

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

JULY 17, 2013 - JULY 23, 2013

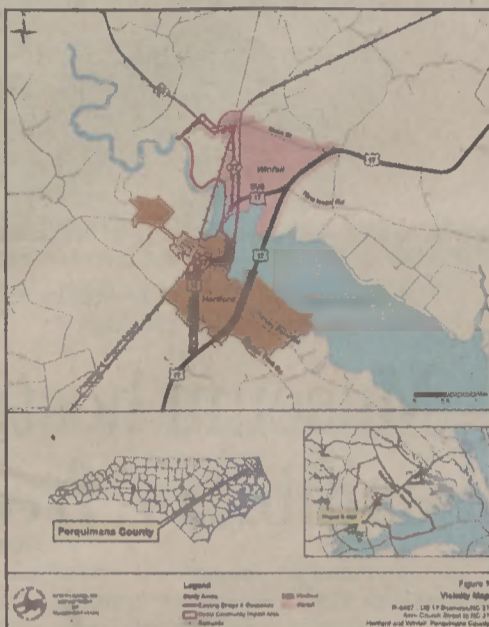


CHERRY HONORED AT ALL-STAR GAME - 6  
JUL 17 REC'D 50 cents

## STATE TO HOLD HEARING SOON ON BRIDGE

MAP COURTESY NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The state plans to hold a public hearing in late August or early September to gauge public opinion on options to replace the historic S-Bridge.



BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The state plans to hold a public hearing in late August or early September to gauge public opinion on options to replace the historic S-Bridge in Hertford.

"This is the last chance they get, and we're hoping for a good turnout," said Teresa Graham, a consultant with Kimley-Horne & Associates who has been working on the project for years.

In the past 75 to 100 people have attended public hearings. Graham considered that a good turnout. The three alternatives

"This is the last chance they get, and we're hoping for a good turnout."

Teresa Graham

Consultant, Kimly-Horne & Associates, on the public's last chance to discuss with officials the S-Bridge replacement

include one that extends off Edenton-Road Street across the river, one that extends straight off Church Street and a third that goes off Church Street to the west and more or less parallels the existing bridge.

"Right now there is no preferred alternative," Gresham said. "We're anxious for people to give their

thoughts. This is the time for people to speak up."

At one point, seven options were being considered. Many people said they simply wanted the state to fix the bridge as it is.

Just keeping the existing bridge is no longer an option.

"When we looked at that it we found it was it was go-

ing to be more (expensive) and it wouldn't last as long. Instead we're looking at replacing it."

Two of the three options remaining involve building a fixed bridge with a clearance of 33 feet — the same as the high-rise bridge for U.S. 17. The third option is a swing span just to the west of the current bridge.

As the list has grown smaller, Graham believes people are getting a better understanding of what's involved.

"People are becoming better educated about it. They're seeing more of

See S-BRIDGE, 6

## Schools to no longer share buses

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Hertford Grammar School and Central Elementary School will once again have their own set of buses to transport students next year.

The Perquimans County School Board made the decision last week.

The same buses served both schools for the past four or five years. The move was made to reduce expenses.

But in the process, students at Central were losing about 20 minutes of instructional time each day. The buses were going first to the grammar school first to let off students there in the morning. In the afternoon, 10 minutes was lost because Central let out early and the buses went to HGS.

Under the new plan, Central gets that time back.

Melissa Fields, the principal at Central, welcomes the change.

"Twenty minutes a day might not seem like a lot of time, but it can make a world of difference for an elementary school," Fields said Friday. "This time gives us an opportunity to provide more interventions based on student needs, dig deeper into word work, or practice reading comprehension. Twenty minutes could mean one more small group guided reading lesson or one more rotation in math centers.

"Twenty minutes could equate to a hands-on science experiment that we might not have had time for with our previous schedule. I am excited about the positive impact that this can make

See SCHOOL BUSES, 6

## WATER GIRL



Hayley Noble, 6, sends a spray of water straight up while helping her father, Dave, get the baseball field ready for a game on Thursday. Hayley had help from her twin sister Krystin. Hayley was wetting down the infield.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

## Study to look at hurricane attitudes

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

To flee or not to flee, that is the question state researchers will be asking coastal residents over the next four weeks.

Local and state emergency managers are examining behaviors and attitudes regarding evacuations during hurricanes by conducting a survey.

Julia Jarama is a communications officer with the N.C. Department of Public Safety and deals with emergency management. She said the survey is designed to help state disaster officials get an idea of what residents will and won't do in an emergency.

"There are a lot of things we don't know, that's why we're doing the survey," Jarama said. "We know some areas of the coast have limited options for evacuation. There are limited roadways and a lots and lots of water."

Jarvis Winslow, the

See HURRICANE, 7

## Former teachers charged with assault

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Two former Perquimans County Schools employees have been charged with assault after officials say they struck a special needs student on a school bus last month.

Cynthia Jones, 51, of Hertford, and Kecia Phelps, 48, of Edenton, were both charged Tuesday, July 9, with assault on a handicapped person, a Class 1 misdemeanor, of-

ficials said.

Both women turned themselves in at the Perquimans Sheriff's Office. A magistrate released them under \$1,000 unsecured bonds.

According to law enforcement officials, Jones, formerly an exceptional children's teacher for the Perquimans County Schools, and Phelps, a former teacher's assistant, struck the 18-year-old student June 16 while they were aboard a bus transporting the student home

from a summer school program. The student, who was improperly restrained at the time, didn't suffer any physical injuries in the incident, officials said.

Onboard video cameras on the bus captured the alleged incident and the footage was reviewed by school officials, who then turned the materials over to the Perquimans Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Eric Tilley said the charges were filed after the sheriff's de-

partment spoke with officials from the District Attorney's Office.

"We wanted to see if felony charges could be brought, but because there were no physical injuries, we couldn't," Tilley said.

According to school officials, Jones resigned from her job with the Perquimans school district on June 24. Phelps was fired June 20.

The driver and another teacher's

See TEACHERS, 2

## Simpson, commission helped shape county

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The availability of clean, safe drinking water in Perquimans County is something a lot of



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people might take for granted. Having a safe way to dispose of trash was also not an option a few decades ago.

Lester Simpson helped change that.

Simpson, who died the county adopted a July 4, served from countywide water sys-



SIMPSON

1969 to 1996 on the Perquimans County Commission. A memorial service for Simpson will be held in August at Hertford United Methodist Church.

During his 24 years, Simpson, who died the county adopted a July 4, served from countywide water sys-

tem, set up a system for trash disposal and took over the recreation department.

"Those were probably the three biggest things they did," said Charlie Ward, a former commissioner who served with Simpson.

Ward served on the

See SIMPSON, 7

## 3 killed in traffic wreck

From staff reports

Three people died as the result of a head-on accident Friday morning on Harvey Point Road.

Ruby Williams, 71 and her passenger Nina Perry, 82, were killed Friday when the 2011 Chevrolet they were riding in was struck by a second vehicle. Both Williams Perry lived in Holiday Island.

The driver of the other car, George Templeton, 86, died last weekend at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

Templeton, of Albemarle Plantation, was driving a 2003 Chrysler south on Harvey Point when he fell asleep and went across the center line, the Highway Patrol said. The patrol charged Templeton with misdemeanor death by vehicle.

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	See SIMPSON, 7					