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Softball team shares the gold, 2

"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

75 cents

DOT to present new plans for Hertford S-Bridge

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Officials from the N.C. Department of Transportation will hold a meeting Thursday to present the current designs for replacing Hertford's S-Bridge.

of the project team will be available to answer questions from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Perquimans County Recreation Center, 310 Granby St.

18 months, and Thursday's meeting will show some of the changes. The project is more than 10 years in the making, and is now scheduled to start construction during the summer of 2019.

but admits it wasn't a lot of warning. "Unfortunately it was scheduled by Raleigh a little quickly," he said last week. "I think they were trying to get it in before the Fourth of July if possible."

\$32 million, but DOT officials say they admit they didn't have a lot of data to base that on because North Carolina doesn't build swing bridges much anymore. The project will replace the S-Bridge with another swing-span bridge. Instead of using the existing causeway, travelers will go over

an elevated bridge that roughly tracks the causeway and there will be a sidewalk on one side of the bridge that extend all the way from Hertford to Winfall. That is something that is lacking now. The design-build contract

See BRIDGE, 2

Bridge work to close road

From Staff Reports

A portion of Creek Drive in Winfall will be closed to traffic starting July 9 so a bridge can be replaced. The \$1.9 million contract was awarded to T.A. Loving of Goldsboro in May. Work is expected to be complete by Nov. 30 according to N.C. DOT engineer Randy Midgett. The new bridge will be about a foot higher off Brights Mill Creek than the current one. DOT wants to complete the replacement now because in the summer of 2019, construction is to start on the replacement Hertford's S-Bridge. The link between Hertford and Winfall will be cut off starting around September 2020 for about eight to 10 months.

Harriss files for election

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

District Court Judge Meader Harriss has filed to run for a second term in this fall's general election. Harriss, who was first elected in 2014, serves on the bench in the seven-county First Judicial District that includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans counties. "I am committed to serving the citizens of the First Judicial District and the fair and impartial administration of justice in our great state," Harriss said in a press release. As a District Court judge, Harriss presides over crimi-

See HARRISS, 2



FILE PHOTO

Fireworks will light up the sky over Hertford and Winfall on July 6 during the annual display for Independence Day. Donations to pay for the fireworks can be made to the Perquimans County Fireworks Committee, 104 Carolina Ave., Hertford, N.C. 27944.

Fireworks coming next week

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Fireworks will light up the skies next week in observance of Independence Day, but it some places it will be earlier than others. Fireworks in Elizabeth City and Edenton are scheduled for the actual Fourth of July, a Wednesday. The display in Perquimans

County is set for July 6. Perquimans officials have found they can get more "bang for the buck" by holding it a different day instead of competing with fireworks and licensed operations who are putting on displays elsewhere in the region. Donations are still needed to help pay for the Perquimans display. Checks can be mailed to: Perquimans County Fireworks

Committee, 104 Carolina Ave., Hertford, NC, 27944. Interim Hertford Town Manager Pam Hurdle, said the Perquimans County Commission and the towns of Hertford and Winfall contribute funds for the fireworks, but it doesn't cover the estimated \$7,000 cost. The Perquimans display will

See FIREWORKS, 2

Agency board rejects budget

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

The Albemarle Commission board rejected a new budget Thursday night by a 9-2 vote and instead voted to adopt a continuing resolution to fund the agency for now. The move means there won't be funds available to add more staff or programs to move the agency from Hertford to Elizabeth City, at least for now. A special called meeting is set for Thursday at 5 p.m. the sole purpose of adopting the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. The commission is a 48-year-old, 10-county regional agency that provides planning and economic development services. It also administers job training programs, senior nutrition programs. The proposed budget was \$6.8 million, or about \$400,000 more than the 2017-18 budget. By adopting a continuing resolution, no new programs or staff can be added. Director Cathy Davison floated a plan last year to build new headquarters for the agency in Hertford. However since all 10 counties would be required to pay their share of the debt, the plan was scrapped when Pasquotank County said no. So Davison was asked to look into leasing a building for the agency in Elizabeth City. Davison presented that plan to the board Thursday. The cost of leasing is estimated at \$149,000. The cost to lease the current headquarters off Church Street is about \$45,000. Perquimans County owns that building. Davison said the agency has outgrown the current location and it's expensive and inefficient for staffing needs. They are having to rent space to hold meetings and it is costing about \$17,000 every three months to pay salaries and mileage for staff to attend

See BUDGET, 2

Hertford woman, 22, arrested for fraud

From Staff Reports

A Hertford woman has been charged with insurance fraud after state officials say she filed a false insurance claim for damages to her vehicle from an accident. Shar'dayzeia Lonniece Johnson, 22, of 306 Stokes St., also was

charged with attempting to obtain property by false pretense, according to a press release from the N.C. Department of Insurance. According to a warrant, Johnson filed a claim with National General Insurance Co., saying her vehicle was involved in a hit-and-run traffic accident. Special agents

with the N.C. Department of Insurance Criminal Investigations Division say Johnson's claim sought \$1,795.78. However, the investigators determined the damage to her vehicle "was not consistent with damage from such an accident." According to the press release, Johnson was arrested on May 22

and released on a \$1,000 unsecured bond. The offenses for which she's charged occurred between March 21 and May 21, the insurance department said. Johnson's arrest was the second fraud arrest on the same day.

See FRAUD, 2

Nutrition director honored by state group

From Staff Reports

Perquimans County Schools School Nutrition Director Shirley Pelletier was recognized by 700 of her colleagues as retiring president of the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina (SNA-NC) in a special ceremony last week

at the association's annual week-long conference in Greensboro. SNA-NC is a 2,600-member professional organization which advocates for effective nutrition services for students in public schools, charter schools and residential child care institutions. Pelletier's term as SNA-NC President follows a previous service in several roles including terms as both the association's vice-president and president-elect. Pelletier has worked 28 years as a child nutrition

professional including 15 years as director of Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) for the Bertie County Health Department and the Martin-Tyrrell-Washington Health District. She has served as a director of school nutrition programs for 11 years and is beginning her third year as School Nutrition Director for Perquimans County Schools. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Health Nutrition from The University

of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and she is credentialed as a Registered Dietician, Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionist and School Nutrition Specialist. Pelletier said she chose a career in child nutrition because she wanted to be in public service and saw good child nutrition as a key to helping children thrive and succeed. Pelletier said research constantly supports the idea that "good nutrition helps

See DIRECTOR, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

School Nutrition Association of North Carolina President Shirley Pelletier (center) along with Vice-President Fred Gilbert and President-Elect Amy Stanley cut the ribbon to open the New Horizons Trade Show as part of the annual conference of the association.

