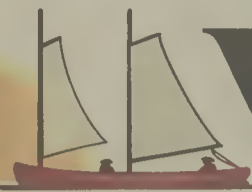


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Ruritans offer scholarships — 3

"News from Next Door"

JULY 16, 2014 - JULY 22, 2014

JUL 16 REC'D

50 cents

## DOT addresses some bridge concerns

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation appeared to answer some of the questions posed Monday night by Perquimans County residents who oppose plans to replace the S-Bridge in Hertford with a fixed span that extends off Church Street.

The meeting of the Hertford Town Board was held in the historic Perquimans County Courthouse because the anticipated crowd was bigger than what the town hall could handle. Even the courthouse wasn't enough. People packed every seat and lined the wall for the meeting and some stood in the lobby.

The DOT presentation was requested because some residents in the historic district were concerned about how the new bridge would bring more and faster traffic and how the construction would damage their homes. Some still seemed to have those concerns after the meeting but others residents appeared satisfied. Several people who had signed up to speak to the board before DOT make its pitch told Mayor Horace Reid that they didn't need to speak when their turn came up because their questions had been answered.

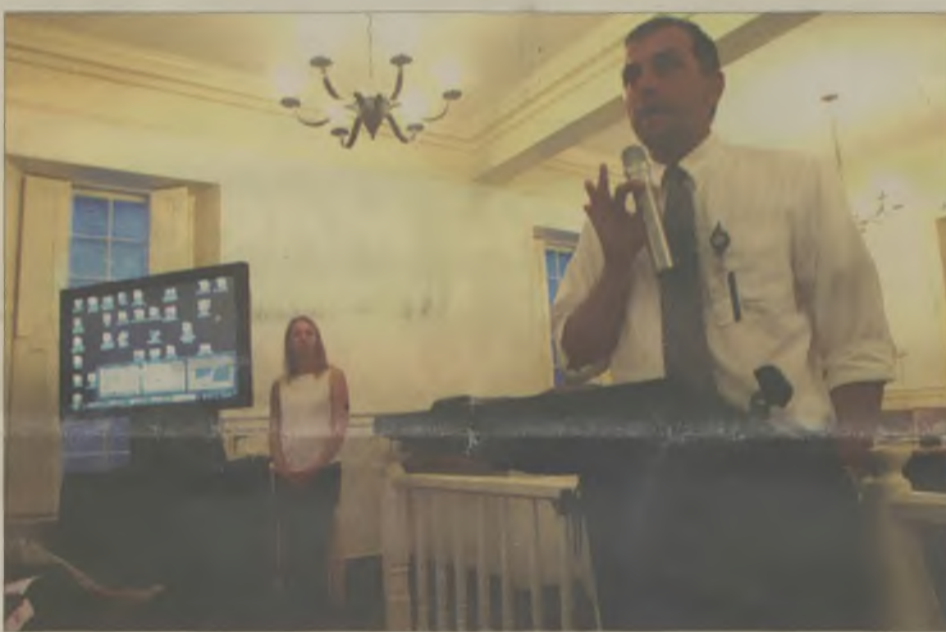
Others like Nancy Theodore, a Phelps Street homeowner who stands to lose her house to make way for the bridge, still has concerns.

"I think all of Hertford's citizens are in support of the merchants," Theodore said in a letter to the editor to the Perquimans Weekly. "But, the fact is, there aren't many merchants to support. Look at all the empty derelict buildings in the historic downtown area. So, what is the town doing to renovate the historic downtown area and attract new businesses



Skip Matthews speaks to the Hertford Town council and NC DOT representatives Monday night during a town meeting at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Jay McInnis, the project engineer for DOT on the new Hertford bridge projects, speaks to a full house Monday night at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

strate is. But some of the questions were answered, no doubt about it."

Both sides for and against the new Church Street bridge mobilized prior to Monday's meeting to make their case for why alternative D-Mod was or was not the best choice for Hertford's future.

Those opposed canvassed neighborhoods and left pamphlets asking "Which bridge is best when we lose this..." The document by the group "Citizens for the preservation and growth of Hertford" shows an aerial picture of the historic homes on Phelps Point and the S-Bridge.

