

## DEBATE

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every penny of it," Lane said.

Lane was one of the Perquimans County residents who intervened with federal and state officials to have a say because of the impact on any new bridge and the entrance from Winfall to downtown.

She insists keeping a similar looking bridge was important.

"It's our gateway. I want something that is going to reflect the kind of community we are. A high-rise bridge would not do that.

"We don't need another high-rise bridge," Lane said. "In a storm, there is no place for the kids to go."

The school system limits traffic over the US 17 Bypass bridge during periods with high winds when buses would pass over.

Lane maintains the cost wouldn't have been as much if DOT had listened to what Perquimans residents were saying.

"They (DOT) created the problem for themselves. If they hadn't waited, I know it would have been cheap-

er." After looking at the poor shape of some of the structures of the old bridge, Lane is convinced it simply can't be repaired forever and needs to be replaced.

Frank Jaklic isn't buying it.

Jaklic maintains that for nearly \$57 million, DOT could have simply kept repairing the old bridge.

"It's your money and it's my money," Jaklic said. "Figure that bridge was built in 1928 and cars were smaller and trucks had two or three axels at most and the rate of traffic was probably far less, but it's still in use today. For \$50 million you could keep it open for a long time."

DOT maintains it's time for the bridge to go. It was built at a time when cars and trucks were far smaller. It's too narrow by modern standards and even if the bridge could be kept working, it's a never-ending battle to keep the causeway open because of the poor soil under it.

Jaklic, a who will lose some property but not his house with the bridge plan, was shocked at the price.

"You could buy every

building in Hertford for that much money," Jaklic said.

Jaklic favored building a new bridge at the foot of Edenton Road Street. That was one of the three final options.

Jaklic thinks the Edenton Road Street route would have been best because it would require the demolition of a vacant shopping center that has fallen in disrepair.

"People could still go through the historic district and if the state is willing to spend \$57 million, the cost savings of the Edenton Road Street version would leave plenty of money to provide signage."

Cox and other downtown merchants, were against diverting the traffic away from Church Street and downtown to another bridge location down Edenton Road Street. She also didn't favor another high-rise bridge from the area where the current bridge is.

"We want the bridge like what is there," Cox said.

Hertford Town Manager Brandon Shoaf's response was "that's great news about the closure (time)."

But he added "wow, that's expensive."



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Amy Parker (right) congratulates Kaley Kiffner on being named the region's Teacher of the Year last week at Perquimans County Middle School. Parker, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, won the award last year.

## KIFFNER

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top school officials, Amy Parker and Kiffner's husband, Randy, and son, William, emerged from a back room. Parker, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, was the regional winner last year.

Once the blindfold came off and Kiffner got the news from Godwin who was still wearing the tiger suit.

Godwin hugged Kiffner and young William, who will turn three years old in January, broke in a run to get to his Mom.

"He was upset. He thought the tiger was eating me," Kiffner said.

Kiffner said it was a fantastic moment.

"My students have been so supportive. A couple of girls said they started crying. It's so cool to work in such a loving environment."

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman thinks Kiffner will go all the way when the



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

William Kiffner runs to his mother Kaley at an awards ceremony at Perquimans County Middle School.

state winner is announced next year.

"I honestly believe that in all my 20-plus years in education, Ms. Kiffner is in line to be the next teacher of the year," Cheeseman said.

Kiffner's drive to make the most of her instructional time just speaks to the kind of teacher she is, Cheeseman said.

"That's her mindset. It's always instruction first."

This is not the first time

a school district has won back-to-back regional teacher of the year honors. The Edenton-Chowan Schools did it when Sonya Reinhart repeated the win after James Bell won. Reinhart won in 2008-09. Bell went on to win the state Teacher of the Year Award.

Kiffner is now in the running with one teacher from the state's charter schools and the eight regional winners from public schools.

## BRIDGE

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lot of that involved limiting the time traffic is disrupted between Hertford and Winfall.

