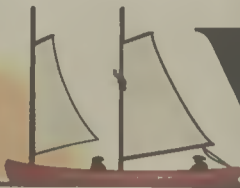


THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015



5 appointed to Habitat board, 2
50 cents

Electric rate relief coming

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Hertford electric customers may soon see some rate relief in their bills.

A deal reached in July between Duke Power/Progress and the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency allowed 32 municipal utilities to sell their ownership of Duke Power plants. That eases much of the debt that has been keeping utility rates high.

Hertford customers may soon know how much rate they'll save and when. Town Manager Brandon Shoaf was scheduled to present a rate study to the town board Tuesday night.

The board won't be asked to approve new rates at that time. At the Sept. 14 meeting the board will be asked to set a date for a public hearing for a later date to formally adopt the rates.

"Once they vote, the consultant can restructure the rates," Shoaf said.

Shoaf has said his goal has been to make Hertford "competitive" with surrounding areas.

Shoaf said if all goes well customers will start seeing lower rates by October.

The other 31 members of the NCEMPA are also adopting new rate plans.

Consultants for Raleigh-based Booth & Associates LLC have recommended that Edenton implement an average 9.4 percent reduction for all customers. The town has an estimated 3,300 residential customers.

To illustrate the difference in monthly cost to customers, Glenn Andersen, director of utilities for Edenton, said that under the old rate a residential customer's average cost would be \$137 for a thousand kilowatt hours. In contrast, the same

See RELIEF, 4

NEW ATTRACTION

SEP 09 REC'D



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A program on Native America music, dance and culture will be part of the Indian Summer Festival this year.

Indian Summer Festival kicks off Friday

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The 34th annual Indian Summer Festival kicks off Friday with music and entertainment on the courthouse green.

But on Saturday, the event spreads out to include more of the downtown area and Hertford's waterfront where residents and visitors can enjoy the town's new marina and participate in water activities.

Something new this year will be paddleboard demonstrations by Stroub & Son on the grassy area be-

hind the Hertford Police Station.

The Periauger will be back for free rides at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Those interested need to get to the dock 15 minutes before the boat sails to sign a release. The Periauger is a representation of a boat from the pre-revolutionary period that frequented the shallow waters of the Perquimans River.

The US Coast Guard will once again be doing their water rescue demonstration at 11 a.m. at the docks. In the same area, there will also be a car show behind Hertford

Throughout the day Saturday there will be a Kids Zone in the parking lot next to Hertford Baptist Church.

The events kick off Friday at 6 p.m. with Edenton DJ "DJ Cowboy" and a street dance. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a ceremony in honor of 9/11 with the Hertford Fire Department Honor Guard, Boy Scouts and the Albemarle Choral.

The Greenville band — The Main Event — takes to the stage at 7 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m.

Activities on Church Street pick

See ISF, 5

Hot food lovers issued challenge

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



An Edenton-based company will be seeing if Hertford can take the heat on Friday with a demonstration of what the founder says is the hottest lollipop on Earth.

The Stung-Tongue Pepper Company will be putting on a demonstration on the courthouse green during the intermission of the band The Main Event. The band starts at 7 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m.

Dan Van, the founder of Stung Tongue, said he created the product in 2013 because he saw the need among "Chili Heads" — people who like extremely hot things.

"The industry was yearning for it," Van said.

Van, 34, has been taking his product across the country.

It's been to the Great Chicago Fiery Foods Festival and this Saturday it will be promoted at the N.C. Hot Sauce Festival in Oxford.

What Van hopes to see is area firefighters

See CHALLENGE, 4

Woman killed in accident

From staff reports

An Albemarle Plantation resident died Monday after the jet ski she was operating collided with an 18-foot-long boat in Yeopim Creek southeast of Hertford and not far up the creek from her home, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission said.

