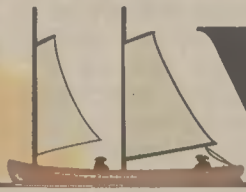


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

DECEMBER 28, 2011 - JANUARY 3, 2012



PCMS touts Top Three students for Nov. Dec.: School news, page 7

RECEIVED 50 cents

DEC 28 2011

Holiday Island plant fee hearing Jan. 31

HIPOA requests additional fee

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Utilities Commission has ordered a public hearing to be held next month on a proposed emergency as-

essment and temporary surcharge to help pay for renovations and to continue operating the wastewater treatment facility at Holiday Island.

The NCUC will hold a public hearing on Jan. 31 in the Perquimans County Courthouse to hear comments on the proposed fees charged to utility custom-

ers in the camping areas of the subdivision.

The Holiday Island Property Owners Association (HIPOA) requests the emergency assessment and temporary surcharge to pay for past improvements and renovation costs to the sewer system as well as to generate funds to continue operating the system and

create a reserve fund for maintenance and repair costs while the future of the problem-plagued system is decided by the commission.

Approximately 90 utility customers will be asked to pay the additional fees over a three-month period.

The emergency assessment totals \$6,917. Each

customer would pay a total of \$76.86 (\$25.62 per month for three months).

In addition, the temporary surcharge totals \$8,100. Each customer would pay an additional \$90 (\$30 each month for three months).

If the customers do not pay the fees within 30 days of their monthly billing,

their utility service would be discontinued.

Earlier this year, HIPOA petitioned the state utilities commission to discontinue water and sewer service to customers in Sections H, P, and R known as the camping section after months of heated discussions with

See SURCHARGE, 2

PERIAUGER IS ARMED AND READY

From staff reports

Some of the Perquimans County Restoration Association's big guns have been working with a little gun-a weapon that is a new addition to the Periauger.

Until now the Miss P (as it is affectionately known) was a peaceful-looking craft. Last week, a mini-cannon known as a swivel gun was added to the replica of an early American colonial workboat that has become a successful tourist attraction since it "landed" here in 2001.

It's not just for looks. It is a working cannon, but not much work is involved in its firing.

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The cannon was delivered by Dr. Larry Babits, director of Maritime Studies at East Carolina University. Babits, a maritime historian who has authored many historical writings, is a long-time friend of the Periauger.

The gun, a copy of a British made weapon, is not only for show. It will be fired on special occasions.

The local men and women involved with the small weapon have learned how to put it together, take it apart, and how to fire it.

The Periauger's 80-pound muzzle-loading weapon will fire blanks but the original could fire some 250 to 300 yards.

"Different kinds of shot were used originally," Babits explained. Sounding like an amiable drill sergeant, he emphasized the need to practice, practice, practice.



Fire in the hole! Terry Facey (l-r), John Ernst and Larry Babits discuss the operations of the swivel gun that is mounted on the Periauger. Below, Larry Babits lights the fuse on the mounted swivel gun.

"There will be drills," he said, adding that he will return to Hertford to offer his expert advice and lend a helping hand.

Swivel guns were used principally aboard sailing ships "serving as short-range, anti-personnel ordnance," according to the Goldenmap website.

"They were not ship-sinking weapons due to their small caliber and short range, but could

do considerable damage to anyone caught in their line of fire."

Reason enough for Babits' emphasis on lots of practice and safety.

The weapon is one more feather in PCRA's cap as it continues to encourage and entice tourists to spend time and money in Perquimans County. While the Periauger is based at the Newbold-White House, it also showcases its nautical features during trips to other areas of Eastern North Carolina.



"When Miss P is on the road she draws a lot of interest," said Beryl Facey, director of the Periauger.

"Usually we do three sailings throughout the day, taking an average of 36 guests."

Those guests are encouraged to help handle the sails or, when necessary, help with the rowing.

"We attract many onlookers," added Facey. "Children come aboard and learn the technique of how to use the oars. Guests are very interested in learning the history from myself and other support crew."

Now, with the addition of the swivel gun, there is still more history to learn. The Periauger was built to historical criteria and is propelled, as it was in the 1700s, by two sails or eight sweeps (long oars).

In addition to Facey, others who helped welcome the new addition to the Periauger were Terry Facey, John Ernst, and Phil McMullan, PCRA president. Afterwards, they visited the Carriage House Restaurant where Babits was treated to a drink called "gunpowder tea."

Hagen praises tax cut accord

From staff reports

Local residents may see more money in their pockets next year, thanks to the payroll tax cut approved by Congress recently.

According to United States Senator Kay R. Hagan (NC), the Middle Class Tax Cut will save the average Perquimans County household \$1,156 provided the tax cut is extended through the end of 2012. Her figures are based on a median household income of \$37,284.

"...Hardworking families will not have to worry about seeing their bottom line paycheck decrease on January 1...For a North Carolina family earning the median income, a year-long continuation of this tax cut means a savings of \$1,356. I will continue to fight for yearlong extensions of the Middle Class Tax Cut, unemployment insurance and Medicare payments for physicians for North Carolina workers and families," Hagan vowed.

Both the Senate and House voted to continue the cuts for another two months at the beginning of the year, but Hagen said she would keep pushing for an extension through 2012.

"At a time when every penny counts, this extra money will go a long way for hardworking families struggling to make ends meet," said Hagan.

Statewide, the annual average would be \$1,356 for 4.7 million workers, Hagan said.

If the payroll tax cut is extended through 2012, the

See TAX CUT, 2

Long Leaf awarded to Skinner

From staff reports

Local historian Charlie Skinner received a special gift this Christmas.

Wrapped underneath his Christmas tree was the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award given by Governor Beverly Perdue.

Skinner was honored for his many years of service to the community as an active volunteer for over 70 years.

Skinner served as a volunteer firefighter for over

43 years including 10 years as fire chief and 21 years as county fire marshal. He also served as fire service training coordinator for the College of the Albemarle for five years and a fire service instructor for 10 years.

Thirty-four years ago, Skinner planned and directed all fire service operations during the Winslow Oil Company fire on Grubb Street.

His service to the community continued as a



Skinner

county commissioner for one term and county historian since 1990.

Skinner, a native of Hertford, became an Eagle Scout in 1944 and served in the U.S. Marines Corps in World War II as well as in the reserves during the Korean War.

He has been a member of American Legion Post 126 since 1948 and was a charter member of the Perquimans Chapter of the N.C. Jaycees in 1949.

He also helped organize the Hertford Fife and Drums back in 1974.

Skinner retired from the North Carolina Employment Securities

See SKINNER, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Arlene Yates, chairman of the Perquimans Board of Education, tells students at Perquimans Central that free books will be given to local schools.

Foundation donates books

From staff reports

Almost 1,600 books were distributed to area school children recently by Arlene Yates, thanks to the I Have a Dream

Foundation.

The books, valued at just over \$9,000 were provided to every student in Perquimans Central and Hertford Grammar schools to boost their

home libraries.

Yates, chairman of the Perquimans County School Board, said this was the first time books

See FREE BOOKS, 2

