

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015

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## State accepts finding in audit

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

In a rush to roll out a new state criminal reporting computer system, Perquimans County and at least 19 other counties found themselves in violation of state auditing rules.

In the Perquimans case, two employees were given access to both the financial auditing system and the criminal reporting system. Clerk of Court Todd Tilley said the access was granted by the N.C. Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) without his knowledge or approval.

The Perquimans findings were included as part of an audit released last week.

The state audit found that while the potential for theft was there, no fraud actually took place and no money was stolen.

The NCAOC director at the time of the rollout was John W. Smith. He stepped down in May and Marion Warren was named to replace him.

In a phone call Tuesday, Warren confirmed the audit finding was not Tilley's fault.

"The clerks didn't cause this problem," Warren said. "It's a glitch if you will. This update had a feature that allowed simultaneous access to both the financial and criminal systems that was not disabled. As soon as it was discovered, the NCAOC

See AUDIT, 4

## CEREMONY HELD



Tola Lewis, (left) Frank Gates and Mike Ellis salute last week during a Veteran's Day ceremony in Hertford.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

## Area veterans are honored

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A dwindling number of Americans know what it's like to serve in the military, so it's become more critical to remember the few that have, a speaker told a Veteran's Day crowd in Hertford on Wednesday.

Tom Quance, a retired Air Force colonel, addressed the more than 250 people that attended the ceremony held on the courthouse green. He served for 25 years and then went on to teach J-ROTC at Northeastern High School for 14 years.

"In 1945, at the end of World War II, the U.S. population was about 140 million and the number in the military was over 12 million, which is about 8.5 percent of the total population," Quance said. "Today with a population of nearly 320 million, only 2 million serve or



Tom Quance, a retired Air Force colonel, speaks last week during a Veteran's Day event in Hertford.

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## Recent weather takes toll on crops

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Two weeks of wet, cloudy weather in October turned what could have been a great harvest season for farmers into disaster for some, according to agricultural officials.

"It's been as devastating as I've ever witnessed," said Paul Smith, an agricultural agent for the past 17 years. The 67-year-old has been farming since he was a boy.

"Things looked good last summer, he said. "In July and August from the Chowan River to the Virginia line we had the potential to have the best crops in the state."

October changed all that. In addition to heavy rain, the sun didn't come out for 15 days so crops never really dried out. Cotton and soybeans were hit especially hard.

"This has been one of the largest monetary losses we've had outside of a natural disaster. In fact I haven't seen it this bad even with a natural disaster. It's such a big investment to put in a crop, and without a good yield you can lose a lot of money quick."

A 2012 report estimated total cash receipts from agriculture in Perquimans County at \$82 million. Crops made up \$56 million, while livestock/dairy/poultry accounted for \$24 million. Government payments made up

See CROPS, 5

## Chamber urging consumers to 'Shop Small' this year

From Staff Reports

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Sid Eley, the director of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, holds a "Shop Local" selfie frame. The chamber is sponsoring events to promote consumers to shop local this season.



The Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce will roll out promotions in the coming weeks designed to encourage shoppers to "Shop Small" by buying goods locally.

From Belvidere to New Hope, Chamber Director Sid Eley recently delivered blue and white tote bags filled with free blue and white Shop Small items to local small businesses in preparation of Shop Small on Nov. 28.

A blue and white 6-foot banner now hangs in front of the John Matthews building on Church

Street in Hertford proclaiming the arrival of Shop Small Saturday and new blue and white Shop Small Saturday door mats are welcoming customers into local shops.

In addition, participating stores will offer customers blue and white tote bags and town crowns for children. Blue and white balloons will decorate the major business areas on Shop Small Saturday.

The countywide Shop Small promotion urges shoppers to remember to shop their local small businesses when holiday shopping this year. Shop Small Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving and following Black Friday, focuses on

the benefits communities derive from shopping locally.

"Nov. 28 is Small Business Saturday, a day created specifically for small businesses like our local Mom and Pop shops you deal with every day in Perquimans County," Eley said. "This year, don't just Shop Small for your holiday gifts. Do it for the businesses you love, for the community you call home, and for the money that stays in the neighborhood when we all Shop Small. This year, shop small for all."

Shop Small Saturday kicks off

See 'SHOP SMALL', 2

## Boaters find plenty to like in Perquimans waters

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

As Perquimans County works to capture a larger share of the boat traffic moving up and down the Intracoastal Waterway, at least one couple thinks the town has pretty much all

that it needs.

Nelson Garrett Sr. and his wife Sandra Kay visited for a few days in October. Garrett is from Moyock and for the past few years, the couple has lived exclusively on their 40-foot powerboat the MV Destinées.

"We sold the 'dirt house'" Garrett said of their old home.

They left the beaten path of the Intracoastal to make a stop in Hertford. The visit started simply enough with a request to open the

S-Bridge so they could pass through.

It sounds simple enough, but the couple has run into other places where it's not that easy.

"We saw in Chicago where they would not answer the phone or the radio," Garrett said. "They'd talk to the bigger boats, and finally when they did open the bridge we just fell in behind them."

Bill Cartwright was the bridge tender in Hertford

See BOATERS, 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nelson Garrett Sr. and his wife Sandra Kay stand next to their boat at the Hertford Town Marina last month.



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