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"News from Next Door"

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# Area recovering as more snow coming

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Even as another smaller storm is looming for this week, state and local officials are still dealing with the effects of Winter Storm Grayson.

In Perquimans County alone, the N.C. Department of Transportation used 510

tons of salt and 48,000 gallons of brine to treat roads, said Tim Hass, a communications officer with DOT. Across all of DOT Division I, 4,600 tons of salt and 530,000 gallons of brine were used.

Hass said DOT has already started to restock supplies. Division I covers 14 counties in northeastern North Carolina from Hyde

County to the south up to Northampton County on the north and west. It even includes parts of Interstate 95.

In addition to personnel from Division I, crews from the Asheville and Greensboro area were brought in for Grayson. He admits that's unusual to draw resources from Asheville, since it tra-

ditionally is hit harder by winter weather.

"The amount of snow was not unusual but the circumstances afterwards after 72 hours of ungodly conditions is unusual," he said.

In all 380 DOT staff members and 170 pieces of equipment were used, along with contractors.

The equipment included

tandem trucks, spreaders and plows, graders, support crews, supervisors and mechanics.

The brine works to prevent ice from freezing to the road, but in Dare County, where Hass lives, it rained for hours before the snow came. That washed the brine off.

Hass is also the spokes-

man for the NC Ferry system and said as of last week, the Currituck Ferry wasn't operating because the water was still frozen.

The Perquimans County Schools changed the calendar to make up for the lost days.

This month, Friday, and

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## 'Trust God, but keep fighting'

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

People were asked Monday to put their trust in God and keep fighting for what is right during a Martin Luther King Jr. event in Hertford.

Debbie Whedbee pointed out "somebody fought for us to be here on this day." The event was sponsored by the Perquimans NAACP and held at First Baptist Missionary Church.



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Hertford Town Councilman Quentin Jackson was the guest speaker. Jackson was elected last November after multiple attempts and failures.

But Jackson said he didn't quit and others can't either. Often, he said, people have to do it on their own terms.

Her talk of the Bible and the story of David and Goliath. David was but a boy, but insisted he could slay Goliath. Army officials argued he would need heavy armor and a sword, but Jackson said with all that weight, David couldn't even walk.

"He said he'd have to do it his way," Jackson said.

So instead armed with only a slingshot he killed Goliath, even if it took three shots to do it.

Host Pastor Jonathan Franklin offered words of unity when he looked out into the crowd and pointed out the racial breakdown was mixed.

"You can see we are not all African American, but we are all human. If we're going to make it, we have to make it together."

He also pointed out everybody

See MLK, 2



STAFF PHOTOS  
BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, Hertford Councilman Quentin Jackson speaks at a Martin Luther King Jr. event Monday at First Baptist Missionary Church in Hertford. Left, Winfall Mayor Fred Yates gives Shirley Skinner a hug Monday after she was named the Perquimans County NAACP Óunsung Hero winner during a Martin Luther King Jr. service in Hertford.

## Rotary offering tax help

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Hertford Rotary Club will once again be sponsoring a volunteer tax help program as a part of the IRS nationwide program that provides tax preparation services for low to moderate-income and elderly taxpayers.

The club adopted the program several years ago and it has gained interest for residents from surrounding counties as well, said Sandy Stevenson, a member of the club and one of the volunteers.

About 110 to 120 people have taken advantage of the service in past years.

The club will start offering the service on Feb. 6 and run the program through April 14.

The club was the first Rotary club in North Carolina to participate in the VITA program and conducts the program as a service project for the community. The Rotarians and other community volunteers serve as tax preparers.

Stevenson said some AARP programs in the area have stopped offering the service, and the Hertford site is available to help those residents.

"We're the only free tax service that I know of in the area," Stevenson said.

Appointments are required for the services. To make one,

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## Amazon wind project nets \$640,000 to two counties

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The developer of the Amazon Wind Farms East project presented checks totaling \$640,000 to officials from Pasquotank and Perquimans counties Tuesday.

Laura Beane, the CEO of Avangrid Renewables, said the event might just be the first in what may be a 40-year project.

When the project was first planned, officials estimated the life of the project at about 20 to 25 years. Now with newer technology, the wind farm may last far longer.

Perquimans got the largest share of the money at \$380,000. It's home

to the operations/maintenance building and the electrical substation and 50 of the 104 turbines. Pasquotank County received \$260,000.

The tax payments make Avangrid the largest single taxpayer in both counties, Beane said. In Pasquotank the figure exceeds the tax revenue from the Wal-Mart project. In Perquimans County, the \$380,000 is more than the combined tax payments of Albemarle Plantation, Albemarle EMC and Weyerhaeuser.

Avangrid also pays each property owner with a turbine \$6,000 a year in lease payments.

Also on hand for the event was

See WIND, 2



STAFF PHOTO  
BY PETER WILLIAMS

Officials from Pasquotank and Perquimans counties pose with Avangrid CEO Laura Beane at a check presentation ceremony Wednesday. The checks, representing the annual property taxes on the Amazon Wind Farms East project, totaled \$640,000.

## Auditions coming this month for new Carolina Moon play

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

The Carolina Moon Theater Group will be holding auditions Jan. 29-30 for



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the upcoming play "Nana's Naughty Knickers."

The Hertford-based group puts on two plays a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The auditions will be from 6-8 p.m. at the theater at 300 W. Grubb St.

Lynne Raymond, the producer of the play, said the theater group looked at performing the play be-

fore, but the theater is small and staging of scenery and props can be difficult in a small theater. Tom Loughlin is directing the play.

The performance centers around Sylvia Charles, a woman in her 80s who is living like she's in her 20s. She is the mastermind behind Saucy Slips, Etc. and lives and works out of a rent con-

trolled apartment.

"Bridget and her Grandmother (Charles) are about to become roommates. However, what Bridget saw as a unique opportunity to stay with her favorite Nana in New York for the summer quickly turns into an experience she'll never forget," reads a summary of the play. "It seems her sweet Grand-

ma is running an illegal boutique from her apartment, selling hand-made naughty knickers to every senior citizen in the five-borough area. Will Bridget be able to handle all the excitement? Will her Nana get arrested — or worse?"

In addition to Sylvia Charles and Bridget Charles, her granddaughter, there are

roles for:

■ Vera Walters: Sylvia's aged accomplice equipped with two hearing aids and a collapsible walker.

■ Tom O'Grady: the newest cop on the force, happily assigned the beat where Sylvia's apartment is.

■ Gil Schmidt: The land-

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