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Subscriber of the Week: Johnny Byrum Jr.

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"News from Next Door"

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Bridge closed

Causeway Undergoing emergency fix

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The causeway between Hertford and Winfall is closed for emergency repairs.

Sterling Baker, division maintenance engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said settling of the old concrete underneath the causeway may take up to a month to repair.

"Basically, we have to do the same thing that we did two years ago," Baker said. "We will build a bridge over the old road and pave on top of it."

The concrete slab settled eight inches to a foot just last week, he noted, causing the need for the immediate closing of the roadway for emergency repairs. In one section of the causeway, a very large dip showed paint marks where the bottoms of vehicles had struck it.

The river water actually runs underneath the causeway, he added, and highway officials assume the settlement is being caused by sections of the concrete becoming eroded.

"We just can't tell until we open it up and see," he said.

The causeway was closed to traffic on Sept. 17 and is expected to reopen Oct. 12, if not sooner. Message boards have been installed around the area notifying vehicle traffic of the closure with a detour route identified.

Perquimans County Schools, however, took school buses off the causeway 10 days earlier because of safety concerns after receiving a report that the causeway had fallen again.

Superintendent Dwayne Stallings and Transportation Director Donald Hurdle met and determined after riding the causeway that it was necessary to re-route the school buses away from the causeway.

"The safety of our students and drivers is of utmost importance to us," said Stallings. "The buses will remain off of the causeway until such time as it is determined the road is safe."

"This dilemma rears its head each year," he continued. "The most desirable situation is to keep the buses off of Highway 17 and the high-rise bridge as much as possible because of the increased number of vehicles and speed limits. However, when the causeway exhibits 'questionable' dropped areas in pavement (as it currently does), I did not feel confident that buses traveling across the causeway were as safe as possible. Consequently, I had no choice but to re-route the buses onto Highway 17."

The re-routing creates additional expense for the school system because of the additional mileage; however, school officials believe it is imperative to feel confident that students are provided the safest transportation possible.



911 observances held in county

Local Schools Remember Since the aftermath and devastation of 9-11, we are reminded that some of our true heroes are the men and women who risk their lives to serve and protect us — whether in the armed services or emergency personnel such as firefighters, law enforcement or emergency workers.

Each year on 9-11, students take the time to recognize and appreciate the efforts and sacrifices of local heroes. It is difficult to fully understand the value and cost of our freedom until such devastating events as 9-11. Although Americans have returned to some sense of normalcy during the past six years, we will never forget the lessons of 9-11.

"We should never take a moment with our loved ones for granted. As we spend time with our families, children and friends today as we honor those serving to protect us, our thoughts return again to those who lost loved ones on that fateful day six years ago. We can never fully express our feelings for the sacrifices made each day, we can only pay tribute by remembering," said Principal Sylvia Johnson.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

PERQUIMANS CENTRAL SCHOOL HELD a 9-11 Remembrance Service around the flag pole where students culminate the event by singing "This is America." Perquimans High School also held a special recognition/salute to soldiers during Open House on 9-11. The Rescue Squad also noted the occasion with a memorial sign in front of their building.

Hertford department burns house

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

A vacant, dilapidated house was burned to the ground by local firefighters last Thursday night with no problems despite overly dry conditions in the area.

Hertford Fire Department burned the house located across from the Albemarle Commission Building on Church Street around 6:45 p.m. at the request of its owners. Within minutes, the wooden house roared into a blazing inferno as firefighters stood by with primed fire hoses ready to douse trouble spots.

Firefighters quickly extinguished several tree-tops that ignited from the fire. They also put out hot spots that sparked across the street in the grass field adjacent to the Albemarle Commission Building.

Chief Robert Reed said firefighters were called back to the scene of the blaze two times during the night when flames rekindled.

Preparations to burn down the house have taken several months. Interior walls were removed, and the owner was required to remove all asbestos from the property prior to burning.

Debris around the



Perquimans Weekly Photo by CATHY WILSON

FLAMES RAGED THURSDAY NIGHT as Hertford Volunteer Firefighters burned a vacant house on Church Street across from the Albemarle Commission Building at the request of the property owners. While the outdoor burning ban does not affect local fire departments, it is still in effect and stiff fines will be imposed to those violating the outdoor burning ban due to the dry conditions statewide.

house was cleared, and firefighters earlier in the day disked an area behind the house in an effort to prevent any flames from spreading to a nearby forest. They also soaked the ground and trees surrounding the house with water just prior to setting the house on fire.

Reed was pleased with

the turnout by his firefighters for the controlled burn. The exercise was part of training for firefighters.

Firefighters created a draft from the nearby Perquimans River for their water supply to control the fire.

Members of the Hertford Police Department blocked traffic from mov-

ing through the area from King Street to ARPDC Street during the burn.

Reed pointed out that the current outdoor burning ban does not pertain to fire departments. The ban is still in effect due to drought conditions in the area and stiff fines will be imposed on those who violate the ban.

Town Okays annex request

Company's property straddles town limits

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

With no one speaking in opposition last week, members of Hertford Town Council approved the contiguous annexation of 87.15 acres of land located near the intersection of U.S. 17 and Harvey Point Road.

Greenville Timberline asked the town of Hertford to annex the property since part of the parcel is already located within the town's boundary.

Town manager John Christensen explained that the property lies between two parcels that are already within the town's boundaries.

"Part of Greenline's property is in the town limits. The commerce center is in the town limits. The property they are asking to annex is the hole in the middle," he explained.

Annexing the property would provide town water and sewer to the area. Christensen had earlier indicated Greenville Timberline is considering developing residential properties on the plot. The town's moratorium on developing subdivisions expires in October.

The annexation goes into effect immediately.

In other town matters last week, Bob Reed, Hertford fire chief, brought council up to date on several projects involving the fire department. He said the department has ordered a rescue truck with a December delivery date. In addition, the department will be installing a \$9,800 phone system on Engine 32. The department is also in the process of beginning their annual letter fund raising campaign.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 81
LOW: 68
SCATTERED T'STORMS

FOOTBALL FRIDAY
HIGH: 82
LOW: 67
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 82
LOW: 62
SCATTERED T'STORMS