

PERQUIMANS COUNTY
150 W ACADEMY ST
HERTFORD, NC 27944-1395
RECEIVED
JAN 23 2008

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

January 23, 2008

Vol. 76, No. 4 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

"News from Next Door"

35 cents

Town seeks park funds

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The town of Hertford is seeking funds to construct canoe and kayak launch facilities at Missing Mill Park.

Last week, members of Hertford Town Council agreed to submit a pre-application for federal funds to the North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Fund. Town Planner Brandon Shoaf is seeking cost estimates for the launch facilities in order to determine how much the town will apply for. If the CAMA group determines that Hertford's proposal is a good project, the town will then be asked to officially apply.

The Division of Coastal Management awards more than \$1 million annually in matching grants to local governments for projects to better pedestrian access to beaches and waterways. The North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund provides funding for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program.

Some past projects in Missing Mill Park that have been funded by such grants include the park's boardwalk, shore stabilization, gazebo pier, and the picnic shelter.

Shoaf said many canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts use the park area as a launch site for the numerous paddle trails created on the Perquimans River.

HPD gives annual report

Members of the Hertford Police Department made 16 arrests, worked 21 accidents, patrolled on foot 605 hours, and drove 15,514 miles during the last quarter of 2007.

In October, November and December, town police wrote 78 citations for
CONTINUED on page 10

Reaching the mountaintop



DR. WILLIE GILCHRIST, CHANCELOR at Elizabeth City State University, reflected on the "I've been to the mountain top" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during King's birthday observance Monday afternoon at Saunders' Grove Missionary Baptist Church. A teary eyed Tammy Miller-White (inset) accepts the NAACP Image Award from local NAACP President Fred Yates during the observance.

Gilchrist speaks at King Day event

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of God first.

With that in mind, the crowd that gathered at Saunders' Grove Missionary Baptist Church Monday to celebrate the birthday of the slain civil rights leader did so with prayers, songs of joyous praise, mime, remembrances, and encouragement from a college chancellor not to turn King's dream into a nightmare.

Approximately 100 men, women, teens and children, black and white, listened as Dr. Willie Gilchrist, chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, reflect on King's "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech given before striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tenn. the day before King was assassinated back in 1968.

Growing violence and family discord could turn King's dream into a nightmare if something doesn't change, Gilchrist warned.

"Unless we bring families back together, we're heading toward that nightmare," Gilchrist said to a rousing "Amen" from the audience. "We need to teach our children how to work, how to be obedient, to respect their leaders. Parents are forgetting their roles and are allowing others to raise their children."

"Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't talk about violence," Gilchrist said.

We are living that dream today, but we are very much on our way to turning it into a nightmare.

Willie Gilchrist
ECSU chancellor

"He talked about love. He brought blacks and whites together. We are living that dream today, but we are very much on our way to turning it into a nightmare. We need to stop showing a lack of respect for each other."

Senator Ed Jones reminded folks that King brought people together by opening a door.

"It's about opening the door for others, and when you do, leave that door open for others to walk through. Make a difference by coming together, praying together in one accord. We can certainly pray that

we will somehow keep his legacy alive," Jones said.

Rep. Annie W. Mobley encouraged those in attendance to take a stand as King once did.

"Dr. Martin Luther King would have all of us stand for what is just," she said. "Make sure you are standing for the right thing."

Fred Yates, president of the Perquimans County NAACP said King was about unifying people, bringing them together.

"Through the word of God, Dr. King paved the way," Yates said.

A highlight of the afternoon program was the presentation of the local NAACP Image Award to Tammy Miller-White, who tearfully accepted the award from Yates. Yates described Miller-White as a dedicated mother, mate, church member, school system employee, and community servant.

Morris tapped for MLK post

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Town Commissioner Jo Ann Morris has been appointed by Governor Mike Easley to serve on the state's Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. She will be the first Caucasian to serve on the Commission.

Representative Annie W. Mobley nominated Morris for the appointment.

"We go back many years...and I know her to be sincere, committed and dedicated on whatever task she embarks," said Rep. Mobley. "When I got the opportunity to nominate someone from the Perquimans area, I jumped at it. Serving on the Commission is an extension of what Jo Ann Morris stands for. She is the first Caucasian to serve in the history of the Commission, and I am excited about that."

Morris began serving her four-year term Dec. 1 on the commission that strives to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities across North Carolina relating to the observance of the legal holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. In addition, the commission provides advice and assistance to local governments and private organizations across the state regarding observing that holiday, and it promotes awareness and appreciation of the life and work of Dr. King.

"I am very pleased to do it," said Morris who has served on Hertford Town Council for a total of six years. "I am convinced that we are in greater danger from divisiveness within this country than we are from outside the country. Our Pledge of Allegiance says 'indivisible.' We need to learn what that means. We have to learn to live and work together."

Morris says the Commission is working on a project to encourage and revive the knowledge of Dr. King's non-violent philosophy, especially to young people across the state.

"It's sad, but some of our youth don't know who Dr. King is," she said. "The Commission is very concerned about the excessive violence evolving in our society. His philosophy of non-violence was a catalyst for where we are today in many ways. He certainly embodied non-violent cooperation. He achieved progress through non-violent demonstrations and meetings. His influence and organization emphasized non-violence. We want to make more people aware of his contributions."

Morris retired as a state juvenile court counselor in 1996 after serving a total of 25 years. She has resided in Hertford for 40 years. She believes strongly in giving back to the local community.

"I feel you have to give back to your community," she added. "When Rep. Mobley asked me to serve, I felt it was my responsibility to take it on."

Country Store offers home cooking

CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

The New Hope Country Store and Grill has new owners and they are incorporating down-home country cooking into their new daily menu.

Lane and Audrey Fox, along with young son Austin, took over the small convenience store and restaurant last summer. Since then, the former Currituck residents have changed the menu to include several homemade items like vegetable soup, chicken noodle soup, banana cake, ham steaks, pork chops, fresh ground hamburgers, chocolate cake, pot roast, collard greens, navy bean soup and cabbage with ham.

"We tried to switch from a fast food menu to country cooking, comfort foods," said Audrey.

The non-smoking facility also serves as the Durants Neck Post Office as well as a computer repair shop and notary service. The restaurant offers free wireless internet for those wishing to bring in their lap top computers.

Elsie Butler manages the store, and she insists her full breakfast menu featuring homemade home fries will fill up even the heartiest of eaters.

"We have the best homemade biscuits and gravy in New Hope," she grinned.

Winter hours are Monday through Saturday 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. and from 9 a.m. — 6 p.m. on Sunday. The New Hope Country Store and Grill is located at the intersection of New Hope and Woodville Roads. For more information, call 264-5455.



Perquimans Weekly photo by CATHY WILSON

THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY CHAMBER of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at The New Hope Country Store and Grill Saturday morning, welcoming new owners Audrey and Lane Fox. Cutting the ribbon for the occasion is their nine-year-old son, Austin. The convenience store/restaurant also serves as the Durants Neck Post Office, a computer repair shop and notary service, and offers wireless internet.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 44 LOW: 24
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 41 LOW: 31
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 51 LOW: 35
PARTLY CLOUDY