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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY PERQUIMANS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Observance of Martin Luther King Day began Monday with a breakfast at Captain Bob's Restaurant. NAACP President Fred Yates (standing) addressed the group, while schools Assistant Superintendent Dwayne Stallings (seated far left) served as guest speaker.

## M.L. King legacy is celebrated

SUSAN HARRIS

A breakfast, a motorcade and a service were all held in Perquimans on Monday to honor the fallen civic

rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Schools Assistant Superintendent Dwayne Stallings spoke at the first

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## Tornado splits home

No one in home injured

MARGARET FISHER

A tornado apparently whipped through New Hope causing three pine trees to fall on a house. Though the damage was extensive, no injuries occurred to the family of four.

The tornado might have been the same wind formation that tore through Pasquotank County early Saturday morning, or it could have been straight line winds, said Harry Winslow, emergency management coordinator for Perquimans County.

At about 3:10 a.m., the trees fell across the middle of the house located at 618 White Hat Road. The residents, Jonnie and Tania White, were at home with their daughter, Hunter, 9, and son, Trapper, 7.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN JACOT

A tornado brushed the White Hat community early Sunday morning, sending three trees crashing onto the home of Jonnie and Tania White. The couple and their two children escaped injury as the trees crushed the center living areas of the home, sparing the family asleep on both ends of the house.

## Water line move may delay Winfall bridge project

MARGARET FISHER

After 10 years of requests with the N.C. Department of Transportation, the town of Winfall may still not get the bridge on Wiggins Road widened for another year if the water lines are not moved before Feb. 15.

The Feb. 15 deadline is also what DOT has to meet in order to comply with a government environmental moratorium concerning fish spawning. Work that takes place in the water, including demolishing the concrete bulkhead and slope protection, must be done prior to Feb. 15 or the bridge widening will have to be postponed until after Sept. 30, said David Otts, assistant resident engineer for DOT.

"If the town's relocation of the water line is not completed in a timely manner, the bridge will have to be put off another year due to the moratorium," Otts said.

Bridge construction over Mill Creek could have begun on Jan. 2, but work cannot get underway until the water lines are moved, Otts said.

The water line project's cost, originally estimated to be \$19,600, has gone up since last year to about \$29,000 because of material cost increases and an underestimate in the original breakdown, said Sterling Baker, division maintenance engineer for DOT.

Work is to begin on the water lines this week, said Winfall Mayor Fred Yates. DOT will reimburse the town of Winfall for the water line work.

Construction of the bridge will be done by the Tara Group in Lumberton and will cost about \$523,000. Once work begins, the bridge will have to be completed in 120 calendar days or the Tara Group will have to pay

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## Voters, election board sold on DRE

MARGARET FISHER

Now that the public has had a chance to try out the new voting machines, it seems that the vast majority prefers the touch-screen model to the optical scan.

Both machines are made by Elections Systems & Software, the only company that has been authorized by the state to supply voting machines.

Perquimans County is one of 94 counties that is having to purchase voting machines in compliance with new regulations requiring paper records.

The iVotronic touch-screen or direct record electronic voting machines are an update to what Perquimans residents are



PHOTO BY MARGARET FISHER

Winfall resident Lewis Smith uses the touch-screen voting machine the Board of Elections hopes to replace its current out-dated equipment with assistance from E.S. & S. representative Tammy Gaskins (right) and Elections Director Eula Forbes.

currently using. The cost for 35 machines, training and supplies is nearly \$175,000.

The optical scan machines are more expensive per unit, but less are required. The county would need nine units with AutoMark marking devices that are designed for blind voters and those who have

trouble marking the ballots. The cost would be less than \$116,000 for equipment, training and supplies.

The cost to the county is nearly \$62,000 for the DRE and less than \$7,000 for the optical scan. The cost difference between the two, after deducting the \$106,000

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## Street to be closed

MARGARET FISHER

Residents walking on Church Street Extended will soon not have to walk in the street when they get to the bridge over Skinner's Creek. Construction of a pedestrian bridge will begin on Monday.

A sidewalk was constructed last year by the N.C. Department of Transportation. But, the sidewalk ends at both sides of the bridge, causing walkers to have to go out onto the street to cross the creek.

The new 6-foot walkway bridge will be constructed next to the current bridge. Work will take place between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Church Street will be closed from the closest driveways in both directions for the week of Jan. 23, or sooner if the bridge is completed before Friday, said Lee Bundy, transportation supervisor for DOT.

Drivers can use Edenton Road Street or the S-Bridge on Church Street as a detour in or out of town to U.S. Highway 17.

## Fire destroys utility barn

MARGARET FISHER

A trash fire that got out of hand because of heavy winds destroyed a backyard utility barn.

The family of Mrs. Joe Louis Walker were burning trash in a barrel on Friday night when the wind picked up and carried the flames out of the barrel, said Fire Marshal John Long.

The fire, at 237 Hurdletown Road, spread about 100 feet across a grassy field and the winds sent it back towards the shed. A call was made to

central communications about 10 p.m. Winfall Fire Department responded and Hertford Fire Department assisted with a tanker, Long said.

Before fire crews arrived, the family and neighbor turned garden hoses on and sprayed the barn.

"Their efforts were very small due to the fact the wind was blowing so hard," Long said. "They did a great job of holding it as good as they did."

The barn was totally destroyed by the fire, but no damage occurred to the home, he said.

## Program restoring quail population

MARGARET FISHER

A local farmer has set aside 60 acres of his farmland in the northern end of the county to increase the numbers of dwindling wildlife species.

Doug Temple, 55, is participating in the Upland Bird Habitat Buffers initiative, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program. This program compensates farmers for setting aside a portion of their farms as grassy borders to promote the bobwhite quail, as well as other wildlife.

The bobwhite quail, once prolific throughout the Southeast, have declined

over the past decades, mostly because of loss of habitat.

Temple, a native of Pasquotank County, has hunted most of his life with his father on the property located on Turnpike Road. Eventually, he purchased the 600 acres to grow corn, soybeans, wheat and trees for logging. His son, Wade Temple, still likes to hunt there, but hunting is not like it used to be.

"We hunted this land years ago," Temple said, "and there was right many quail and right many rabbits on it. And we noticed, over the years, the population has gone down."

Temple, who co-owns the logging company Swain &

Temple in Pasquotank County, found out about the buffer program from Quail Unlimited, a national organization for quail hunters.

"What's good for quail is also good for rabbit and other species," Temple said.

Temple, and other participating farmers, are compensated with a one-time sign-on bonus of about \$100 per acre and a maintenance payment of \$5 per acre and management payment of up to \$100 per acre each year for 10 years.

The payments are an incentive, but not as much money as Temple could get if he rented the land for farming, he said.

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 59, Low: 40  
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 66, Low: 52  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 70, Low: 48  
SCATTERED T'STORMS