

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JULY 7, 2010 - JULY 13, 2010



Local teens earn certification, 3

Graduates prove it's never too late to get a diploma, 2

35 cents

Winfall's water to be absorbed by county

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The county is expected to take ownership of Winfall's water system next month.

The town's 350-plus water customers will receive their first water bill from the county in September. Both the county and town are currently sending out letters detailing how the changeover will occur.

Winfall officials asked the county to take over the town's water system a year ago after facing financial difficulties. There will be no money exchanged between the two governments for the transfer of the system. Actual transfer date is August 15, provided the town satisfies all county regulations.

County Manager Bobby Darden said the county is now in the process of trans-

ferring customer data from the town to county records for billing purposes.

Currently Winfall water customers pay \$15.50 for up to 2,000 gallons of water monthly, Mayor Fred Yates said.

Perquimans County charges \$10 for the first 1,000 gallons used, and an additional \$6 per 1,000 gallons afterwards.

"Those customers who use 2,000 or less may pay

a little more, but average customers who use more (4,000-5,000 gallons per month) will actually see a savings," Darden explained.

Winfall will continue to collect past due water bills that are owed to the town. Once the county starts billing for water usage, payments will be made to the county.

In addition, Darden said Winfall will pay the county

a \$75 deposit for each rental water connection in the town which complies with the county's current policy for rental water customers.

"From what we have seen, as much as half are rentals," Darden said.

The town currently buys water from the county, distributes it to town customers, and performs all services connected with the system including billing,

maintenance, and repairs.

Yates said the town will continue to maintain its property, including water lines, public works building, and wells.

The town's water system was built about 50 years ago. Originally, the town manufactured its own water drawn from town wells, but began buying water from the county instead over two years ago, he added.

NWD is moving forward

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — Northeastern Workforce Development held a first-ever presentation in which stakeholders got to see what the state universities' most experienced business assistance and improvement programs could offer companies.

"All of us here know that in the large part of our region we're losing a lot of our workforce to Virginia," said David Whitmer, the business services representative for Northeastern Workforce Development.

"We're losing some of our best and our brightest," Whitmer said. "We're losing the exact people that this region needs. And it has a lot to do with the opportunity not being here for them."

To try to counter such trends, Northeastern Workforce Development is subsidizing two programs and partially subsidizing a third.

Northeastern Workforce Development is fully subsidizing a two-day business simulation experience provided by the Small Business and Technology Development Center, which advises small and mid-size businesses and has an area office at Elizabeth City State University.

During the simulation experience, called SymmeTree, participants make real-life decisions on behalf of a fictional retail service and manufacturing firm.

Barry Phillips, of the SBTDC, said SymmeTree is a new way of looking at complex, sometimes overwhelming issues so that solutions can be reached.

SymmeTree participants will receive a personal leadership assessment to help recognize individual management strengths and

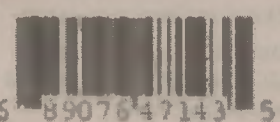
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WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 94 LOW: 79
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 94 LOW: 79
SCATTERED T-STORMS

SUNDAY
HIGH: 93 LOW: 79
SCATTERED T-STORMS



A blast!!!



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

A large crowd of local residents gathered at Missing Mill Park to view the Fourth of July fireworks display held on Saturday.

Hertford bursts with pride

July 4 fireworks show dazzles large crowd

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

HERTFORD — "Wow!" That was the reaction of Phil Loch as rapid bursts of fireworks went off Saturday evening at the annual independence celebration at Missing Mill Park.

"My wife and I lived in Norfolk for many years," said Loch, a former Navy master chief petty officer. "And this show in Hertford is equally as good as any big city show I've ever seen."

The hundreds of people

"It's wonderful to sit here right underneath 'em. I've never been so close to 'em."

Nell Beam

Sunbury resident reflects on the fireworks show

watching the approximately 20-minute show continued to be amazed by the brightness and the colors, plus being able to see the fireworks from close range.

"It's wonderful to sit here right underneath 'em," Nell Beam said as she snapped images with her cellular phone.

"I've never been so close to 'em," said Beam, who along with her husband, Woody, are

retirees from Vermont who live at Sunbury.

Shakelia Farrow brought her 8-year-old son Quallik to watch the show. "It's more important that's he's coming along, that he gets to enjoy it with me," she said.

Farrow, who was cheering and waving a small American flag, said she fluttered a bit with excitement.

Of the fireworks, Quallik said, "I was scared that it might come all the way down. I kept scooting back."

The fireworks show was preceded by a late afternoon atmosphere that Willie Respass called down-home Southern.

"Just country folks getting together," said Respass, who lives at Winfall and originally is from Elizabeth City.

John Kurian, a music promoter who moved from Elizabeth City to Hertford, was attending the Hertford celebration for the first time.

Kurian, impressed with the gathering's diverse crowd, was on his cell telephone trying to

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Teachers train to use their new laptops

By KRISTIN PITTS
The Daily Advance

A message pops up on Perquimans County High School Teacher Chris Whitehurst's computer screen. It's the school's yearbook advisor. She wants to know whether he'll have his digital media class create a commercial to encourage students to buy a yearbook.

Typing away on the

keys of his new MacBook, Whitehurst says yes.

The interaction was one of several that took place a few weeks back, when over the course of two days, the faculty of Hertford Grammar School, Perquimans Middle School and Perquimans County High School were trained to use their new laptops.

In addition to becoming more familiar with Macs, teachers were encouraged

to integrate technology with their lesson plans, and begin thinking outside of the box for next year's classes.

After all, by the fall, technology will be abundant thanks to the Enhancing Education Through Technology grant.

In mid June, 125 laptops had been distributed to all of the three schools' certified staff.

More laptops, which

will be given out during the coming academic year, will boost the amount of technology available to students. Approximately 300 will be given to the high school, 100 to the middle school, and anywhere from 70-80 will be given to the grammar school.

Eventually, they hope to get enough laptops for every student at the high school to have their own.

District officials say

they're hoping the technology will provide students with a more engaging classroom experience.

"What's really happening here is we're not just learning the hardware and the software, we're learning about applications for instruction purposes. Project-based learning is what we're trying to work toward," Deanie Dunbar,

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