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Williams retires. 7

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S-BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT ON TRACK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017

BY PETER WILLIAMS **News Editor**

If the weather cooperates N.C. Department of Transportation officials hope to complete repairs to Hertford's S-Bridge by the end of es, has to be rerouted over the next month,

Crews have completely removed the asphalt driving surface and the metal deck from the swing-span. As that went on, rusted metal I-beams were removed and onto U.S.17. replaced with new beams.

John Abel, the bridge DOT's Division I, said the next step will be to work on both ends of each bridge.

Able said they want to make sure the bridge can safely open and close even when warm weather might cause the metal to expand.

"News from Next Door"

With the bridge closed. traffic, including school busthe U.S. 17 Bypass Bridge. Before work on the S-Bridge started, DOT adjusted the timing of the traffic signal on U.S. 17 and Church Street to give cars more time to get

So far, that plan appears to have eliminated much of program manager for N.C. the long delays some had feared, according to John

See S-BRIDGE, 3



Internet survey launched

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

The Hertford-based Albemarle Commission is conducting a survey of the 10county area to find out what level of broadband Internet service is really out there.

Director Cathy Davison said once the commission gets the full picture and finds out what people what and need, it can work with industry and government to fill in the gaps.

"As part of our ongoing planning and economic development work for the region, we realized that we couldn't leave broadband access and infrastructure out of the equation," Davison said.

Davison believes having broadband services isn't a luxury, but something the region must have if it expects to attract new industry and help existing businesses expand.

There are pockets of the 10-county Albemarle Commission region that have no Internet service at all and some areas with only very slow service.

Davison found that out when she and her family moved to off New Hope

See SURVEY, 2

WHITE SWORN IN



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Superior Court Judge J.C. Cole (above, right) hands Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White his badge last week during a swearing-in ceremony.

STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White (left) raises his right hand while resting his left on the Bible held by his mother Gail during a swearing in service last week.

House speaker issues letter

BY PETER WILLIAMS News Editor

The leader of the N.C. House has issued a statement suggesting his initial questions about the Amazon wind farm have been largely answered. Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) was one of 10 North Carolina lawmakers that sent a letter to President Donald Trump's pick for Secretary for Homeland Security. The letter says the Amazon project should never have been built, and argues it will harm the Navy's ability to use a radar facility in Chesapeake.

The letter to Gen. John Kelly sparked a protest from local elected officials who support the wind farm. On Jan. 24 Moore and nine other lawmakers took a tour of the Amazon project and met with local leaders.

The same day, Moore released a statement.

"I appreciate the time and input of everyone who participated in the tour today," Moore said. "This was a yaluable learning experience for me and my House.

See STATEMENT, 2

Roanoke building fiber system

BY PETER WILLIAMS **News Editor**

An electrical co-op that includes small parts of northern Perquimans and Chowan counties has started building a \$4 million fiber optic network to link substations together.

While the initial goal is improve the performance and reliability of the local electric distribution system, the longer-term benefit may be faster Internet Electric Co-op CEO Curservice to customers in tis Wynn about the main stay within our area of the Roanoke Electric Cop-



op region, said Marshall of having high-speed In-Cherry, chief operation of- ternet can go a long way ficer of Roanoke Electric." toward enhancing the

system's 12 substations in our underserved rural together. The same fiber communities.' can provide the backbone

for an Internet system. "This will be a game utility operations, as it will allow us to significantly reduce system losses and improve outage management," said Roanoke focus of the expansion. "Also, with this worldclass broadband technology comes new opportu-

the local economy. "The potential benefits

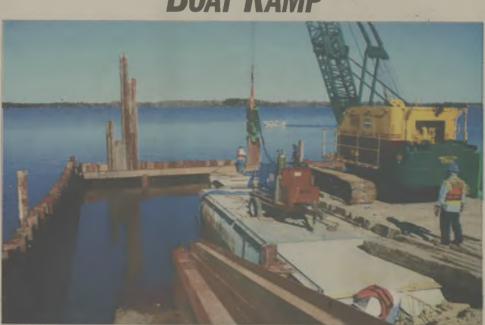
The fiber will link the quality of life, especially

Albemarle EMC, a Hertford-based co-op that serves Chowan, Perquichanger for our electric mans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties, has no similar plans.

"Albemarle EMC has no plans to own fiber infrastructure," said Chris Powell. "We intend to expertise, which is providing reliable, affordable electricity. We believe the companies that currentnities to bolster economic ly offer Internet locally development and improve are better positioned to

See ROANOKE, 2

BOAT RAMP



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Crews from Waff Construction drive sheet piling into the Perquimans River to create a cofferdam Wednesday. Once complete the water will be pumped out and a boat ramp will be built.