

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



INSIDE TODAY
Progress 2012: The Albemarle Gets Down to Business



50 cents

"News from Next Door"

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Ming Hing site of attempted armed robbery

Incident marks 2nd in two months at Centre

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Two suspects tried to rob the Ming Hing Restaurant at gunpoint Sunday night. According to the Hertford

Another restaurant employee reportedly grabbed a stapler and ducked around the corner into the restaurant's dining room, making a motion towards the suspect with the stapler as if it were a gun.

Police Department, two would-be robbers entered the Chinese restaurant through a back door around 10:30 p.m. as the restau-

rant workers were closing for the night. Police reports state one of the suspects stood lookout at the door while the other put a

black semi-automatic handgun to the head of the cook, demanded money, and forced the cook to the ground.

Another restaurant employee reportedly grabbed a stapler and ducked around the corner into the restaurant's dining room, making a motion towards the suspect with the stapler as if it were a gun. The movement apparently frightened the robber who ran out the back door.

See **ATTEMPTED**, 4

Faith prevails through break-ins, vandalism



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Pastor Margaret Ann Barber preaches at New Birth Christian Ministries, located on South Edenton Road Street. The church has been the victim of vandalism and two break-ins recently.

New Birth hit twice in 2 months

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

With their arms uplifted, members of New Birth Christian Ministries praised the Lord and gave thanks for their many blessings Sunday despite being hit by thieves and vandals twice in several weeks.

The small 20-member congregation meets in a building on South Edenton Road Street—a building that was first damaged by Hurricane Irene last summer. It was damaged almost as badly last month when thieves seeking scrap metal broke into the building and pulled sinks from the wall, ripping water lines that burst and spewed water on walls and floors.

"It's hard to believe that the economy is so bad, people will take items from a church just to take to a scrap yard. Anything that was metal, they took."

Kennedy Barber
Member, New Birth Christian Ministries

In an earlier break-in weeks before, thieves stole the church's source of heat for services: two kerosene and two gas heaters.

Pastor Margaret Ann Barber and her husband, Kennedy Barber, heard the sound of water running when they arrived for church service Feb. 26. They followed the

sound and found water spurting from pipes in the church's back room plus nearly two inches of water flooding the building's floor.

"We don't know how long it had been like that," said Ann Barber. Everything

See **NEW BIRTH**, 4

S. Church closed as bridge is repaired

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

No matter what name it goes by, the bridge on South Church Street closed Monday for resurfacing, blocking the main entrance into Hertford for up to 90 days.

Whether you know it as Walter's Bridge, the Castleton Creek Bridge, or the Raccoon Creek Bridge, David Otts, assistant resident engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, said the 200 ft. bridge will undergo new surfacing, the same process performed on the high rise bridge on U.S. Hwy. 17 last year.

Contractor Lanford Brothers out of Roanoke, VA. will remove the top two inches of concrete and replace it with latex modified concrete.

The southern entrance into town is expected to be closed for 90 days. Travelers may detour via Dobbs Street to South Edenton Road Street or Wynne Fork Road onto U.S. Highway 17. Travelers may also enter Hertford via the Causeway and historic S-bridge on the opposite end of Church Street.

The S-bridge and Causeway were closed for two days last week while highway officials repaired the bridge tender's house which was damaged on New Year's Eve when a truck crashed into pilings underneath the structure.

Otts said they timed the S-bridge closure prior to the Castleton Creek Bridge closing in order to keep at least two avenues into Hertford open.

The closure has local officials concerned over necessary detour, especially for school buses needing to

See **CLOSED**, 4

Officials to discuss options for S-bridge next week

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Next week, local officials will learn of proposed changes in the number of options under consideration for replacing/improving the S-bridge and Causeway between Hertford and Winfall.

Officials from the county and two towns have been invited to a meeting with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Kimley-Horn and Associates next Tuesday in Winfall. Officials will be brought up to date on

suggestions that may include eliminating two of the original options and adding an additional realignment for another.

NCDOT now suggests eliminating the option to rehabilitate the historic swing span bridge as well as building a 15 ft. fixed bridge from the causeway to South Edenton Road Street.

Three remaining alternatives being considered include building a new swing span bridge (Alternative A), building a 33 ft. bridge just south of Larry's Drive-in to Church Street (Alternative D) and building a 33 ft. fixed bridge from the causeway to South Edenton Road Street (Alternative E).

In addition to the three pro-

posed alternatives still on the board, NCDOT is proposing to study an additional alignment for Alternative A, now called Alternative B.

Teresa Gresham with KHA, the firm that serves as NCDOT's consultant on the future project of replacing/improving the historic S-bridge and Causeway, said the alternative have not really changed.

"Through the planning and design process, we will continue to narrow down the alternatives until we get to one final alternative," Gresham explained in an email. "Since the public workshop last June, we have continued to study the impacts of the potential alternatives. Based on a

See **OPTIONS**, 4



SUBMITTED GRAPHIC

This graphic shows alternatives for replacing or improving the S-bridge that local officials will discuss next week.

