

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JULY 1, 2009 - JULY 7, 2009



Volunteers are the heart of Historic Hertford Page 4

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## Changes are under way at your PW

### Dear Perquimans Weekly readers:

As you may have read in Susan Harris' recent column, we have made some changes at The Perquimans Weekly office.

Susan accepted a position as our customer service manager in Elizabeth City. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring that we provide the best customer service possible for our readers of The Perquimans Weekly, The Daily Advance and The Chowan Herald. Her department is also responsible for Classified advertising sales and support for the three papers.

Given the excellent job Susan did as editor and publisher of the PW, we're confident she will excel and improve our operations. She also plans to continue to write her column and provide coverage of Perquimans high school sports.

With Susan's departure, we organized the management responsibilities in the Hertford office. Bev Alexander continues to be our advertising sales representative. Bev is part of the overall advertising team, including Daily Advance and Chowan Herald sales staff, under Sales and Marketing Director Gene Fowler.

Cathy Wilson remains Perquimans County reporter for the PW and the go-to person for editorial coverage. She reports to Mike Goodman, who oversees our editorial staff in Elizabeth City, Edenton and Hertford.

General administration and publisher responsibilities, such as accounting and finance, have been consolidated in our Elizabeth City office, under my direction.

Our mission is to provide our Perquimans County readers and customers with comprehensive hyper local news and information and the best community newspaper we can. We believe our reorganization will better enable us to meet that mission.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Contact information for the Hertford staff and the managers can be found on page 2. We sincerely thank you for being a loyal reader and customer of The Perquimans Weekly.

Ann Hoffman  
Publisher

## County pays its share of extra jail costs

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County cut a check last week to Pasquotank County for \$247,366 to help pay for cost overruns for the \$19 million regional jail currently under construction in the neighboring county.

County Manager Bobby Darden said Pasquotank County Manager Randy Ke-

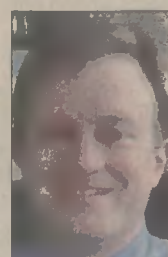
aton requested both Perquimans and Camden counties pay their percentage of approximately \$1.2 million in unreimbursed extra jail expenses already footed by Pasquotank. Keaton asked the localities to pay by June 30.

Darden said Perquimans paid the funds out of the 2008-2009 general fund balance with the understanding that the funds will be reimbursed to Perquimans from either

contingency funds for the jail project or from expected additional jail financing.

"I would have done the same thing," Darden said of Pasquotank's request. "We knew Pasquotank County has been carrying this financial burden for quite a while. We know we'll get our money back either from contingency or from additional financing."

The Albemarle District



Darden

quotank, and Perquimans counties. Camden's share of unreimbursed extra expens-

es to date is 13 percent or \$153,132. Pasquotank's share is 66 percent or \$777,437. The share for Perquimans is 21 percent.

Apparently, the extra expenses won't be reimbursed by the jail's USDA loan until the project obtains additional financing, Darden said. Officials estimate the jail project will need an additional \$1 million in financing before completion.

## Causeway to close again



FILE PHOTO BY JUSTIN FALLS

North Carolina Department of Transportation officials expect the resurfacing on the southbound portion of the U.S. Highway 17 high rise bridge to be complete by July 30. Unfortunately, the causeway will close again for repairs on July 6 forcing motorists to enter Hertford using the U.S. 17 northbound high rise bridge which is one lane each way due to the closure of the southbound bridge. With the added traffic, law enforcement officials urge caution when traveling in the construction zone.

## High-rise bridge should open soon

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

The bad news is, another section of the causeway is failing and highway officials will close the roadway for repairs July 6. The good news is, the southbound high-rise bridge on U.S. Highway 17 is expected to reopen by the end of July.

From the time the causeway closes until the high-rise bridge opens, travelers and residents will have to travel the two lanes over the northbound high-rise bridge to enter Hertford from U.S. 17.

Division Engineer Jerry Jennings said the North Carolina Department of Transportation will close the causeway July 6, or before if the damage is deemed unsafe, because another section of the road has collapsed. Highway officials are monitoring the causeway daily since a 250-300-foot stretch rapidly settled over the past few weeks.

