of the outstanding land records projects in the country.