

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Holiday Island Yacht Club celebrates Mardi Gras, 7

"News from Next Door"

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Hertford council opposes House Bill 117

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Hertford Town Council went on record Monday night opposing a bill introduced in the House of Representatives that would prohibit towns from transferring revenues from electric funds to other municipal funds.

Council, with only three of five members present,

passed a resolution opposing House Bill 117. The opposition resolution basically says council believes municipalities should be allowed to make such financial decisions on the local level as long as fund transfers are in accordance with guidelines set by the state's Local Government Commission (LGC).

"Hertford has been meeting these guidelines

for quite a few years," said Town Manager John Christensen. "I don't feel that state legislators should meddle in our business."

House Bill 117, sponsored by William L. Wainwright (Craven/Lenoir counties) and Leo Daughtry, (Johnston County), would prevent Hertford and all other municipalities in the state that own electric systems from transferring funds

from the electric fund to any other fund operated by the town.

"Basically, the state's trying to tell us how to run our business," added Mayor Pro-Tem Carlton Davenport.

Christensen explained that municipalities across the state have been making transfers from electric to municipal funds for many years. Hertford leaders ad-

opted a policy back in 1996 allowing such transfers based on guidelines set by the LGC. The LGC, he pointed out, recommends such transfers be limited to three percent of the gross fixed assets of the electric funds.

Such transfers, he explained, help the town make capital investments, especially during tough economic times.

"Given the current financial climate and the budget challenges facing municipalities in North Carolina, prohibiting transfers as provided by HB 117 could endanger the financial well-being of municipalities in North Carolina and impose additional financial hardships on the citizens of such municipalities," states the town's resolution.



By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Even with your eyes closed, you can feel what Donna Washington is saying just by listening to her voice.

Her slow, melodic storytelling grew louder and more excited as she reached a climax in her story that excited not only the students listening at local schools last week, but teachers and other observers as well.

Seated on the cafeteria floor, students at Hertford Grammar School squealed, laughed, gasped, and happily participated in Washington's stories punctuated with what's described as "vocal pyrotechnics, extreme facial expressions, and physicality". Each of her multicultural folk and fairy tales included a hidden message for the students. She entertained them with tough tongue twisters said at lightening speed.

Washington, a professional storyteller for nearly 20 years, says she has the best job in the world...because she loves to talk! It was obvious by the reaction from the students that they love to listen to her.

Students at Perquimans



Hertford Grammar fourth-graders Samantha Midgett and Lauren Winslow laugh while listening to an action-packed story told by professional storyteller Donna L. Washington (top photo) last Thursday. Washington entertained the students at Hertford Grammar and Perquimans Central schools last week thanks to the Perquimans Arts League and the N.C. Arts Council.

Central and Hertford Grammar schools were treated to the professional storyteller thanks to the efforts of the

Perquimans Arts League and funded by a Grass-roots grant provided by the North Carolina Arts Council.

Washington has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival and numerous other festivals across the country. Wash-

ington has seven multiple award-winning CDs, and is also an accomplished author of four children's books.

Storyteller excites students with words

Murder charge reduced

From staff reports

Travis Donell Reaves, 27, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in Beaufort County Superior Court last week in connection with the 2008 shooting death of his first cousin, Jamar Fletcher.

As a result of a negotiated plea agreement, Reaves received a sentence of a minimum of 61 months to a maximum of 83 months in prison. He was given 974 days credit for time already served and ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$4,770 as a condition of his work release.

Reaves was originally charged with first degree murder in connection with the July 6, 2008 shooting.

Fletcher, 21, was shot in the chest with a handgun while standing on the corner of King Street and Stokes Drive in Hertford in the early morning hours. Police said they believed the shooting occurred as a result of an argument following a party in a Hertford home.

Fletcher's body was found lying in the street when police arrived around 3:40 a.m. that early Sunday morning following the July 4th holiday. Fletcher had attended a family reunion with his mother in the Hertford area earlier that day. His mother tried to talk her son into traveling back to her home in Raleigh with her that day, but he refused. She received a phone call later after she had returned home and gone to work notifying her that her son had been shot.

Reaves turned himself in to police on July 10, 2008 after warrants were issued for his arrest. He has remained in jail since then.

Hearing on wind farm generates support

By REGGIE PONDER
The Daily Advance

More than half a dozen speakers at a public hearing last Thursday night on the proposed Desert Wind Energy Project said they were eager to see the \$750 million investment in Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

Tim Ivey, who works on behalf of 16 counties in northeastern North Carolina for the N.C. Department of Commerce, said the department supports

the project. He said the \$750 million initial investment would be the largest single investment by a company in northeastern North Carolina ever.

"We know it's not going to happen overnight but we know it has to start somewhere," Ivey said.

Wayne Harris, director of the Albemarle Economic Development Commission, echoed the statements of other project supporters when he told representatives of the N.C. Utilities Commission at the commission's public hearing in the Pasquotank County Courthouse that the proposed 300-megawatt wind turbine project in the

Head 'em up, move 'em out: Yeehah! Friends to Freedom Wagon Train is this weekend

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Wagon train organizers Sarah Weeks and Teresa Hurdle are keeping their fingers crossed.

They are hoping for good weather this weekend as the Friends to Freedom Wagon Train rolls through Perquimans County Friday and Saturday. It was originally scheduled for last October but was postponed because of inclement weather.

This time, the wagons will roll, rain or shine.

"I feel a lot less apprehensive about the weather this go round," said Weeks, wagon master for this weekend's event. "We all have slickers and foul



weather gear just in case though. Rain or shine the wagons will roll."

As of Monday, the National Weather Service is predicting sunny or mostly sunny weather for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

with highs ranging from 78 on Friday to 63 on Sunday. Even so, registration is going slowly so far, but Weeks says that is typical for trail rides.

"It's expensive to move these rigs, horses, and

STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNER

Karl Eure and his wife Suzy drive a covered wagon across the S-Bridge in Hertford followed by horse riders during an earlier test run. The actual Friends to Freedom Wagon Train will travel through Perquimans County Friday and Saturday.

gear," she explained. "Everyone is just waiting on the five-day forecast."

Weeks says at least 30 "diehards" have verbally agreed to ride including five wagons so far.

"The final head count remains to be seen on check-in day," she added. "I'm still anticipating

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See HEARING, 13