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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

35 cents

## Former Hertford cop held for kidnapping

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The Kitty Hawk police officer charged in connection with the alleged kidnapping of an Ahoskie man worked as a police officer in Hertford for about six years.

Raymond C. Jedele, who worked for the Hertford Police Department from 1990 — 1996, is being held under a \$10 million bond on a first degree kidnapping charge. Donald B. Smith-

wick of Ahoskie was abducted from his home last Thursday morning. As of Monday, officials were still searching for Smithwick.

Smithwick's ex-wife, Janice Denise Harrell of Edenton, was also arrested and charged with accessory after the fact of first degree kidnapping.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy described Jedele as a good officer, an aggressive officer while he worked locally.

"I was shocked when I heard about it," Vanscoy

said. "It about floored me. He liked to do silly pranks. After he left the force, we didn't stay in touch. Every couple of years or so, I'd get a phone call from him. That's about it."

Jedele was hired as a patrolman, but was promoted to sergeant while on the local force. During his tenure here, Jedele was investigated by the SBI for allegedly assaulting an individual while on duty, Vanscoy said.

According to Vanscoy, the SBI investigation

showed that Jedele attempted to serve a warrant and the individual pulled scissors on him. Jedele hit the man with a flashlight. Jedele was cleared of any wrongdoing.

According to published reports, Smithwick was taken from his home around 6 a.m. Thursday morning. A witness saw a white man dressed in black standing over Smithwick in the driveway. Blood was found in the driveway as well as a Taser wire.

A little after 7 a.m., a 1988

Lincoln was involved in an accident on the Chowan River bridge. A highway patrol trooper investigating the accident reported that the driver, Jedele, was dressed in black. Later, authorities found the vehicle at an Edenton residence with traces of blood in the trunk.

Smithwick's pickup truck was found a short distance from his house. Blood was found inside the cab of the truck.

Published reports also state that Smithwick's cell

phone was tracked to a cell tower near Edenton, and that Harrell reportedly rode to the accident scene with the tow truck driver.

Jedele appeared in Hertford County Criminal District Court Friday morning, and denied having any part in the kidnapping.

Jedele was apparently a friend of Smithwick's ex-wife. The Smithwicks recently fought a custody battle over their children with Smithwick receiving custody.

## Bridge closing extends

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

A second pavement failure will close the causeway for at least another 30 days.

Sterling Baker, division maintenance engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, notified local government officials Thursday that another pavement failure has occurred, this time in an area that has not felt construction traffic and is closer to the bridge.

"This closure period needs to be extended so that we can repair another 100-foot section of the causeway in addition to the 50 feet of causeway we are currently addressing," Baker stated in his memo.

The additional work should take another 30 days to complete, with the new anticipated opening date pushed back to Nov. 19. The causeway was originally expected to open Friday.

"I do realize that all parties involved are deeply concerned about the condition of the causeway while planning for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project that addresses the replacement of the drawbridge and causeway moves forward," Baker continued. "Therefore, I would like to reiterate to all parties that the department will commit to continuing to perform maintenance functions along this section of highway in order to ensure that this section remains functional and safe until such time that the TIP project addresses these issues."

The causeway between Hertford and Winfall was closed Sept. 17 after a section of the road sunk eight to twelve inches after the concrete slab underneath the roadway broke in half. The river water actually runs underneath the causeway and highway officials were concerned that the water had eroded the concrete.

NCDOT is installing pilings and building a bridge over the old road and paving on top of it. Message boards have been installed around the area notifying vehicle traffic of the closure with a detour route identified.



Perquimans Weekly Photos by  
CATHY WILSON

**AREA SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARNED** how peanuts are grown and harvested today and yesteryear at Springfield Farm during the "Heritage Grows Here" farm tour Friday and Saturday. Representative Annie W. Mobley (left) was on hand to help Mayor Fred Yates (right) congratulate citizens honored by Winfall during the Oak Leaf Festival. Honorees were Jeanne White, Willie Mae Symons, M. Shirley Wiggins and David Brookins. Hundreds of people took advantage of the weekend's fun and fund raising events across the county.



