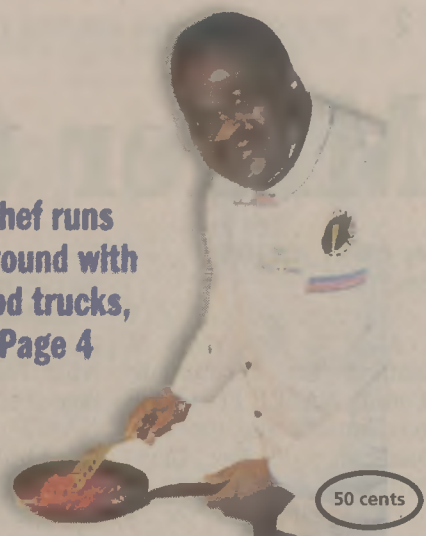


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JANUARY 19, 2011 - JANUARY 25, 2011

Chef runs aground with food trucks, Page 4



50 cents

Winfall still struggling with finances

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

While Winfall's overall general fund increased last year, the town's unreserved general fund balance is in the negative column for the third year in a row.

According to an independent audit conducted by Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Company, LLP in Oxford, Winfall ended

the 2010 fiscal year with a general fund balance of \$122,667, an increase of \$31,659.

However, the town's unreserved fund balance was -\$12,089 or -2.39 percent of total general fund expenditures for the fiscal year.

The state's Local Government Commission (LGC), which oversees county and municipal fiscal matters, requires local governments



Yates

use in the event of emergencies, or during times of unexpected reduced re-

venues. Audit figures show the town incurred a net loss of \$161,416 in the water and sewer fund which also owed the general fund \$101,772 at the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the cost of running the town's sanitation program exceeded fees charged to customers.

Mayor Fred Yates says he has notified the LGC of the audit's findings, and was told the town would receive

a letter. He feels, however, that the town is on the right track by increasing the overall general fund.

"We're being as conservative as we can," he said. "The problem comes in the water and sewer. We were buying more water than we collected for it. We were losing money, too, when that water went through the sewer."

Yates believes the town

will do better this current fiscal year since the county took over the town's water department back in August. In addition, the town will take part in the state's debt set-off program that deducts money owed for unpaid town taxes from state income tax refunds.

The town will continue to cut expenses, he added,

See AUDIT, 2

No police report needed in bus wreck

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

School officials say employees acted appropriately last week by moving a school bus involved in an incident with a fuel truck before law enforcement arrived on the scene.

Brenda Lassiter, public information officer for the school system, said law enforcement did not have to respond to the scene of the accident and no police report was necessary because only minor damage occurred.

On Jan. 11, mirrors on a school bus driven by a substitute driver and a Crossroads Fuel oil truck clashed while meeting each other on New Hope Road around 8:45 a.m. Both mirrors on the drivers' sides were shattered, and one student passenger window was cracked, added Lassiter. No injuries were reported.

Fifteen high school students were onboard Bus 128 at the time. They were transferred to another bus and transported to school. Bus 128 was driven to the bus garage area.

"Perquimans County Schools elected not to obtain a police report because, in our opinion, the incident was not a 'reportable' crash," noted Lassiter. "A 'reportable' crash, as defined in general statutes, is a crash involving a motor vehicle that results in one or more of the following: a) death or injury or b) total

See REPORT, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Youth members of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church flag ministry participate in the first Dr. Martin Luther King Parade in Hertford Monday.

Honoring King's life and work



Dr. M.L. King Jr.



BRETT A. CLARK/THE DAILY ADVANCE

The choir and audience members celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Monday.

King's faith seen in his works

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A local evangelist compared the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the life of Jesus during special services honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

on Monday.

"Look at Jesus Christ and see the man, Martin," urged Evangelist Doris Felton before a large crowd at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. She pointed out how both men shared likenesses,

were despised by the world for their historic actions, and their beliefs in spreading the word of God. In addition, they were ridiculed for showing love for all mankind, and for working to end prejudice, injustice and racism. Both men loved

God, were filled by the Holy Spirit, and worked to release the captives and set the downtrodden free, she said.

She pointed out that both men died while serving the will of God, and that each man accomplished more in

death than during his individual time on earth.

They both were despised by the world, persecuted, yet provided freedom for mankind in death.

"Look at Dr. King,"

See DR. KING, 4

County passes ordinance allowing wind turbines

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners recently approved a zoning amendment that will allow wind turbine farms in Perquimans County.

The amendment, passed Jan. 3, allows a review pro-

cess for locating, erecting, operating, and decommissioning small, medium, and large-scale wind facilities.

Commissioners approved the amendment unanimously following a public hearing on the zoning proposal during which

no residents spoke.

The ordinance will permit small wind energy facilities (up to 120 feet tall), and require a conditional use permit for medium and large-scale wind facilities (up to 250 and 600 feet respectively) in the rural agriculture districts.

Pennsylvania-based Iberdrola Renewables has expressed an interest in building a wind farm on acreage that transcends both Perquimans and Pasquotank counties in an area called the Desert.

"I expect to receive an application requesting a

conditional use permit from them probably sometime in April," said County Planner Donna Godfrey. "I understand that approximately 60 percent of the facility is expected to be in Perquimans County."

See TURBINES, 2

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 45 LOW: 31
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 42 LOW: 25
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 46 LOW: 25
CLOUDS AND SUN



6 89076 47144 2

Thursday, January 20, 2011
Cocktails 6 PM Dinner Buffet 7 PM **CHOWAN COUNTY** American Legion Post 40
Catering provided by Edenton Bay Oyster Bar & Seafood
Tickets are \$50 and include buffet and membership, and will be available at door.



DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET

Door prizes, Gun Auction, Prints, Decoys and More!

Prime Rib | Shrimp
Soft-shell Crabs | Tuna Bites