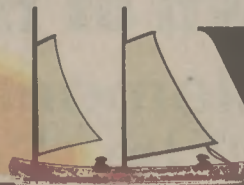


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

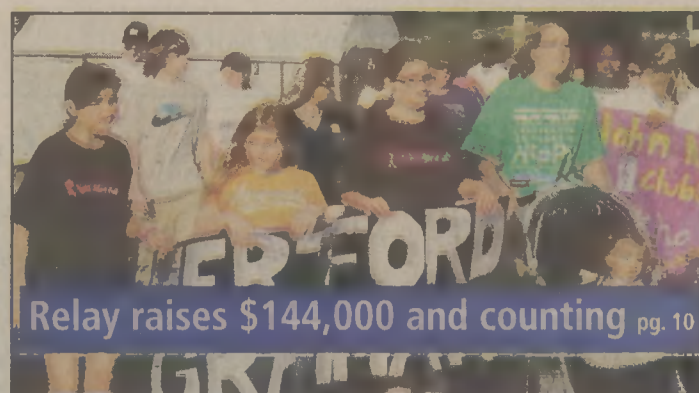


"News from Next Door"

MAY 20 - MAY 26, 2009

MAY 20 2009

35 cents



Relay raises \$144,000 and counting pg. 10

## Mediation does not resolve Hertford-Winfall sewer dispute

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Despite mediation by the funding agency, Hertford and Winfall still disagree over payment for wastewater treatment.

While Hertford officials termed last month's mediation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development as "fruitful," they have not signed off on the mediated settlement amount,

saying they want more information from Winfall before they sign on the dotted line. Winfall officials abided by the result of the mediation, and sent Hertford a check last week for \$9,972.74, saying the settlement is finalized.

Hertford, however, says they can't accept Winfall's check if it represents a final settlement. While the amount of the check represents cost agreed upon during mediation, there are still issues to

be resolved before the matter is settled, said Hertford Town Manager John Christensen.

Brian Noll, with Rural Development, met with Christensen and a delegation from Winfall that included Mayor Fred Yates, engineer Bill Diehl, and town accountant Terry Chappell on April 22 to mediate an on-going dispute over payment for Winfall's wastewater treatment by Hertford dating to March 2008. Following broad discussions by both

towns, a settlement amount was supposedly reached, with that amount not being legally binding until agreed upon by both town councils.

"After considerable negotiation by both towns, Rural Development understands that the final negotiated price agreed to by both parties was for Winfall to pay Hertford a total of \$9,872.74," wrote Noll to Doug Causey, Rural Development area director. "This cost would resolve all out-

standing issues brought up at the meeting and allow both parties to move forward with an agreeable relationship."

Winfall sent Hertford a check for that amount May 12 with a letter from Yates saying the check finalizes the settlement of the wastewater treatment dispute between the two towns.

However, Hertford Mayor Sid Eley sent Winfall a letter May 6 agreeing that Winfall owes Hertford a total of