"There is a chance we might have to close it sooner if it gets to the point of being unsafe," he added.

A red highway cone now marks the spot where the

old concrete slab underneath the causeway has failed. The road is set to remain closed until Sept. 18.

"The exact length of time for road closure depends on how the work goes," said Jennings. "We don't expect it will take any longer than that."

Resident Engineer Randy Midgett said the resurfacing project which has closed the northbound high rise bridge on U.S. 17 is going well.

"The contract date for completion is July 30 and it's definitely on schedule," he said. "Things are going

well out there. There is a good chance we can open it up sooner. The concrete work is complete, but we still have some patching to do."

The southbound bridge closed last March and rerouted traffic to the northbound bridge while the construction crews resurfaced the two lanes.

This summer's closure of the causeway marks the third time the road has been closed since September 2007 to repair pavement failures.

Contact Cathy Wilson  
at cwilson@nccox.com

## Winfall, Hertford seats up for vote

Filing period July 6-17 for the Nov. 3 elections

By Cathy Wilson  
Staff Writer

Four council seats, two in Hertford and two in Winfall, will be decided during municipal elections slated for Nov. 3.

According to Eula Mae Forbes, director of the Perquimans County Board of Election, the filing period for those running in the fall municipal election will open July 6 and close July 17.

So far, only one incumbent has said he will seek re-election.



Reid

Hertford's Vice Mayor Horace Reid said he will run for office again after serving 12 years.

Hertford Councilwoman

JoAnn Morris, however, said she will not seek reelection in the fall. Morris has served for eight years.

Morris cited her age as the reason why she will not seek office again.

In Winfall, seats currently held by councilwomen Donna Mummert and Debbie Jean Whedbee will be decided.

On Monday, Mummert said she is undecided whether she will seek re-election. She has served on Winfall council for six years.

Efforts to reach Winfall Councilwoman Debbie Jean Whedbee were unsuccessful.

Contact Cathy Wilson  
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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 87 LOW: 73  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 88 LOW: 74  
ISOLATED  
THUNDERSTORMS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 88 LOW: 75  
PARTLY CLOUDY



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## Hertford, Winfall July Fourth celebrations set

Food, fun, music and fireworks will highlight the local July 4th celebrations in the county.

Both Hertford and Winfall plan events that end with a bang: Fireworks shot over the Perquimans River.

A non-motorized parade, featuring pedal and push-powered decorated tricycles, bicycles, wagons, tractors and strollers, will start the celebration in Hertford around 5 p.m. as they line up at the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot at 5 p.m.

Decorated to the hilt, children of all shapes and sizes will pedal or walk from Market Street to Church Street to Grubb Street to the Missing Mill Park where the rest of the evening's events

will occur.

Spectators may watch from the streets, or wait for the parade at the park where food vendors will offer a variety of Independence Day favorites including hamburgers, hotdogs, fish and chips, Italian sausages, popcorn, snow cones, funnel cakes, and homemade ice cream. Patriotic music will entertain as the children enjoy the dunking booth and basketball games.

All boats that navigate near the park — whether powered by paddle or motor — are asked to decorate in holiday style in honor of the day.

Of course, the highlight of the day will be fireworks set off around 9 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the light show.

This year's 4th of July celebration in Hertford is sponsored by the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce.

Over in Winfall, the town plans a gospel celebration sponsored by Mike Chandler of REJOICE 100.9. at Winfall Landing Park from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. featuring great music, food, drinks and lots of fun. The celebration will end by watching the fireworks display across the Perquimans River.

Performing for the gospel block party will be Pastor Avery Barnes and the Sons of God, CoCo McMillian, Andra Cross, Faithway Doves and many others.

For more information or to participate in the Winfall celebration, call 426-5015.



FILE PHOTO

The annual July Fourth fireworks display will be held at Missing Mill Park in Hertford and in Winfall on Saturday at 9 p.m. Other activities are also planned for the Independence Day celebration.