

Pirates whip Camden, 59-20

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Aiming for the wrong goals

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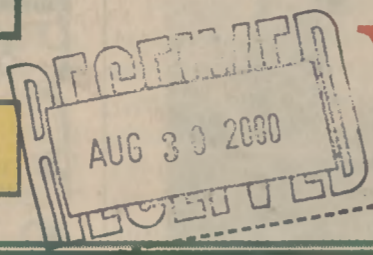
Schools honor grandparents

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35 cents



Daily Advance photo by John E. Abernathy

A T.A. Loving Construction Co. crew begins digging pathways for the sewage lines that will be installed throughout the Town of Winfall over the next year. The traffic tie-ups may be a nightmare now, but for those with failing septic systems or outhouses, the system is a dream come true.

Winfall sewer project underway

JEREMY DESPOSITO
 The Daily Advance

It took nearly a decade to get the money, but 12 months from now, a new sewer system will replace septic tanks and outhouses in Winfall.

Construction on the \$6.4 million project began last Monday along N.C. Highway 37 near Perquimans County Middle School. The heavy equipment and work on the shoulder of the roadway has caused some inconvenience, especially when students are being dropped off and picked up from school. But the inconvenience pales compared to the problems of improper treatment of sewage in the town that could result from not having a sewer system in place.

Mayor Fred Yates said Winfall has sought funding for the new system for 10 years. Former Winfall Councilwoman Shirley Wiggins, now chairman of the Perquimans County Commissioners, stressed the need for the system during her tenure on Winfall's board. Yates, appointed to fill Wiggins' term when she was elected to the county

board, pursued the project just as aggressively as Wiggins had before him once he was named to the board. Yates has made innumerable phone calls and driven many miles to secure funding for the project. "We couldn't have done the sewer system without the grant money," he said. "The cost to citizens would have been too great."

Indeed, with the exception of a \$500,000 loan from the statewide clean water bond, all of the money will come from grants, including \$850,000 secured in 1996, Yates said.

Completion of the project is expected by Sept. 1, 2001.

As they build the system, construction crews will have to dig as deep as 14 feet in some areas, said a spokesman for T.A. Loving Construction Company, contractor for the project. In coming weeks, the company will deploy four crews to work in four areas of the town.

As part of the project, the Town of Hertford has agreed to

treat the wastewater coming from Winfall, though Winfall will maintain its own system, Yates said. The connection will run under the Perquimans River and hook up on the Hertford side.

"Hertford has 100,000 reserve gallons per day," Yates said. "That capacity is guaranteed for the Town of Winfall."

About \$45,000 of the total project cost will go toward helping Hertford upgrade its system to accommodate the connection to Winfall. Winfall currently has two wells for water but only uses one. A \$26,000 grant will allow the town to build a third one to provide enough water to operate the sewer system.

Seeing construction begin was a moment to relish for Yates.

"It's just a dream come true," he said. "It's been a lot of hours, miles on the road, begging. It could get to the point where drinking water will become contaminated. (Sewage) can seep down into

the soil and into the drinking water."

Yates said some of the septic tanks around Winfall are 40 to 50 years old and that some of them are leaking.

Also, some residents continue to rely on outhouses.

Building the system will ultimately be cheaper than operating and maintaining a septic tank, he said.

"A septic tank for one house in Winfall costs you \$6,000," Yates said. "With the sewer, you can do it for a lot less."

To a point, Yates said the new system will attract industry, although Winfall is not looking for large businesses. Yates said smaller businesses would help build a tax base.

"We want to be comfortable and get a tax base so we don't have to rely on residential taxes," he said. "We're not looking for large businesses, otherwise you lose that small-town atmosphere."

In a recent joint meeting of the governing boards of Winfall and Hertford, it was decided that both councils must approve any decision to offer a business a financial incentive to locate in Winfall based on sewer hook-up fees.