See BRIDGE, 2

## County warns of title scam

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A California company is pitching an offer to provide residents with a copy of their property deed for \$83 — far more than the cost of obtaining the same information from the Perquimans County courthouse.

Perquimans County Register of Deeds Jackie Frierson said she'll provide the same deed information for 25 cents per page. To get a certified deed costs a little more, but Frierson said a typical one costs \$10.

"I wanted to let people know," Frierson said last week.

The N.C. Attorney General's Office has gone to court to stop similar mailings including one mailed into the state 18 months ago by another California company called Local Records Office. The latest offer comes from a Record Transfer Services based in Westlake Village, Calif.

Frierson knows of at least one Perquimans County resident that was going to take the company up on the offer but didn't.

The Attorney General's office is asking anyone who paid money to Record Transfer Services to contact Julie Daniel in the consumer protection office at 919-716-6000.

Frierson called it a scam and said it's been going on for a few months.

"When people buy property the closing attorney is supposed to give them a deed as part of that. If for some reason they don't or they lose their copy, you

See TITLE SCAM, 5

## School reaches out to students with reading issues

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

First-year teacher Rachel Hudson works with students in a summer reading program at Perquimans Central School. This is the first year that students who aren't able to read at a third-grade level face being held back. The program helped students, as well as others who are attending voluntarily.



BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Forty-two Perquimans County students are getting extra help this summer to improve their reading comprehension.

This year marks the start of a state mandate that says third-graders must read at grade level or they can't advance to fourth grade.

The summer program is being held at Perquimans Central School because Hertford Grammar School is undergoing renovations.

There were about 138 students in the third-grade class

*"Julie has tracked all the data and she knows the students who are struggling in certain areas and has provided interventions."*

Jason Griffin

Hertford Grammar principal on reading coach Julie Roberts

last year at the grammar school. A test administered in September showed a number needed

some help with reading. Some of that can be attributed to the "summer slide" where students lose some of their edge over the vacation months. Some of it may be due to the fact that the students tested in September had never had a standardized test like that before.

In the end 16 students still required the summer reading program. Another 26 students are attending the classes voluntarily.

HGS Principal Jason Griffin said one reason so many students were able to get back on

See READING, 2

## Show to feature old, new cars

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Vintage cars of the past and the newest cars of today will be on display this year at the Indian Summer Festival in downtown Hertford Sept. 5-6.

This year's car show will include a parade down Church Street at 9 a.m. that

Saturday.

Frank Jaklic, the organizer of the car show, said he expects a bigger showing than last year. The 44 cars last year was double the amount of the year before, he said.

The gateway to the show begins on Church and Grubb streets where area car dealers will have their newest offerings available for view. The show itself will be in the parking lot behind Hertford Town Hall, 114 Grubb St.

The cost of entering a vehicle into the

See CAR SHOW, 5

## Comic still working his trade

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Matt White still has people laughing and at 31-years-old he still has the dream.

White, a 2001 graduate from Perquimans County High School, went to East Carolina University where he studied theater. In 2005 he founded his own comedy organization called Seriously Clowning.

He's now working to turn that dream into reality by performing as often as possible in comedy clubs and competitions.



WHITE

"I always wanted to act," White said. "I didn't think about doing standup until I got to college at East Carolina."

He was the seventh of eight children and grew up in Hertford.

"I think it helps being a comic if you have six sisters," he said. Being the next to the youngest child meant he could learn off his older siblings. He has two sisters living in Elizabeth City, Sharla White and Maude White.

In high school he participated in sports

See COMIC, 4



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Edenton Steamers  
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### GAMES THIS WEEK AT HISTORIC HICKS FIELD

WED. JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>  
Edenton Chamber of Commerce Night

FRI. JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>  
Bertie County Night

SAT. JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
Pack the Park \$2 Tickets

TUES. JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>  
Pasquotank County Night

Steamer 3 Baseball Camp Will Be Held on July 21 - 23. Camp fee is \$75. CALL 482-4080 FOR MORE INFORMATION.