

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 5, 2011 - JANUARY 11, 2011



Judge J.C. Cole sworn in, 2

Author to read at Inteliport, 2

RECEIVED

JAN 05 2011

50 cents

Amos completes probe on missing drugs

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The Hertford Police Department has completed an internal investigation into the apparent disappearance of nearly a kilo of cocaine found missing from the department's evidence room.

Chief Joe Amos said Tuesday morning that four officers, including himself, passed polygraph tests in December.

"This shows me that nobody currently in the department was responsible for the disappearance of the cocaine," said Amos.

While the department

employs eight full-time people and four part-timers, the four officers chosen to submit to polygraph tests were the two officers who have been employed by the department since the time the cocaine was seized in a case, the current evidence custodian, and Amos because he has access to the evidence room. The remaining department employees were hired by Amos after he became chief in 2008.

An outside firm was hired to polygraph Sgt. Kevin Worster, the officer involved in the 2006 arrest during which cash and over three quarters of a

kilo of cocaine were seized; Officer Josh Turpin, the evidence custodian prior to Amos taking over as chief in 2008; Sgt. Sean Swindell, the current evidence custodian; and Amos.

Amos said he chose an outside firm whose employees were not familiar with the case or any of the officers.

"A polygraph is the easiest and quickest way to get to the bottom of something in an internal investigation," he added.

Amos said the tester asked a number of standard polygraph questions



POLICE PHOTO

See COCAINE, 2 The cocaine shown in Dec. 2006 was missing from the police department's evidence room.

Remains found in Nov. identified

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Police have identified the remains discovered in November in a wooded area behind Andy's Restaurant in Winfall as those of a Moyock man who apparently took his own life.

Winfall Police Chief David Shaffer said

remains found by hunters nearly two months ago are those of Jay Howard El-

See IDENTIFIED, 2

DA studies SBI report on scuffle

By WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

District Attorney Frank Parrish said he is reviewing a State Bureau of Investigation report about whether Hertford Police Department employees, including Chief Joe Amos, used excessive force in a scuffle with a man late this past spring.

Parrish declined comment about the report

See PROBE, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 47 LOW: 26
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 42 LOW: 26
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 42 LOW: 31
PARTLY CLOUDY



6 89076 47144 2

A NEW YEAR'S NEWBORN



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Melissa and Robert Stallings Jr. of Winfall welcomed their little girl, Everista Marie, the first baby born in the area in 2011.

First baby of 2011 born to local couple

By REBECCA BUNCH
Chowan Herald

Perquimans County couple's first child is also the New Year's baby for 2011 in the Albemarle area.

Melissa and Robert Stallings Jr. of Winfall welcomed their little girl, Everista Marie, into the world at twenty-five minutes

past midnight, at Chowan Hospital in Edenton. Melissa said the baby, who will be known simply as Eve, was named for her maternal great-grandmother.

"We thought that she was going to be a New Year's Eve baby, but Eve took a little longer to come," Melissa said.

Robert said that he was in the delivery room with Melissa and

would never forget the excitement of seeing Eve born.

"It was amazing," Robert said of the experience.

"We were a team," Melissa added. "It took all three of us."

Assisting in the process was Dr. Peter Boehling of Edenton, who delivered Eve.

The little girl weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces at birth. She

was 21 inches long.

Eve's maternal grandparents, Dennis and Cheri Williams, are residents of southeast Virginia.

Her paternal grandparents, Robert and Vickie Stallings, live in Belvidere. In honor of the special occasion, Eve and her parents were given a gift basket of baby items donated by the hospital and area merchants.

Accomplishments in 2010; challenges in 2011

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Local government and school officials tend to agree that much has been accomplished in 2010 despite a continuing depressed economy. The outlook for the next fiscal year, however, is not as bright.

Everyone seems to agree that staying within budget and managing to accomplish major projects despite less local and state

funding were major accomplishments in 2010.

County Manager Bobby Darden listed the \$3 million renovation to the county's water treatment plant in Winfall as the county's biggest accomplishment in 2010.

"The project started in January 2010 and was completed in December of 2010, and everything went as scheduled and within budget," Darden pointed out. "This project was funded

through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The county had this project planned several years ago, but funding was an issue so we were fortunate to have this project 'shovel ready' and could take advantage of the generous terms of the ARRA funding."

The funds for the project are half grant and half loan with 0 percent interest, Darden added.

"The renovations greatly

improve water quality and provide back-up generator power for the plant," he said.

In addition to the water treatment plant, county leaders also managed to complete improvements to the county's recreational center and funded a drainage study countywide.

Darden said one goal was not accomplished in 2010: resolving the issue of the electric bill between Hertford and the high school.

"While the town, school system, and county have agreed to a resolution in principle for the high school electric billing error, we were not able to finalize that proposal," said Darden. "Energy consumption in a facility as large as the high school is complex and has many considerations. We've had to rely on experts to review energy consumption at the

See 2011, 7