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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 cents

Town begins sewer project

SUSAN HARRIS

After almost 10 years of planning and preparation, the town of Hertford began the upgrade of its wastewater system last month, according to Town Manager John Christensen.

The \$10.2 million project will be completed with a combination of grants and loans through the state General Revolving Loan Account, the state Clean Water Bond Fund, Rural Development, Community Development Block Grant, the Rural Center and the Town of Winfall. Christensen said the town will borrow \$5.3 million with the balance of the funds coming from grants. The state announced last week that the town will be able to borrow \$3 million from its General Revolving Loan Account.

Christensen said the upgrades will include increasing the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant from 400,000 gallons per day to 700,000 gallons per day. At present, the system treats about 350,000 gallons per day, Christensen said, but during rainy periods, that amount rises to over 400,000 gallons, stressing the plant.

The town has received permits that will allow treated wastewater from the new plant to discharge directly into the Perquimans River. However, the town will construct a spray field on its property on Grubb Street Extended, and will apply as much wastewater as possible to that area. Trees will be planted on the property as part of the project.

Christensen said the construction is expected to take about 16 months to complete.

Because the upgrade has been in progress, the town has already extended its wastewater treatment pipes into the commerce centre and is serving customers located there, Christensen said. Pipes have been laid down all commerce centre roads.

The town has a moratorium on subdivisions set to expire in October. Christensen said it is likely that the town council will allow the expiration with the increased capacity the new plant will bring. He said there are people "waiting in the wings" to submit subdivision plans for approval once the moratorium expires or is lifted.

Christensen said the project will accommodate expected growth and service to Winfall.

Prayer



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Perquimans High School's Inspirational Voices sing during the National Day of Prayer observance on the courthouse lawn last Thursday (above). About 100 people gathered for the annual prayer service, sponsored by Communities In Schools and The Ministers' Council for Education in Perquimans County. Clergy and lay persons James Spaugh, Larry Frank, Mattie Paylin, Henry Felton, David Beck and Willie Vaughn offered prayers for federal, state and local leaders; educators, communities of faith and families and children. Communities In Schools' Nancy Barrow welcomed all who attended, while Estelle Felton (right) ended the service in music with the song which has become her trademark, "One Day at a Time."

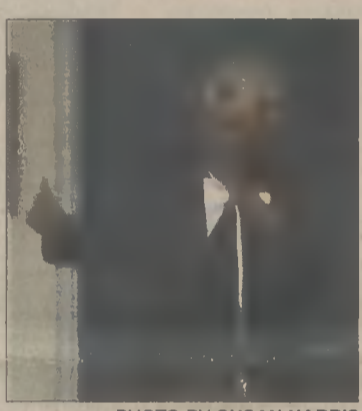


PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

Crack bust

SUSAN HARRIS

A Hertford man faces drug charges after allegedly being caught with crack cocaine in his pocket.

Brandon Skinner, 20, was arrested by Hertford Police last Tuesday, charged with possession of crack cocaine, trespassing and resisting arrest.

According to Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy, Skinner had previously been banned from Wynn Fork Courts, but was caught there by the Perquimans Sheriff's Department. A deputy attempted to apprehend Skinner, but Skinner allegedly ran from the property and could not be located.

On May 1, Hertford Officer Jeff Thomas was on patrol at Wynn Fork when he spotted Skinner there. Skinner again ran from an officer, but this time, fled inside apartment 116. He later came out and Thomas took him into custody, Vanscoy said. It was discovered at that time that Skinner had 8.2 grams of crack cocaine and \$300 in cash in his pockets. He was charged with possession and a \$7,000 bond was set. Upon appearing in district court, his bond was increased to \$57,000 secured by the Honorable J.C. Cole, Vanscoy said.

He was also charged by the sheriff's department with violation of condition of release.

PCHS student wins \$15,000 car

Edenton Motors teams with Perquimans, Chowan school systems to offer drop-out prevention program

SUSAN HARRIS

When Daniel Eaves looks back on his high school days, there's no doubt that May 4, 2007 will stand out in his mind.

Eaves was one of 156 high school juniors and seniors from Perquimans and John A. Holmes who qualified for and entered a drawing for a new Chevrolet Aveo donated by Edenton Motors. Last Friday, those students were bused from their respective schools to Edenton Motors for the drawing.

There was an undercurrent of excitement as the winning ticket was drawn. Eaves had won the car.

"I really didn't believe it at first," said the Perquimans senior. "I was just standing there. I didn't think I was going to win."

"I think it's great. I really appreciate it. I've never won anything like this before."

Eaves said he looks forward to driving his new \$15,000 car to classes at Elizabeth City State University next year, where he will pursue a degree in business.

The car give-away was the brainchild of Nancy Barrow of Perquimans County Communities in Schools. Barrow had heard about a similar program in another area designed to give students an incentive to perform academically and therefore, stay in school until graduation.

Barrow said when CIS board



PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Daniel Eaves could hardly believe his luck when his name was announced as the winner of a new Chevrolet donated by Edenton Motors as part of a drop-out prevention program in Perquimans and Chowan schools. He was congratulated by Edenton Motors' Stuart Deacon (center) and PCHS Principal James Bunch.

member and schools public information officer Brenda Lassiter heard about the program, she began to explore opportunities for a local incentive.

Enter Stewart Deacon of Edenton Motors. Deacon agreed to provide a brand new vehicle for a drop-out prevention program to serve both Perquimans and Chowan counties. And Barrow said he has been a driving force behind getting students excited about the program.

"I think what he's done speaks volumes about his commitment to our kids," Barrow said. "He is as excited as anybody (about the program)."

Barrow said Deacon was there when entries were collected at the schools, shaking each students' hand who qualified to enter by earning As and Bs on their report

cards. Some students earned as many as 16 chances, others only one, depending on their grades. Eaves had 11 tickets in the drawing.

"Every kid knew from Stuart Deacon himself that they had a chance to win that car," Barrow said. "He really went above and beyond."

In addition to Deacon's generosity, Farm Bureau of Chowan County is providing \$1,500 towards insurance and RBC Centura Bank branches in Hertford and Edenton did fund raisers to provide the funds to pay for taxes and tags. Barrow said she is presently in the process of getting gas donated, also.

Eaves will drive the vehicle away from the PCHS Awards Night on May 16, Barrow said.

Not only did Deacon give a car

this year, Barrow said he has made a commitment to do it again.

Another thing at the drawing that impressed Barrow was how genuinely happy the 155 students who didn't win the car were for Eaves.

"They were excited for him, all 155 of them," Barrow said. "They cheered and clapped. That spoke well for them and for their school systems."

Barrow thinks now that the first car has been given, the reality factor will hit home with students and there will be more participation next year. This year, only 156 out of over 500 juniors and seniors in the two systems chose to participate.

"In life you're not going to win everything, but if you're not in it, you're for sure not going to win it," Barrow said.

Eaves agreed that he'd encourage next year's juniors and seniors to take the program seriously and earn the right to enter, then do it.

"Even if you think you're not going to win it, just try because you could luck up like I did," he'd tell others.

Eaves is the son of Howard and Karen Eaves.

WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 77, LOW: 63
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 79, LOW: 64
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 78, LOW: 61
SCATTERED T'STORMS