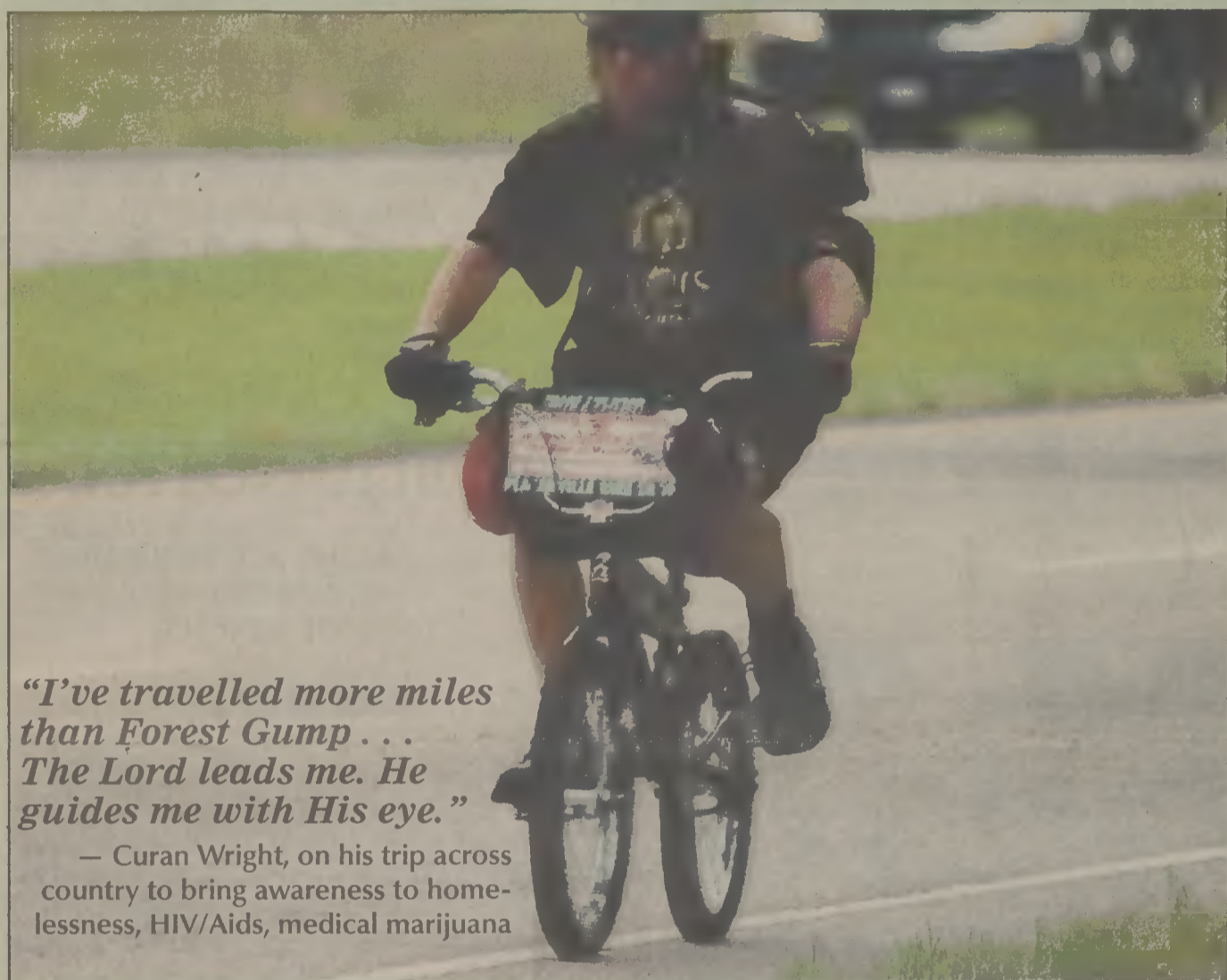
\$9,872.94 for wastewater treatment in December 2008, January 2009, and for engineering services and sales tax previously credited to Winfall erroneously.

But, Eley also wrote that the mediation left one significant issue outstanding.

The dispute centers on past wastewater treatment charges billed by Hertford that Winfall contends are skewed because of temporary meters

See SEWER on Page 2

## A different perspective



*"I've travelled more miles than Forest Gump... The Lord leads me. He guides me with His eye."*

— Curan Wright, on his trip across country to bring awareness to homelessness, HIV/Aids, medical marijuana

PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

BMX biker Curan Wright is riding his bicycle backwards across America and pedaled through Perquimans County Friday afternoon. He is on a mission to heighten Aids Awareness, advocating the homeless, and to bring attention to legalization of medical marijuana.

## Traveling backwards in hopes of going forward

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

You can't tell if he's coming or going.

Curan Wright is riding his BMX bicycle backwards across America. He rode through Perquimans County Friday afternoon on his way to crossing each state in the nation. While he's moving forward in one direction, both he and his bike are facing in the opposite direction.

"I've travelled more miles than Forest Gump," said Wright, 38.

Wright, from Venice, Calif.,

is riding to bring awareness to homelessness, HIV/Aids, and legalization of medical marijuana. He says he is homeless and was using drugs before beginning his backwards adventure crossing America's roads on August 17, 2007.

He has crisscrossed America in six different directions, hitting 41 different states along the way. He plans to ride backwards through each of the nation's 50 states and says he holds the world record for riding a bike backwards.

He sleeps on the side of the

road, or grabs a hotel room along the way. He usually rides about 70 miles a day.

"Nothing is easy about what I'm doing," said the man who wears a cross necklace, a Jesus tee-shirt, and quotes scriptures as he freely voices his political opinions on national politics. He was a bounty hunter, he said, before he began his ride across America.

Why ride backwards? "Our nation's senate and congress are taking this country backwards," he answers.

He said he has not had any

safety problems to arise riding backwards, and notes that it's legal as long as the bicycle is going the same direction as traffic.