Herring suggested that comparing the cost of this month's bids with previous estimates of it and other options might be wrong.

Planning on the Hertford project has gone on for a decade and while estimates were updated over the years, NC DOT didn't have a lot of history in building a swing bridge.

"It's been 30 years since we built one. A lot of some of the estimates we really didn't have anything to compare it to," Herring said.

He suggested that all the

estimates of the other options for Hertford might also have been low. One involved a fixed bridge off the same site as the current bridge. The other was a longer high-rise bridge that went from Edenton Road Street to the same spot in Winfall.

"This bid is almost double what is listed for this alternate, but in theory any other prices (for other alternates) have gone up."

If all the permits are approved, the winning bidder will probably start mobilizing by late next year, Herring said.

But don't expect on-going construction after that. A law prevents working in the water (for things like driving pilings) from Feb. 15 through the end of June. That's the period when some types of fish spawn. The moratorium is aimed at fish that are born in fresh water and live their lives in salt water and come back to fresh water to reproduce.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Town of Hertford finalized the acquisition of three new pickup trucks last week through the USDA. Pictured are Councilman Sid Eley, Mayor Pro Tem Archie Aples, Mayor Horace Reid, Attorney Andrew Howle, USDA Rural Development Specialist Monica Thornton and Councilman Quentin Jackson.

## REPAIRS

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"That's what I'm hoping, but we'll be dealing with winter weather.

The town also took delivery of three new F-250 four-wheel drive pickup trucks last week.

The total price was \$107,200, but the USDA grant will pay for \$70,000 of that.

Shoaf said he heard USDA had some unspent funds so he applied for the grant last summer.

USDA will hold the loan on the one truck that town is paying for. The town will

make payments for six years.

One of the trucks being replaced was a 1997 model that was beyond repair. The other two trucks being replaced are 1999 models.

The trucks are used by the public works department.



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### Minzies Creek Sanitary District

Monthly meeting will be held on


**SATURDAY, December 30, 2017**  
**AT 10:00am**

The Meeting Will Be Held at  
**139 Treasure Lane, Hertford**


**Town of Winfall Offices are Closed:**

**Monday, December 25, 2017**  
**Tuesday, December 26, 2017**  
**Wednesday, December 27, 2017**  
**and**  
**January 1, 2018**

**In case of an Emergency call 426-5751**



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## HUNTER

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positions, but said her three priorities are infrastructure - including increasing access to broadband internet - education, and jobs and the economy. She'll release details on her issue positions next year, she said.

"We can't just continue to have children educated and then have brain drain" as they leave the area for better opportunities, Hunter said. Parents today want


jobs that will give their children a reason to stay here, she said.

Hunter also declined to express her views on Steinburg, saying she's "not in the business of rating people" and is focused on the present and the future.

She also declined to discuss two of the issues Steinburg has been vocal on: renewable energy and, more recently, prison reform. Asked about renewable energy's impact on infrastructure and economic development, Hunter said "everyone has an opinion on that."

Goodwin, who served as ferry chief under former Gov. Pat McCrory and before that served as chairman of the Chowan Board of Commissioners, announced his candidacy for the new House District 1 seat last month. Like Hunter, he described infrastructure and transportation funding as priorities of his.

It's not clear yet if any Democrats will run for the House District 1 seat. Washington County Commissioner Cole Phelps said he considered running but ultimately decided not to.



## NOTICE

### Perquimans County Tax Department

All unpaid 2017 County and Municipal Property Taxes will become delinquent after January 6, 2018. Enforced collectons will begin after that date. The Perquimans County Tax Department will be complying with the N.C. General Statutes for the collection of all delinquent taxes. The following procedures will be implemented to collect the delinquent taxes:

1. Garnishment of wages
2. Attachment of bank accounts
3. Levy on personal property
4. File foreclosures on real property
5. Attachment of income tax refunds

**Bill Jennings**  
Perquimans County  
Tax Administrator

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