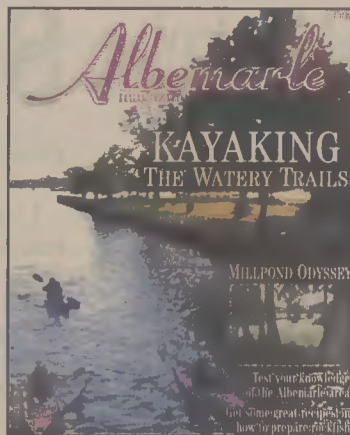


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JULY 14, 2010 - JULY 20, 2010

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Magazine,  
INSIDE



35 cents

## County changes towers ordinance

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

County commissioners have recharged the county's ordinance regarding the construction of new communication towers in the county.

After months of work by members of the Perquimans Planning Board and their consultant, Citi-Scape, Inc., commission-

ers approved the planning board's recommendations regarding changes that will update requirements pertaining to location, type, height, and safety of communication towers, usually called cell phone towers.

Changes approved include dropping the setback along the county's US Highway 17 corridor from 1,000 feet to 500 ft., allowing construction of monopoles

and lattice towers, and adding provisions that require technological justification for building new towers. As a result, the county may see more towers closer to Highway 17, more monopoles built rather than guyed towers, and a hierarchy in place to make sure the company can justify construction of a tower and construct it safely.

The ordinance allows

construction of both monopoles and lattice towers. Guyed towers, which are the design of most towers already built in the county now, are allowed but only under a hardship clause. If a company wants to build a tower, but can't afford to build anything other than a guyed-wire tower, the company can petition the county for approval to build such a tower.

Consultants have advised the county that monopoles usually cost 20-30 percent more to construct. Monopoles towers are constructed up to 220 ft. with the lattice tower built higher.

Guyed towers are reportedly the cheapest way to build a tower over 300 ft, but require more land to do so. Today, most television and radio towers are guyed towers.

Commissioner Charles Ward pushed to allow the guyed towers, voicing concerns over lack of cell phone service in remote areas of the county such as Bear Swamp or Belvidere. In addition, Ward was concerned over the cost of building the shorter monopole towers, which require a large, deep concrete foundation, he said.

See TOWER, 2

all aboard for the ...

## SKATEBOARD TOUR



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRETT A. CLARK

Thomas Morgan, 12, attempts his first drop in on the half pipe at the Fun Junktion skate park in Pasquotank County during Skateboarding Camp sponsored by the Perquimans Recreation Center, July 9.

## Perquimans rec group going places

By CHIC RIEBEL  
Daily Advance

The only thing better than spending a summer day skateboarding is traveling to different cities to do it.

Just ask the seven boys who signed up for the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department skateboarding camp.

For four days this week, the kids, who ranged in age from 7 to 12, piled into a van and journeyed to skateboard parks in Greenville, Gates County, "Little" Washington, Virginia Beach (Va.) and Elizabeth City to ride their boards.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Mason White, 13, after taking a break from skateboarding at Fun Junktion Friday, the last stop on the camp tour. "We got to go to a lot of different places to skate around. Then we got to eat out later."

"It's really something for them



Thomas Morgan, 12, Aidan McGonigle, 8, and Jonathan Glover, 12, take a break from skating at the Fun Junktion skate park, July 9.

to go from our little park in Hertford to Mt. Trashmore in Virginia Beach with ramps four times as big as what we've got," said Derrick Page, the rec employee who chauffeured the kids. "We're try-

ing to give them an idea of how big a sport it is developing into by taking them to other parks in bigger cities.

See SKATEBOARD, 6

## Teen charged with shooting at occupied car

Two children were inside the vehicle

From staff reports

A 17-year-old Perquimans County youth faces a felony charge of shooting into an occupied vehicle following an incident on King Street back in June.

According to Hertford Police, O'Shea Tyquan Lee, also known as "Gook", is currently being held in Albemarle District Jail under a \$50,000 secured bond following an incident on June 14 during which shots were fired into a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer carrying four adults

and two children under the age of 5. No one was injured in the shooting. Police said one bullet hole was found in the vehicle between the left rear tire and the door.

According to police reports, the vehicle was driven by Tracie Lee Collier of 300 block Stokes Drive at the time of the shooting.

Police reports state that Collier was driving the Blazer and a man known as "T" was in the front seat beside her. Her children were in the back seat between another man (known as Psycho) and a pregnant female.

See SHOOTING, 2

## Roper man headed home during chase

From staff reports

A 23-year-old Roper man led local and state police on a high speed chase from Hertford to his home in Roper July 3 involving speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

Melvin Cortez Carter, 23, now faces two felony charges of fleeing to elude arrest, and two misdemeanor charges of driving while license revoked in connection with the early morning incident. He is currently being held in Albemarle District Jail under a \$6,000 secured bond.

Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos said Sgt. Shawn Swindell and new reserve Patrolman Desean Bogues, were patrolling on Market Street around 3:30 a.m., when they saw a black Jeep Cherokee speeding on Church Street. Police caught up with the vehicle near ARPDC Street and saw the Jeep weave in its

travel lane multiple times as it tuned onto Highway 17 southbound.

When police activated lights and siren in an attempt to stop the vehicle on suspicion of drunk driving, the Jeep sped up instead. By the time the cars reached the intersection of Edenton Road Street, they were traveling nearly 80 miles per hour.

A nearby North Carolina Highway patrolman also tried to stop the Jeep which accelerated up to 100 miles per hour as it travelled southbound past Snug Harbor Road.

Both police cruisers continued the chase as the Jeep turned left onto NC 32, traveling over the sound bridge and into Washington County. The Jeep continued onto NC 94, where a Washington County deputy joined the chase. The vehicle eventually turned onto a side street after it entered the

See CHASE, 2

### WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 94 LOW: 78  
SCATTERED STORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 94 LOW: 78  
SCATTERED STORMS

SUNDAY  
HIGH: 94 LOW: 78  
PARTLY CLOUDY



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## Discussion of school electric bill to continue

Hertford says bill still has to be paid

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Hertford Council took no action on reducing the school's \$258,889 electric bill debt Monday night, but agreed to meet with county officials to discuss the matter Aug. 2.

By not taking action, council members basically stood their ground on their decision last month that the school system should repay the full debt in the 26-month time period allowed

by town policy, citing concern over setting precedent for other town electric customers in the future. The town will allow the school system to repay the debt by paying an additional \$10,000 over their normal monthly electric bill which has also increased drastically now that the error has been corrected.

Town Manager John Christensen said the school has paid its regular monthly electric bill, which increased in May to just over \$21,000 and up to \$25,000 in June. The school's first debt repayment installment was due July 10. As of Monday,

it had not been paid.

"What do you want me to do?" Christensen asked council. "Town policy is the customer is subject to having its power cut off if the bill has not been paid within 10 days after a late notice goes out. This board will have to vote if you want to turn the power off to the school."

Council agreed that since the school's electric bill was paid on time, the town would only send out a late notice to the school and charge a \$7 late fee on the non-payment of the debt repayment amount rather than cut off power.

In May, 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 school system, backed by county commissioners, asked Hertford officials to forgive the debt, citing the money spent by the schools on putting in a new transformer and making improvements to Jimmy Hunter Drive, both of which benefit the town.

When council failed to forgive the debt, school and county officials asked the

See BILL, 2