"Thank God I can see what's coming (behind me) so I can get out of the way," he added.

Facing backwards for the most part, he does turn around to see where he's heading.

"The Lord leads me," he said. "He guides me with His eye."

To follow Wright on his journey, log onto bikingbackwards.us.

## Banks sprints to gold

Sophomore breaks state record held by former Lady Pirate

By Susan Harris  
Editor

Leroya Banks was nervous heading into the state 1-A 200-meter championship race.

"I was confident. I was just nervous because the two girls I ran against were state champions," she said.

But as the minutes ticked closer, Banks said her determination swelled.

"I (knew I) could do it, I was ready," she said.

The gun went off and Banks began strong.

"I saw one of them (competitors) and I tried to run as hard as I could. I ran harder, then I didn't see either one of them. I thought 'They can't catch me now!'" Banks smiles as she remembers how it felt to win her first state championship.

Not only did Banks lead the pack, she broke the state 1-A record with a time of 24.86, a record set by former Perquimans track star Shaqwita Copeland.

Banks was the regional champion in both the 100 and 200, and brought home the silver in the 100.

"That girl just leaned across the line before I could," Banks shook her head with a grunt, remembering the 100 race. "We were so close, they knew she won by the tape (camera) at the end of the track."

The Lady Pirates sophomore was almost as upset about not winning the 100 as she was elated about winning the 200. You see, Banks doesn't like to lose. After all, she's been the fastest girl she knows since she began racing in Head Start.

"I've been running since I could walk," Banks grinned. "I was field day champion every year and I was undefeated since seventh grade (in track) until state last year."

She continues to be the fastest. She topped the 100 and 200 dashes all the way to state last year, where she fin-



Leroya Banks — the new state 1-A 200-meter race champion.

ished second in the 100. She only lost one race this year, and that at 3-A South Central High School in Pitt County where the Perquimans track coaches took their teams to help them see tough competition and prepare them for late season. She won't even think about that race now, considering it practice, not a loss. Losing is just not her style.

In addition to being sure points for the Lady Pirates in the 100 and 200, Banks also anchors the relay teams.

In her future, she sees a better work ethic, more wins, running track in college, and maybe even a shot at the Olympics.

"I'm lazy and I've just got raw talent," Banks laughs, adding that she's going to try to develop a better training routine to see just how good she can be. "I want gold, rings, pictures (on the PCHS Wall of Fame): I want it all!"

Banks has already realized that she will be the first Perquimans sophomore to have her picture on the Wall of Champions, and that makes her proud.

Her coach, Carolyn Rogers, however, seems to think that Banks works harder than she gives herself credit for.

"She had something to prove from last year (when she didn't place at state) and she proved it in a big, big way," Rogers said. "She's got natural ability and she works

See RECORD on Page 8

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 79 Low: 63  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
High: 82 Low: 65  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
High: 82 Low: 66  
ISOLATED T-STORMS



## Memorial Day observance planned

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Memorial Day will be observed Monday with a program on the courthouse green at the Veterans Monument beginning at 11 a.m.

Sponsored by Hertford American Legion Post 126, the program will feature a new initiative this year.

The names of all Perquimans County veterans who have died from Jan. 1, 2008 through Memorial Day 2009 will be read.

In the future, names of veterans who have died during the year from the previous Memorial Day will be recognized as part of the annual observance.

Guest speaker this year will

### IF YOU GO

- What: MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE
- When: MONDAY, MAY 25, 11 A.M.
- Where: VETERAN'S MONUMENT
- Speaker: LEGIONNAIRE JAMES ERVIN

be Legionnaire James Ervin, a candidate for commander of the state American Legion.

Ervin is currently membership chairman for the state group and a former Division 1 commander.

He is a member of American Legion Post 110 in Nashville.

The program will also include a moving POW/MIA



ERVIN

remembrance service as well as a salute to the various military services and Merchant Marines with flags posted by members of the Hertford Boy Scout Troop 150.

The post's own honor guard will take part in the ceremony as well.

American Legion members who attend the program are encouraged to wear their Legion hats.

Retired veterans may wear their service uniform to the observance, organizers say.

"They may also just wear their awards and decorations on their civilian dress," pointed out Ken Rominger.

## Pig on the Green



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Jim Bielski, member of Historic Hertford, Inc., mops the smoked pork Friday afternoon during the annual Pig-out on the Green. While many folks grabbed take out plates, others enjoyed a nice spring evening eating barbecue on the courthouse green.