

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

"News from Next Door"

JULY 23, 2014 - JULY 29, 2014

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School	Start	End	Break
Albemarle	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Asheboro	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Beaufort	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Camden	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Chapel Hill	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Clemson	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Cornelius	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Crofton	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Currituck	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Durham	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Edenton	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Elizabeth City	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Fayetteville	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Forsyth	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Franklin	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Gaston	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Greene	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Guilford	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Hertford	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Hoke	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Johnston	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Lincoln	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Martin	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Mecklenburg	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Morris	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
North Carolina	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Onslow	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Orange	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Perquimans	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Rocky Mount	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Rowan	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Sandhills	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Wake	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16
Wayne	Aug 18	May 15	Dec 15-16

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2014-15 - PAGE 6

50 cents

Town looking at utility deposit policy

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

An outgoing member of the board is urging the Hertford Town Council to change the way new utility customers are charged.

Anne White, who will step down July 28 when she

takes a seat on the Perquimans County School Board, made a vocal push this month to make the change before she leaves.

Under the current policy, new customers have to pay the equivalent of two months worth of electric and water payments based

on the consumption at their new address. New customers in Elizabeth City and Edenton pay a flat \$200 for electric service and \$25 for water.

The board had asked Town Manager Brandon Shoaf to look into the matter. He estimates a typical

new Hertford customer has to provide a \$389 deposit. The figure was based on an average. He looked at a variety of existing accounts in Hertford ranging from smaller homes to some large historic ones.

White argues that Hertford's policy is keeping

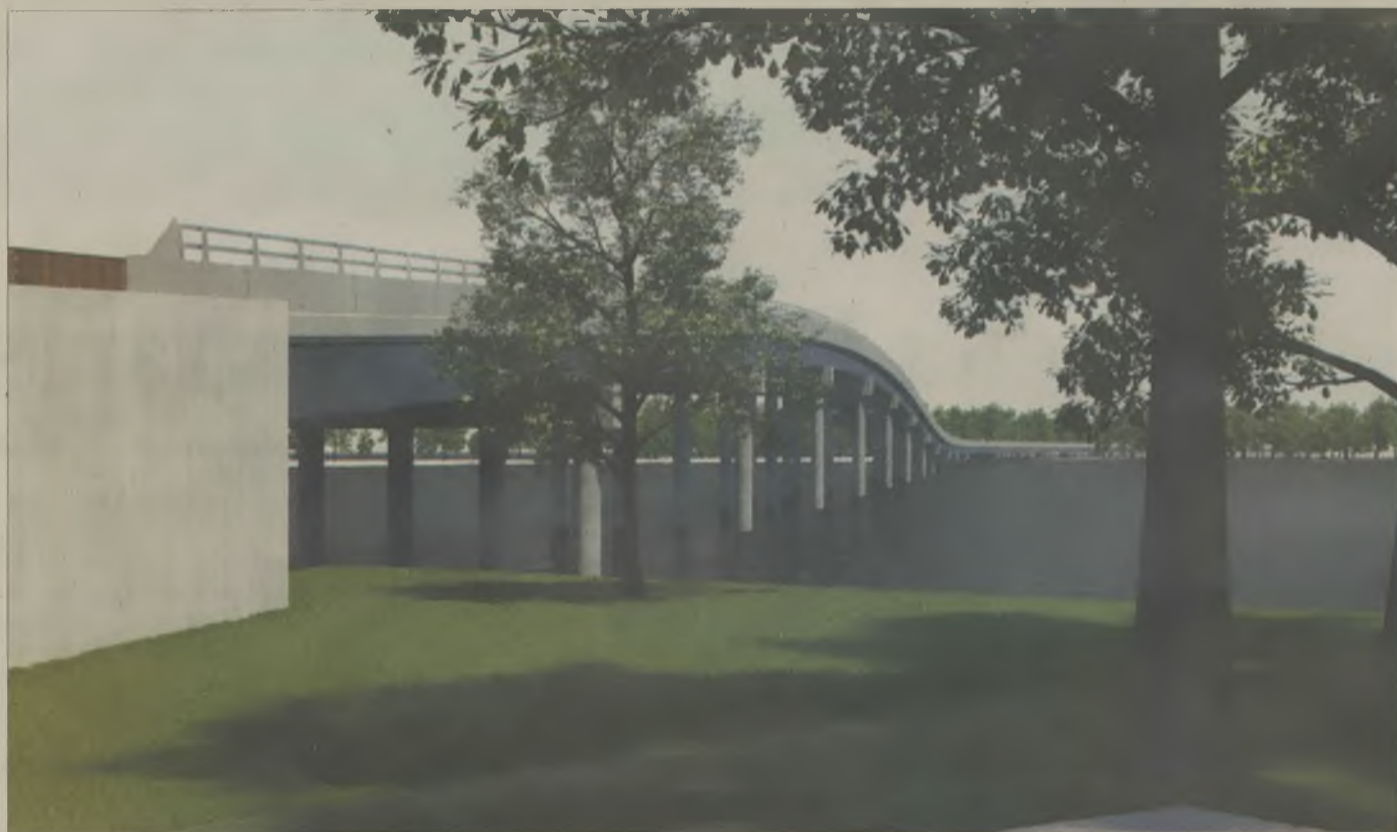
people from relocating to the town. "I don't think people should have to move out into the county because it's too expensive to live in Hertford," White said at a July 14 board meeting.

