

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JUNE 30, 2010 - JULY 6, 2010



Couple glad South Africa in spotlight, 2

No tax increase for Hertford, Winfall, 4

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2010

35 cents

## Hertford: Winfall owes more for wastewater

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford officials are trying to collect nearly \$800,000 from the town of Winfall as part of the cost of the town's wastewater treatment plant improvement project.

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen recently sent Winfall a final invoice for \$776,406.95 with payment due immediately.

The two towns negotiated a contract back in 2001 for Hertford to treat Winfall's wastewater. According to Christensen, Winfall initially paid a one-time tap on fee of \$455,000. Christensen says the 2001 contract between the two towns not only spells out how to calculate the cost of treating Winfall's wastewater, but cost for providing the capacity as well.

Hertford contends that

the contract calls for Winfall to pay an initial one-time tap on fee of 16.7 percent of actual construction costs for Hertford's wastewater treatment plant. The plant was improved, several changes occurred to the project, and costs increased.

Now that the project is completed, Christensen says the actual cost of the project was nearly \$7.4 million. Based on the contract's

percentage, Winfall's tap on fee of the actual construction cost would be \$1,231,406. Since Winfall already paid \$455,000, the balance left is \$776,406, Christensen noted.

"This has been an eight year struggle for us," said Winfall Mayor Fred Yates regarding Hertford's billing for additional funds.

He says Hertford needs to provide Winfall more information before the town

can respond to Hertford's bill. Yates requested copies of a number of documents, reports, change orders, invoices, grant information used to help fund the project, and summaries from the town's consulting engineers on various matters regarding the improvement project including how Winfall's share of the project increased from \$455,000 to \$1,231,406.90.

Christensen said the

town is working to comply with Winfall's records request.

The cost of wastewater treatment has been a stinky subject between Hertford and Winfall, especially for the past three years. Hertford says Winfall still owes them \$27,742.94 for cost of treating Winfall wastewater over a prolonged period of time. Winfall disputes

See WINFALL, 4

## Schools: Town's policy unclear

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

After being told the town would not forgive their \$258,889.18 electric bill debt, the schools and county have requested Hertford officials to limit the amount owed to 12 months of under billing rather than 26. Limiting the time of under billing would cut the debt by almost half.

In a letter to Hertford Mayor Sid Eley last week, Superintendent Dwayne Stallings cites an unclear town policy that would limit the town's time limit of collecting for under billing to 12 months in most cases. In addition, Stallings pointed out that the town's policy references the North Carolina Utility Commission (NCUC) which limits the collection period to 12 months for customers with a demand of over 50 kilowatts or greater.

Last month, local officials realized that the town had under billed Perquimans County High School over \$258,000 in electricity charges over a period of 26 months after a town employee entered an incorrect billing multiplier when the school's new gym was constructed. At that time, the school's entire electrical system was reconfigured, consolidating four meters into one.

The error was discovered when the county's emergency management officials performed load testing on the school's electrical system while evaluating the school for possible use as an evacuation shelter in the event of a disaster.

When the town notified the school system of the electric bill debt, the

See BILL, 4

## Celebrating Freedom



FILE PHOTO

Harriett Woodard was in the patriotic spirit during last year's Fourth of July non-motorized parade for children sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce. The parade and fireworks will be held this Saturday.

## Fourth of July observance is Saturday

Fireworks show set for 9 p.m. Saturday

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Put on your patriotic hats and tee-shirts, and grab your lawn chairs. The annual Fourth of July celebration will be held Saturday night.

A kids' parade, food, games, pony rides, entertainment and colorful fireworks will highlight this year's event set for July 3 at Missing Mill Park.

"This year's lineup promises to

be especially entertaining, capped off with the fireworks at dark," said Sylvia Wyatt, executive secretary of the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce which sponsors the patriotic celebration. "We invite everyone to bring a chair and come out to enjoy an old-fashioned freedom celebration with pride in our town, county, and our country."

