

P9/C9*****CAR-RT LOT**R 008 A0004
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY
 514 S CHURCH ST
 HERTFORD NC 27944-1225



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019

\$1.00

Hertford Bridge work to limit highway traffic

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

For the next week and a half, motorists who use the Hertford S-Bridge during the day can expect traffic to be limited to one lane for about seven hours a day Monday through Friday.

The county announced the closures last Wednesday and said they were told it would be for two weeks. The change is limited between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

DOT is in the process of replacing the bridge with a new swing bridge that will be in roughly the same loca-

tion. It will be the width of a modern road, not the kind that were normal during 1927 when the S-Bridge was built.

But with the construction, there will be traffic issues, said David Otts, the DOT district engineer on the project.

"As with most road construction, periodic lane closures will be required throughout the duration of the project for activities such as, but not limited to, clearing, grading, paving, and utility relocations," Otts said. "These operations will often take place on the side of the road; however, the

size of machinery used requires closing the adjacent travel lane for the safety of motorists should they stray from the pavement.

"With this said, clearing of conflicting trees and other vegetation is starting to take place."

He said the two week time frame given by McLean Contracting's subcontractor.

"Branch Civil, simply indicated how long they expect that one operation to take place," Otts said.

"Another important item to note is that these

See **TRAFFIC**, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

The home of Nancy Theodore and her husband Russ is gone to make way for the replacement of the S-Bridge.

Early voting starts Oct. 16

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

One-stop early voting for municipal elections in Hertford and Winfall will start Oct. 16 and run through Nov. 1 from Monday through Friday.

In Hertford there are contested races for both mayor and city council. In Winfall, Mayor Fred Yates is facing a challenge from Preston White. There are two people running for the two Winfall council seats.

One-stop early voting will be held at the Perquimans County Board of Elections office on Edenton Road Street during normal business hours.

To view sample ballots, visit <http://www.perquimanscountync.gov/departments/board-of-elections.html> on the county's web site.

There is no incumbent

See **VOTING**, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

A student involved in the "Real World" program last week spins the "Life Happens" wheel and finds it lands on a \$50 birthday gift.

Youth taught fiscal lesson in 'Real World' program

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

How can you graduate high school, finish college, get a good job and still be broke?

About 120 students from surrounding counties found out last week during

the "Real World" exercise put on by the NCWorks NextGen at Camp Cale.

Students got to pick how much education they wanted to get and what they wanted to do, and that created a salary. For someone getting a higher level college degree in the area

of human services, that gross pay would be \$44,500 a year.

They learned about withholding taxes, Social Security and Medicare, which would reduce the monthly total to \$2,731.

Then they learned about insurance, housing costs,

Social Security and a host of other things. Want a new cell phone? That will cost you. Think you deserve the premium cable TV package. That comes at a price. Want a puppy? That comes with food and a vet bill.

See **FINANCE**, A2

Prison murder trial begins

BY PAUL NIELSEN
 Correspondent

MANTEO — Jury selection began Monday in Dare County for the trial of the first of four prison inmates accused of slaying four prison workers during a failed escape attempt at Pasquotank Correctional Institution nearly two years ago.

Mikel Brady is on trial for four counts of first-degree murder and other associated charges in the state's deadliest prison escape attempt.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Brady and the three other inmates accused in the murders: Wisezah Buckman,

See **TRIAL**, A2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gilbert Rodriguez was sworn in last month as captain for the Hertford Police Department.

Hertford police swear in captain

BY PETER WILLIAMS
 News Editor

Gilbert Rodriguez has been promoted to the rank of captain on the Hertford Police Department.

Rodriguez, who will be 51-years-old on Oct. 16, retired from law enforcement a little more than six months ago, but decided to get back in and was hired as an police officer in Hertford just weeks ago.

"I visited family, took a

couple of trips, but I guess I got bored with retirement," he said.

Police Chief Dennis Brown, who knew Rodriguez when they both worked in Asheville, said he made no promises that if he was hired as an officer he would be promoted.

"When I hire somebody, I make no promises. If a position becomes available, you have to compete for it."

Rodriguez had to pass a review that included a po-

lice chief and two captains from out of town and two citizens.

"Their decision was unanimous," Brown said.

Rodriguez was sworn in as captain on Sept. 24.

He has a 23-year record in law enforcement as a supervisor, general instructor, field training officer, and has his North Carolina Training and Standards Advanced Law Enforcement Certification.

He is originally from Tex-

as but has worked for the Lee County Sheriff's Office, as well as university and hospital law enforcement.

"I enjoy helping people," he said.

The hiring of Rodriguez puts Hertford on a path to get back to be fully staffed with 11 people. They have nine now, but one is in training.

When Brown was hired a year ago, the staff was down

See **CAPTAIN**, A2

Jaden Sawyer crowned fair queen

BY MILES LAYTON
 The Chowan Herald

Jaden Sawyer of Hertford was crowned as the Chowan County Regional Fair Queen for 2019-20 on Saturday.

The first runner-up is Haylee Harrell of Edenton. Sawyer was crowned by last year's Fair Queen,

Jaycee Pierce, in front of a large crowd.

"I was thrilled and shocked all at the same time. It was a dream come true," said Sawyer, a sophomore at Perquimans County High School.

Sadie Riddick was crowned as Little Miss Chowan County Fair Queen along with 1st Runner-up Hayden Ashley, and 2nd Runner-up being Zoe Gunther.

Sawyer, 15, a cheerleader and a member of the county's 4-H club, said this was

the first time she had ever competed in a pageant.

"I decided to do the pageant this year because it had always been a dream of mine and the opportunity came up and I wanted to see what it would be like to try something I'd never done before. I was pretty nervous but I knew I needed to be confident in myself," said Sawyer, sophomore class president.

When Sawyer was asked if she feels any different now that she is Fair Queen, she said, "I feel like a lot more people are looking at

me and the example I set for those around me."

Sawyer said she is ready to serve as Fair Queen.

"I'm so excited. I can't wait to see what this year has in store," she said.

Nearly 18,000 people attended the 44th annual fair that started Tuesday and ended Saturday.

"That's probably record turnout for at least the last 10 years - it was a good year," said Becky Wilder, vice president of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jaden Sawyer of Hertford was crowned as the Chowan County Regional Fair Queen for 2019-20 Saturday.

See **SAWYER**, A2

