

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

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50 cents

Public gives input on new bridge options

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The public had a role in narrowing down the list of options to replace the historic S-Bridge in downtown Hertford and last week the

public was given one last chance to speak again.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has narrowed it down to three options. At one point there were nine variations.

"A lot of the options that

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■ All three bridge options would require sacrifice — 2

were struck were because of comments brought by the

public," said Jerry Jennings, the regional engineer for DOT.

Teresa Gresham, a consultant for DOT, said only Alternative E survives from the six original bridge plans. The other two, Alternative

B-Mod, the swing-bridge concept and Alternative D-Mod — the cheapest option — have been altered from their original design based on input from the public and discussions within DOT.

More than 100 people at-

tended at least a portion of a three-hour hearing Tuesday to discuss plans to replace the 1929-era S-Bridge in downtown Hertford.

Two of the options use a

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ISP set to offer fiber Internet

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The owner of the Hertford-based Internet service IntelliPort plans to bring the same thing to Hertford that Google brought to Kansas City last year.

Steve Lane plans to start construction this week to bring fiber optic Internet service to the area. Shipments of cable and the underground junction boxes started arriving last week.

He's looking at Elizabeth City, Edenton and other neighboring cities and towns as well.

Tiny glass fibers smaller than a human hair carry signals at speeds traditional cable wire can't even approach. As a result, the new FTTH service will be able to deliver access speeds that are more than 100 times faster than what area competitors deliver under the guise of "high speed Internet." And Lane says he can do it for a price that is very competitive.

A residential connection would cost \$99 a month. He said that's about four percent the amount charged by other cable companies that provide fiber service. A business connection would be less than \$120.

Google did the same thing in Kansas City but on a much larger scale. Of course Google posted

See FIBER, 2

VETS PITCH IN TO HELP WIDOW



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Jim Turdici (left), John Sams (right) and others repair the roof of a home on Shore Drive south of Hertford last week.

VOLUNTEERS REPAIR LEAKY ROOF

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Veterans groups from Elizabeth City and volunteers mostly from Chowan County met in the middle last week to repair the roof of a house occupied by the widow of a Marine Corps veteran in Perquimans County.

And now Zelene Roulhac can now go to sleep without worrying about rain.

"I couldn't be happier," Roulhac said. "Last spring it seemed like it rained for 30 days and 30 nights. I had pots and pans and bowls out to catch the water."

The problems with the house on Shore Drive started

as the result of Hurricane Isabel in 2003, she said.

"We got the roof repaired but we weren't living here at the time and the people that did it didn't do a good job. The shingles looked fine, but the proof is in the pudding."

Then came Hurricane Irene in 2011.

"Hurricane Irene hit one Saturday and Dan died the next Saturday. They came out and covered the roof initially and gave me some agencies that were supposed to help. When he died, I went from a two-income family to a one-income family. I got turned down by umpteen agencies."

See LEAKY ROOF, 4

State running buses longer

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

More than 1,050 children in Perquimans County and 800,000 throughout North Carolina will be riding on buses that are older with higher mileage than they used to because of an effort by the General Assembly to save money.

The budget adopted by the N.C. General Assembly this year means the wheels on the bus will go round and round until they reach 250,000 miles or hit 20 years of age. Yellow buses that are less than 15 years old will have to hit 300,000 miles before they are considered for retirement.

In the past the state looked at replacing a bus when it reached 200,000 miles or 20 years.

This year's budget decision is estimated to save the state about \$185 million over the next five years. It's championed by Rep. Dean Arp, a Republican from Union County.

However some worry that unless the state increases the amount it provides for maintenance, local taxpayers may get stuck with paying the cost of keeping an increasing aging fleet running. The local school system already has to tap other state funds to pay for fuel that isn't covered by the state allocation.

Some state officials point

See BUSES, 4

Bittner to return for 'Elvis' performance Oct. 5

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Chris Bittner will be back on stage at Perquimans County High School Oct. 5. But this time he'll be opening for "Elvis" at an event that will generate more money to help Perquimans County students.

Bittner is one of the students who has benefited from the annual event sponsored by the Hertford Rotary Club. He attends UNC-Greensboro.

"I was asked to play and felt honored," Bittner said. "I said yes, especially after what they've done for me."

Bittner and another stu-



PHOTO COURTESY THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
Keith Henderson



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chris Bittner, a graduate of Perquimans High, will perform in a jazz duo as the opening act to a tribute performance to Elvis by Keith Henderson, Oct. 5.

Henderson will be doing the Elvis renditions that have taken him across the nation. This past April celebrated 34 years of Elvis tributes for Henderson.

"I don't fake what I do," Henderson said. "To me an impersonator is someone trying to act like something they aren't. This is me, I naturally sing like this, I naturally move like that, I don't choreograph my show. This is a tribute to someone who, in my opinion, is the greatest entertainer ever."

Warning up the crowd for Henderson will be Bittner, a four-year member of the Perquimans High marching band. For three years he made All-State Jazz as a saxophone player. He will be performing with Aaron Matson, a sophomore who

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dent from UNC-G will open for Elvis tribute artist Keith Henderson. The 7 p.m. event will be held in

the auditorium at the high school.

This will mark the third year for Henderson at the

Rotary event. He performed in the first one in 2006 and returned the next year for an encore performance.

Last year Rotary was able to offer \$1,000 scholarships to five local seniors as a result of the annual concert.



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