New customers who have a solid history of paying their utility bills on time

don't have to put up a deposit under the current system. Shoaf said about half of Hertford's utility customers qualify. But White said working people often find it hard to keep a perfect payment record.

See POLICY, 7

DOT open to design changes



COMPUTER GENERATED RENDERING COURTESY NC DOT

A computer generated image shows the proposed new bridge from the Hertford side of the Perquimans River.

DOT: Are ways to 'spruce up' D-Mod'

COMING NEXT WEEK

See how another eastern North Carolina town adapted to a new bridge.

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Once the location of the new bridge in Hertford is firmly established, the North Carolina Department of Transportation will be ready to start looking at how it can "spruce up" the design to make it blend in with the town.

One of the extras for the bridge option known as D-Mod was displayed last week during a meeting at the Perquimans County Courthouse. Other options, like lighting are also on the table.

Jay McInnis, DOT's project engineer on the planning phase, said the visual images presented on July 14 were "plain old vanilla stuff" with concrete walls.

"My point is there are things the department can do to spruce up Alternative D-Mod." But none of the changes can be addressed in depth until D-Mod wins final approval.

DOT's willingness to make modifications in the area of appearance and design isn't 100 percent voluntary, McInnis said. Some things it's bound to do by



COMPUTER GENERATED RENDERING COURTESY NC DOT

This image shows how U.S. Highway 17 Business would enter Hertford once the D-Mod bridge is built.

law because that part of Hertford has a historic designation. The removal of the S-Bridge will disturb that historic nature. One design option shown last week was a decorative bridge railing.

If DOT was building the bridge in the area of Edenton Road Street — one of the final three options — DOT would take recommendations for lighting and design changes into consideration but the town would likely be required to share the cost.

"There is a better chance (of DOT shouldering the cost) with D-Mod than there would be with Alternative E," McInnis said.

Some of those talks have been going on all along according to Brandon Shoaf, Hertford's town manager. One of those involves taking the lights from the S-Bridge and incorporating them in the new bridge.

See D-MOD, 2

Schools adopt new standard for athletes

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Athletes in Perquimans County can't miss more than 13 days of school during any semester and must meet all promotions standards and have a 2.0 grade point average in order to be eligible to play starting next year based on a new school policy.

The changes aren't a radical departure from the old policy.

Attendance enforcement has fallen under the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in the past. However given the diversity of schedules and curriculum offered by school systems across the state, the association opted to let local school boards set the policy.

The one adopted recently by the Perquimans County board sets the 13 day standard for missed days. In the past the association's standard was athletes had to attend 85 percent of their classes.

Brenda Lassiter, a spokesperson for the school system, said 13 days and 85 percent both work out about the same. Thirteen isn't a magic number, said Susan Cox, a school board member and former athletic director. Some semesters cover 95 days and some semesters have fewer than that, but 13 is an easy number parents and students can remember.

Perquimans County Superintendent Dwayne Stallings has been a member of the athletic association board for the past six years believes the new standards will work.

"Seat time has changed so much," Stallings said last week. "There are so many formats now that our students can receive education from on-line to face to face with a teacher to virtual school. What's different is it puts the responsibility on the LEA (Local Education Agency) to more or less monitor it."

If the NCHSAA approves the Perquimans changes, students must have passed a minimum load of work during the preceding year to be eligible at any time during the present year. There is an exception. A student who receives an incomplete which causes him or her to fail to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the course is satisfactorily completed, and eligibility is restored immediately.

All students must also meet the

See STANDARD, 2

County welcomes new librarian

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

After a career of working in larger libraries in the Boston area, Anita Bennett wanted a change and Perquimans County was the place for it.

Bennett started work this month as the head librarian at the Perquimans County Library.

Her last posting was with Northeastern University, a place where she's been for the past 11 years. Prior to that she worked

in various roles at public libraries since she graduated college in 1990.

"I was interested more in a community level position," she said last week. "I felt my strengths are directly working with people and fundraising. I wanted to work in a small, rural library rather than one in a big city."

With an enrollment of 13,000, Northeastern University almost has as many students as Perquimans County has people. While she worked in Boston, she said she lived in a rural area and commuted to work.

Her goal right now is to reach out to the community she'll serve.

"Engaging with the community is important," she said.

Bennett and library board members plan

See LIBRARIAN, 2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Anita Bennett, the new librarian at Perquimans County Library, poses for a photo while talking at the library last week.



Upcoming Steamer Events: For more info Call 482-4080

FRI. 7/25

Pepsi Night

SUN. 7/27

Open Door Church Night and Pre-Game Fan-Fest (Gates open at 5:30)

MON. 7/28

2nd Annual Home Run Derby \$50 to enter Donations encouraged for admission

TUE. 7/29

Perquimans County Strikeout ALS Night - Catfish Hunter mustache giveaway

Celebrate Historic Hicks Field's 75th Anniversary with reduced concession prices