## Monument to be dedicated in November

**Honorariums, memorials to help fund project**

CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Buy a brick. Honor a veteran. A monument honoring all veterans will be constructed on the county's courthouse square.

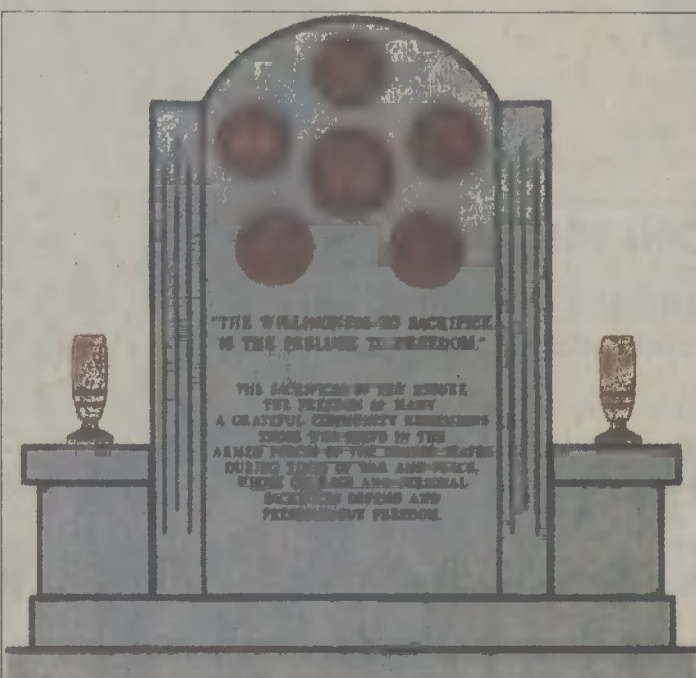
Preston Spears, a member of the county's Veterans' Monument Committee, said the granite monument has been ordered, and the committee is now selling bricks to help pay for the monument

as well as a paved walkway. The monument will feature emblems of all branches of armed services as well as the American flag and an inscription.

The monument will stand to the right in front of the courthouse between the sidewalk and tree in the same general area of the other monuments on the square.

"We wanted something that would blend in with the surroundings, but stand on its own," explained Spears. "We believe it will fit right in with what's there now, and still be conscious of the historical aspect."

Facing the courthouse, the large monument to the left is a monument to  
**CONTINUED on page 2**



THE VETERANS MONUMENT WILL honor all those who have served in the military.

## OLF groups to meet

SUSAN HARRIS  
Editor & Publisher

Stan Winslow said no new information was shared with those attending a Governor's OLF Study Group meeting in Raleigh last week.

The chair of the local No OLF Committee attended the meeting along with County Manager Bobby Darden and Julian Baker, a Whiteston farmer who would lose land that has been in his family for generations should the OLF locate in Perquimans County.

All available OLF information will be shared at a meeting at the Belvidere Fire Station on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. The meeting is set to prepare the community to speak at a public hearing of the Governor's OLF Study Group set for Oct. 23. The Study Group sent out a news release on Oct. 3 stating that the public hearing date has been set, but no time or location has been determined. Winslow said his group has received an indication that the meeting will be held in Elizabeth City.

Winslow said the navy said that three to six of the six new North Carolina and 11 new Virginia locations will be chosen by the Secretary of the Navy for Environmental Impact Studies.

He added that even if the navy decides internally that the OLF will not go in Perquimans, the site will stay on the list. He said it is a procedural matter.

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 83  
Low: 57  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FOOTBALL FRIDAY  
High: 75  
Low: 50  
SUNNY

FARM TOUR SATURDAY  
High: 70  
Low: 49  
SUNNY