A non-motorized children's parade will begin in the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot at 5 p.m. Led by the American Legion Post 126 color guard, the red-white-and blue-decorated parade featuring wagons, bikes, baby

strollers, and walkers, will wind through the downtown business district, turn on Grubb Street, and walk to the park. Decorated ponies will again take part in the popular parade this year, Wyatt said, and will offer rides to the children at the park.

Park vendors will sell hot-dogs, hamburgers, drinks, homemade ice cream, funnel cakes, watermelon, sno cones, popcorn, and water ices during the afternoon and evening. Games and a fun-filled dunking booth will be available to delight the children.

See FOURTH, 8

## Community, schools program ends today

By KRISTIN PITTS  
Staff Writer

A schools-focused organization with more than a decade in Perquimans County will officially close its doors today.

The Board of Directors of Communities in Schools of Perquimans County voted unanimously to dissolve the organization in a meeting late last month, citing lack of funding.

The organization will close today, with less than \$800 to its name. Board member Brenda Lassiter said that the organization needed at least \$20,000 in its budget to operate comfortably.

"During the past 18 months, our efforts have been focused on fund-raising rather than additional services for the schools and community. The board recognized this is not the direction CIS Perquimans needs to continue," Lassiter said.

Board member Jeri Oltman explained in a press release that the organization discussed the possibility of staying open, but ultimately felt that CIS's mission had been compromised by its constant need to fundraise.

"Kimberly Westbrook, chairperson, asked members to consider alternatives to dissolving, which those present discussed at length. It was apparent, however, that short of a miraculous infusion of cash in the immediate future, the path ahead was littered with obstacles," Oltman wrote.

It had apparently been operating from month to month for more than a year, after approximately three

See PROGRAM, 4

## WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH: 90 LOW: 72  
ISOLATED T-STORMS

SATURDAY

HIGH: 90 LOW: 74  
SCATTERED T-STORMS

SUNDAY

HIGH: 91 LOW: 74  
SCATTERED T-STORMS



## Three men face attempted murder charges

Shooting happened at Rivercroft area

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Three Edenton men face attempted murder charges in connection with the June 13 shooting in the Rivercroft subdivision in Winfall.

Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer said Lamar Privott, Marcus Antonio Logan, and Nathaniel Bowens are each charged with attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and armed robbery with a dan-

gerous weapon.

A 31-year-old Atlanta man was shot twice June 13 around 11 a.m. following an apparent attempted robbery while standing in front of a home located at 109 Croft Drive in the usually quiet Rivercroft subdivision.

Rudolfo Aubert, Jr. was shot in the rear thigh and upper arm by an assailant with a 9 mm handgun. Aubert was transported to Albermarle Hospital and has since been released from the hospital and has returned to his home in Georgia.

Police said Aubert was

visiting relatives at the Johnny Warren home when the attack occurred. Aubert was saying his good-byes to the family out in the front yard when a vehicle carrying several suspects parked in front of the house. One man got out of the vehicle, walked up to Aubert who was standing in front of the garage, and pointed a gun in his face, demanding money, police said. A scuffle ensued, and a second gunman jumped out of the vehicle and started shooting at Aubert, striking the garage once and hitting Aubert twice. Police said there were about 15 people

standing in the front yard at the time of the shooting. The two gunman returned to the vehicle and fled the scene.

Police believe robbery was the motive for the shooting. Police said Aubert was reportedly seen the previous day flashing large amounts of cash.

Both Logan and Privott are reportedly members of the Bloods gang, Shaffer said, however, the attack was not gang-related.

Privott, age 23 of 336 Wildcat Road, is being held in Albermarle District Jail under a \$500,000 secured bond, police said. Logan,

22, who lists his address as homeless, is jailed under a \$628,000 secured bond, and Bowens, 24, of 4107 Walker Drive, remains incarcerated under a \$250,000 secured bond.

Police said Bowens was arrested June 15, just two days after the Sunday-morning shooting. Privott and Logan were taken into custody Wednesday in Edenton by authorities there. Logan reportedly ran from Edenton police as they attempted to serve a warrant on him, Shaffer said. Police chased him on

See CHARGES, 7