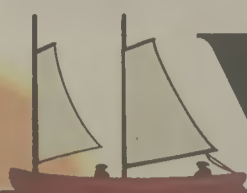


# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016

INSIDE TODAY



LOOK FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP LOCAL GUIDE

50 cents

## Revised plans for bridge unveiled

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of two stories on plans to replace the S-Bridge.

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Construction on a replacement for Hertford's S-Bridge could start two years from now but it could mean there is no link between Hertford and Winfall for three years during construction.

The original plans hit a wall nearly two years ago because of concerns about the impact of a high-rise bridge would have on Hertford's Historic District.

In response about eight months ago DOT ditched the original plans — a \$19 million 33-foot-tall bridge that would bypass the causeway end up in the same place on the Winfall side.

In the wake of opposition, DOT now favors a \$31 million option for another swing

See BRIDGE, 2



IMAGE COURTESY OF N.C. DOT

A computer rendering shows what a replacement for the S-Bridge in Hertford might look like. The image is only a draft and DOT intends to refine the appearance over the coming months.

## Disaster relief deadline extended

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

People who have suffered a loss from Hurricane Matthew now have more time to apply for help from the federal government.

The state requested and the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a 31-day extension for disaster claims. The new deadline is Jan. 9.

FEMA can provide cash grants that don't have to be repaid and as of Nov. 16, it's approved \$30,112 for Perquimans County residents. The new deadline also applies to homeowners, renters and businesses submitting applications for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The dollar amount of money released to Perquimans residents is far less than those in surrounding counties, but Perquimans was also had fewer applicants than other counties — 61 — as of Nov. 16. It was also added to the disaster list later than some counties and some people may not have tried to apply.

The fact that Perquimans wasn't added until Nov. 4 could be the reason for the fewer applications, said Nate Custer, a media relations specialist for FEMA. The first batch of counties was declared on Oct. 10.

See DISASTER, 3

## TURKEY DROP



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Vera Harrell holds one of the turkeys donated for the Turkey Drop at Hertford United Methodist Church on Friday. Donors provided more than 180 birds, just shy of the 200 goal, but cash donations more than made up the difference. The food will go to the Food Pantry in Winfall for families for Thanksgiving.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Charles Lacefield carries a tray of canned goods to a car for transport to the Food Pantry in Winfall on Saturday afternoon at Hertford United Methodist Church. It makes the third year of the Turkey Drop.

## Tilley to retire as Sheriff

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley has announced he's retiring.

With 30 years in law enforcement, Tilley, 53, has enough years of service and sick leave that he can retire. Working any longer will only cut, not increase his retirement benefits, he said.

Tilley's last day on the job will be Jan. 31.

"I love my job and I love working for the county, but you reach a point where it's crazy to keep working," Tilley said Monday.

Tilley said he has no plans to leave Perquimans County, but he will likely find some other job.

"I'm still young enough to do something else," he said.

Tilley got his law enforcement start working for the Perquimans Sheriff's Office. He left and worked for the Elizabeth City Police Department for about five years and then spent some time as a probation officer before returning to Perquimans. Tilley was named to the sheriff's job after Sheriff Ralph Robinson died in 1999.

See TILLEY, 3

## Move is on to relocate Grubb Street Post Office

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

An on-line petition drive is underway to move the Hertford Post Office.

Since 1960, the facility has been on Grubb Street across from Hertford Town Hall. The U.S. Postal Service leases the building from a New York City real estate company.

Customers have long complained about the parking situation. The final straw appears to have been this summer when an elderly man drove his car through the front glass of the lobby. Plywood was used to cover up the hole and months later, the plywood is still there, said Steve Lane.

"We started talking to people who can make this happen," said Lane, a retired UPS truck driver.

"The back parking lot floods when it rains, the ceiling is leaking and there is no work area or lock-

ers for the employees or a room for them to take a cup of coffee. There are multiple reasons to move it. I don't see where many people would have any objections to moving it."

His suggestion would be to relocate the Post Office to the building where the State Employees Credit Union used to be. It's a shopping center near Hardee's Restaurant on U.S. 17 and Church Street.

"There is plenty of parking in front and a place for trucks to access it from the

See POST OFFICE, 3

## COUNTING BALLOTS



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Members of the Perquimans County Board of Elections members (seated clockwise from left, Dianne Layden, John McCowan, Vera Murrill and Director of Elections Syndi Banks) meet for an election canvass Friday. The meeting had to be postponed until Tuesday because some information hadn't been returned from N.C. DMV. Statewide it appears the race for governor is headed for a recount.



**ROCKY HOCK Opry** Christmas Show  
Sponsored by the Rocky Hock Ruritan's Relay for Life Team

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, 7:00PM  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 7:00PM

Tickets \$10.00

Perquimans Co. High School Auditorium  
Hertford, NC

Tickets Available at various locations or call 252-221-4875 or 252-340-3438. Email rockyhockopry@live.com