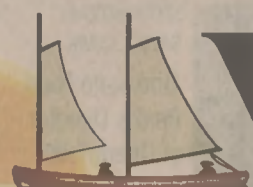


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

APRIL 7, 2010 - APRIL 13, 2010

Lady Pirates split two games. See page 8.

35 cents

State: Winfall finances still unacceptable

Level declines for second year in a row

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, the state treasurer's office has determined that Winfall's overall financial condition has declined to unacceptable levels.

In a March 27 letter to Winfall officials, Sharon G. Edmundson,

director, fiscal management section of the state and local government finance division and the Local Government Commission, noted that the town's general fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2009 was in the hole \$11,628 or -2.31 percent of total fund expenditures.

"Statewide, the average fund balance available for comparably-sized municipalities was 86.94 percent of their total general fund expenditures," Edmund-

son wrote. "For cash flow purposes, local governments need to maintain adequate amounts of fund balance to finance their operations during periods of declining revenues. Also, fund balance represents a reserve that can be used for emergencies and other unexpected expenditures or to take advantage of financial opportunities that may unexpectedly arise. The town's available fund balance should not be allowed to drop below 8 percent of

total general fund expenditures, which is equal to one month's average expenditures."

Last year, the town's finances at the end of fiscal year 2008 showed a negative \$8,545 in the general fund or -1.95 percent of total fund expenditures.

Apparently, the town is using the age-old practice of robbing Peter (general fund) to pay Paul (water and sewer fund).

According to Edmundson, whose staff analyzed the town's

financial statements, the town's water and sewer fund isn't generating enough revenue to operate, so the town borrows money from its general fund to keep the water and sewer fund operational.

"It appears that a primary factor in the negative fund balance available in the General Fund is the amount owed to the General Fund from the Water and Sewer

See WINFALL, 10

'Race horses of the sky'



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Charlie Jones talks about his hobby — racing homing pigeons — during an interview last month from inside his pigeon coop located at his home in Camden County.

Shiloh man breeds homing pigeons

By ROBERT KELLY-GOSS
The Daily Advance

Chuck Jones, public works supervisor for the town of Hertford, knows about pigeons, thanks to his father, Charlie Jones.

The cooing sound of about 100 pigeons carries softly through the air behind Charlie Jones' Camden County home. Behind his house is a coop that houses the pigeons, birds that will race hundreds of miles before they return home.

The older Jones has been keeping homing pigeons since he was about 14, back in 1953. When he worked



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

See PIGEONS, 10 Charlie Jones shows off one of his prized homing pigeons at his Shiloh home.

Police seek man in attempted murder

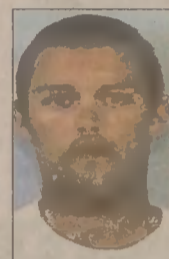
By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Police are looking for a 31-year-old Knotts Island man wanted for attempted first degree murder in connection with the December beating of a Hertford businessman.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said a warrant has been issued for the arrest of John Kenneth Tubbs, Jr., alleging that Tubbs tried to kill Jim Bishop at Albemarle Homes in Hertford.

Police said Tubbs' last known address was 149 Solo Lane in Knotts Island.

Amos said the warrant information has been in-



Tubbs

cluded in the National Crime Index database. The case is also still under investigation as police suspect a

second man may also have been involved. Anyone with information is asked to call the Hertford Police Department at 426-5587. All calls can remain anonymous.

Amos said the investigation centered around Tubbs from the beginning after Bishop was found

See MURDER, 10

County slows down wind project plans

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners took no action Monday night to change ordinances that would allow a temporary meteorological tower that could pave the way for a future wind energy project.

Instead, leaders decided to slow down a bit rather than agree to a hastily-submitted request by Iberdrola Renewables (IR), a global company that already has wind power projects in 13 states,

IR is currently talking to landowners in the northern part of Perquimans County about leasing land on which to possibly build wind turbines in the area commonly known as "the desert". Before that can occur, however, the company

must test the winds in that area to see if the wind could sustain any future wind energy project.

Commissioners considered changing language (that was provided by the company) in the county's ordinances that would allow construction of a temporary meteorological tower in that area, but, instead, deleted that language from other ordinance changes approved Monday night. Such towers are not allowed under the county's current ordinance.

The tower, called a met tower, would be just under 200 ft. tall, 10 inches in diameter, and would serve as a platform for instruments like anemometers, wind vanes, barometers, and thermometer that would measure wind speed, di-

See PLANS, 10

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 72 LOW: 52
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 72 LOW: 51
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 72 LOW: 53
SUNNY



Work begins on Pasquotank's \$20M water plant

Plant to serve some Perquimans users

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

Last week was a busy week in the construction of Pasquotank County's \$20 million reverse-osmosis water plant that is also expected to serve portions of Perquimans County.

Workers were spaying concrete Thursday on the outside of the two-million-gallon water storage tank at the RO water plant. Elsewhere, crews were laying the discharge and main transmission lines, and preparing to install the discharge header in the Albemarle Sound.

Construction of the water

plant itself will begin this month, according to Pasquotank Water Superintendent John Gregory.

The goal for completing the project is for the county to receive the facility from the contractor Jan. 1 of next year. Gregory acknowledged, however, that on a project the size and scope of the water plant, it's always possible the construction won't be completed on time.

Gregory said some facets of the project are running slightly behind schedule but the contractors should be able to catch up this summer "when we have beautiful weather."

Thursday's sunshine prompted a flurry of activity

See PLANT, 10



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

A crew from the CROM Corporation works on the new two-million-gallon bulk storage water tank last Thursday at the new Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis Water Plant on Foreman Bundy Road.

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