"It's just a dream come true."
 Fred Yates
 Winfall Mayor

New group focuses on waterways

Preservation, enhancement of recreational water resources is main goal

Perquimans County has over 100 miles of waterfront - and a new organization has formed in Hertford to use these waterways as a tool to improve the entire county.

Perquimans Heritage Inc. (PHI) is a non-profit organization comprised of volunteers dedicated to preserving and

enhancing Hertford and Perquimans County by utilizing the community's abundant recreational water resources.

Perquimans Heritage Inc. has already found success. In June, the organization held the successful Hertford Mothboat Regatta that raised funds for the organization. The group plans to host other events focused on the county's waterways.

Funds raised by PHI will be distributed to non-profit organizations that strive to improve the Hertford and Perquimans County community. The funds will be disbursed through a formal grant

process.

The Board of Directors of Perquimans Heritage Inc. are Maurice "Buck" Bunch, Dan Daneker, Carlton Davenport, Ralph Autry, LuAnne Pendergraft, Mary C. White, Mitza Autry, Billie Simkins, John Christensen, and Chris Lane.

Perquimans Heritage Inc. is seeking members who are interested in actively participating in utilizing the county's waterways for the betterment of the community. PHI will have materials available during Indian Summer Festival. For more information, call Carlton Davenport at 426-5503.

County to build COA tech center at commerce park

JEREMY DESPOSITO
 The Daily Advance

Area residents interested in learning the skills needed to build commercial boats will soon be able to earn college credit as well as enhance their job prospects.

College of The Albemarle plans to begin offering a one-year degree program in boat building in the fall of 2001, COA President Sylvester McKay said last week.

Another bit of big news is that the facility that will house the program will be built in Perquimans.

"The tech center would be a very positive influence on companies locating in the region," said Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory. "We're looking to have a boat-related business park because of its location to the water."

Perquimans' commerce center, which is being developed by the county, is located on both sides of Harvey Point Road, just off U.S. Highway 17 Bypass. The north side of the center is along the river.

McKay wasn't sure what the 28,000 square-foot facility needed to house the program will cost, but Gregory said the county is already committed to paying for it and locating it at the Perquimans Commerce Centre.

The degree program would be different from the non-credit boat-building course COA started last year, McKay said. That course has a short-term focus of helping area boat builders improve the skills of their existing workers.

"When we offer non-credit courses we're trying to meet the immediate needs of businesses and industry," McKay said.

The proposed degree program, which will focus on fiberglass lamination and assembly, is a response to the growth of the boat-building industry in the northeast, he said.

"We have a growing boat

construction industry in several counties in the northeast and community colleges are trying to respond to that growing industry," McKay said.

The idea of the non-credit course originated in 1999 after one of Regulator Marine's owners spoke at COA's summer graduation.

After hearing Joan Maxwell speak, McKay decided to visit community colleges in Wilmington and Panama Beach, Fla. to see how they had designed a college credit program in boat building.

During those visits, McKay says he learned how much space it takes to support a boat-building program as well as the costs: molds for new boats can cost as much as \$100,000, he said.

"I learned the process (of boat-building) and the importance of having a program directly linked with local businesses," McKay said.

Maxwell, president of Regulator Marine, said the degree program will benefit the local boat-building industry because it will produce skilled workers.

"We have three boat builders (in Edenton) and all three of us will benefit from a skilled work force," Maxwell said. "We can get that from experience on the floor, but if they come through the doors with already a minimum skill level, we can reduce turnover and build products with better (price) margins on them because of (saving) the overhead of having to retrain people."

Boat builders aren't the first industry COA has worked with closely. The college also trains workers for a local travel agency and, when Friskies closed, it helped the pet treat-maker's employees by offering them retraining opportunities. COA also plans to work with area day-care centers to help their teachers and workers meet new state guidelines, McKay said.

FOOTBALL OPENER



Perquimans opened its varsity football season with a 59-20 win over visiting Camden Friday night.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY

High: 83

Low: 72

T'STORMS

FRIDAY

High: 84

Low: 71

SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY

High: 86

Low: 70

ISOLATED T-STORMS