Brenda Hoepfner, 67 of the 100 block of New River Drive, was pronounced dead at Vidant Chowan Hospital in Edenton, Lt. Mark Rich said. The incident was reported shortly after 11 a.m. in the vicinity of Pine Point Road and Rich said an investigation is continuing.

According to Rich, a person was driving a Power Play XLT 185 boat, while

See FATAL, 4

Grad rate remains high

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

Perquimans County High School continued to surpass many area schools and most others in the state in terms of graduation rates last year.

Last year 90.6 percent of students in the four-year cohort graduated in Perquimans. The figure is based on 117 ninth graders entering the school system in 2011-12 and 106 of them graduating.

The figure was down slightly from the year before when Perquimans had a graduation rate of 92.1 percent. The senior class was larger that year with 126 students starting school

See GRAD RATE, 4

Organization looking for photo of fallen Vietnam soldier

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor



HOEHN

An organization trying to put faces to the names of the 58,300 Americans who were killed in Vietnam is searching for a photo of Mason Nixon Jr. — a Hertford man who was killed in 1968.

Janna Hoehn, a Hawaii resident, said she was drawn to the project after visiting Washington DC six years ago. Her quest started off with a single person. To date, about 40,000 photos

the first memorial on my list was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall," she said. "Even though I never knew anyone killed in Vietnam, I wanted an rubbing of one of the names. I approached

have been compiled. Gregory John Crossman — an MIA.

"When I returned home I decided to research Gregory and try to find his family, in the event they were never able to go to the Wall, I would send them the etching, hoping they would share a photo with me of Gregory. Off and on for six months I researched every way possible and never found any family. I was quite disappointed however I had one more possibil-

ity... my cousin, our family historian... six weeks later she found a college photo of Gregory.

The search then grew to find photos of the 42 Maui County soldiers who died.

"I have now partnered up with Jim and Tom Reece, North Carolina brothers that have dedicated 10 years to the Faces Never Forgotten program searching for the North Carolina fallen. The brothers have submitted 1,858 of the 1,929 photos needed to complete

the State of North Carolina. I lived in Fayetteville many years ago, part of my heart is still in NC and I would love to see North Carolina completed."

According to "findagrave.com" Nixon is buried in Sanders Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He served with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division and died the result of artillery fire.

He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's

Badge (CIB), the Purple Heart Medal for his combat related wounds, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

"Putting a face with a name changes the whole dynamic of the Wall, it keeps our fallen heroes memories alive and will honor them, our heroes stories and sacrifice will never be forgotten," Hoehn said.

See PHOTO, 4

Bridge operator has seen a lot through years

BY CHUCK PAGELS
Special To The Perquimans Weekly

Ray C. White knows a thing or two about the Hertford S-Bridge.

White, 72, has opened it

hundreds of times since he became the Hertford draw-bridge operator in 2000.

On a recent Saturday he opened it for one white cabin cruiser. The process starts with a radio call from the approaching boat asking for passage.

White said it takes about 10 minutes for the span to open and close in one complete cycle. It takes longer if more boats are involved.

White said the center part

of the bridge — the part that moves — rests on steel wedges when it is closed.

If a boat needs to come through Ray activates the traffic lights and crossing gates, sounds a siren, and begins the bridge rotation.

White pushes some buttons and things start to happen. The wedges retract and the center of the bridge slowly and almost imperceptibly lowers about three or four inches. It comes to

rest upon steel wheels and a large gear located under the center of the bridge.

White watches the large degree dial on his console of buttons, lights, and meters. When the degree dial shows 90-degrees the bridge is fully open. When the boat has passed through he presses more buttons to reverse the process to close the bridge.

White says he's had some

See WHITE, 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK PAGELS

Ray White, 72, has been operating the S-Bridge in Hertford since 2000.



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34th Anniversary 2015 Hertford, North Carolina

Indian Summer Festival - Historic Hertford

CRAFTS, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, BEER GARDEN & MORE

Free Street Dance Friday Night - The Main Event

Sept. 11th, 6 to 10:00 p.m.
Sept. 12th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.