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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Traffic stop yields body

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A Pasquotank sheriff's deputy found a dead man slumped over in the passenger seat of a vehicle driven by a Hertford man last Thursday night, triggering an investigation into what police are terming a suspicious death.

Sheriff Randy Cartwright said the dead man was found in a vehicle driven by Wayne Augsburger, 43, of the 100 block of Rivershore Drive. The body did not appear to have any visible injuries. On Monday, Cartwright said he was waiting for verbal results of an autopsy performed over the weekend.

The dead man, who police declined to identify until out-of-town family members were notified, lived in Elizabeth City and was said to be in his 40s.

A deputy sheriff began following Augsburger's vehicle traveling on U.S. Highway 17 bypass after receiving a report of a vehicle swerving. The deputy eventually stopped the vehicle in the Wal-Mart parking lot on Halstead Boulevard Extended around 9 p.m.

Augsburger, who works as a carpenter, said the man whom he knew as Russell, had been painting Augsburger's neighbor's home in New Hope.

"He'd been drinking all day so I gave him a ride home. I didn't want to spend my money in gas to drive him home so I drove my neighbor's truck to give him a ride. He just went out in the truck. I don't know if it was a heart attack or a aneurism, but I didn't know what to do," he said.

Augsburger said he swerved the truck several times to try to wake the man up with no success.

"I pulled over in the Walmart parking lot to see what was wrong with him and the next thing I saw were blue lights behind me," he said.

Augsburger was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia in connection with the incident and later released on bond.



Perquimans Weekly photos by CATHY WILSON

THE GRANDCHILDREN OF JOE and Mary White of Hertford beat the heat by splashing around in their grandparents' yard last week. Clayton White (top) slides across a wet surface, while Grayson Waters (left) lets the cool drops slash her face. Chase White (right) squirts himself in the mouth with the cool H₂O. Water play is a fun break from the heat. Children should be closely supervised when playing in water, and should be protected from burning rays with sunscreen applied every two hours.

Local man wanted for murder

Elliott indicted for 2006 shooting death

A Hertford man is wanted in connection with the 2006 murder of a Plymouth man in Elizabeth City.

Darryl Torrey Elliott, 31, was indicted in Pasquotank County Superior Court recently on a first-degree murder charge.



Darryl T. Elliott

According to the Elizabeth City Police Department, Thurston "Silk" Pittman was shot multiple times and killed on July 10, 2006 at the Brothers and Sisters Club located at 702 West Cypress Street, Elizabeth City.

An ongoing investigation conducted by the Elizabeth City Police Investigative Division, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration led to the indictment.

Elliott's last known address was 138 Lowe Drive in Hertford. He is described as a black male; 5'10" tall weighing 230 lbs with tattoos on each forearm.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Elliott should call the ECPD at 335-4321 or the Crime Line at 335-5555.

Hertford, Winfall at odds over sewage

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The wastewater is about to hit the fan.

The town of Hertford says Winfall owes the town nearly \$8,000 in past due sewer costs for March and April. Payment for their May bill is also past due.

Winfall officials say they have overpaid Hertford more than \$8,000 in sewer costs between May 2007 and February 2008 and want that amount applied to their March and April bills totaling \$7,975.99. They want Hertford to recalculate their May bill using figures resulting from having equipment calibrated by a consulting engineer hired by Winfall.

Hertford wants payment immediately and has given Winfall notice that Hertford can terminate its contract with Winfall if payment isn't made. Winfall believes it has a credit balance of \$125.38 based on Winfall's figures.

On Monday, Hertford Town Manager John Christensen said he just received a letter from Winfall and will analyze Winfall's figures and their claim.

According to Chris-

tensen, Hertford and Winfall entered into a contract in May 2001 detailing Hertford's treatment of wastewater for Winfall's sewage customers. Winfall was paying per the agreement until February 2008, when they paid on the 25th rather than on the 20th as required by contract. The same thing happened in March. Winfall hasn't paid anything since then, Christensen said.

"This contract was formed in an environment of cooperation and understanding," said a letter Christensen wrote to Winfall dated June 20. "At this time, I do not sense that same spirit of working together..."

Christensen presented a memorandum to Hertford Town Council on June 23, outlining the situation.

"On June 12, we called Winfall's town hall and requested May's flows," stated Christensen's memo. "On June 17, Winfall called us to resend March and April's bills, but did not give us May's flow numbers. On June 18, I called Mayor Yates and asked why we had not been paid, and his response was that their attorney would be sending us a letter. I asked if that meant he was refusing to pay their

bill and the response was that it would be explained in the letter. I asked why they felt that they didn't owe Hertford something for those months and again the response was I would have to wait on the letter."

Christensen said the towns' contract states in the event of a dispute, Winfall still needs to pay the undisputed portion of the charge, as well as send written notice within 45 days of receiving a questionable charge.

"If the dispute cannot be resolved within 30 days then USDA-RD (United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development) will be called upon to assist in resolving this dispute," Christensen's memo states. "Failing this, the dispute can be settled in court."

As of June 20, Christensen wrote, "To date, we have not received anything in writing regarding a disputed charge. Mayor Yates complains about the temporary metering but offers no basis for a reduction in their cost. Every time they have performed pump calibrations, we have allowed the pump rates to be changed and in the last calibration amended the prior two bills to reduce their costs."

When asked about the overdue bills by this newspaper, Yates provided copies of a June 18 letter to Christensen saying Winfall had overpaid Hertford for 10 months based on the figures provided by William Diehl of Diehl and Phillips, consulting engineers out of Cary. According to Yates, Diehl ran draw-down tests to determine the actual pumping rates for the two pumps at station six.

According to a May 19 letter from Diehl to Yates, each of the two pumps was tested twice to eliminate inflow variables and measurement inaccuracies.

"I feel comfortable with the results of the tests that we ran on May 19, 2008," Diehl states in the letter. "There was good correlation with the two tests we ran on each pump, and the inflow rate did not appear to change significantly during the tests. As you know, sewage pumps are subject to reduced capacity due to clogs or partial clogs; this could be the reason for the low pumping rates that we measured this time. You indicated the contract with Hertford states that an error in metering could be applied to the last three months; if one were to go

back and recalculate the sewer pumpage for February, March and April 2008... the revised pumpage would be...2,106,600 (gallons) for February; 2,366,160 (gallons) for March, and 2,787,240 (gallons) for April."

May's figures, based on the new calibration, totals 2,175,660 gallons.

This is not the first wastewater dispute between the two towns.

In May 2007, Hertford discovered that Winfall had modified their pump rating in May 2006 without notifying Hertford of the change. That modification lowered Winfall's wastewater cost to Hertford significantly. Hertford didn't accept the change without an engineer's certification. Diehl also performed pump tests that did lower Winfall's volume, but not as low as what Winfall had changed it to the year before. Hertford also discovered that Winfall was not using the correct starting number in their calculations, causing Winfall to owe Hertford \$4,463.13 in back charges.

Hertford allowed Winfall to pay back the money in 12 monthly installments without interest at \$371.93 per month.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 95 LOW: 73
MOSTLY SUNNY

4th of JULY
HIGH: 92 LOW: 73
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 90 LOW: 74
SCATTERED T'STORMS



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