

VITA tax program will offer forms, e-file

From Staff Reports

The VITA tax program will be offered at the Auditorium of the Perquimans County Emergency Management Center, 159 Creek Drive, in Winfall (the former Albemarle Electric Cooperative Building). The volunteer assisters will prepare Form 1040EZ; Form 1040A with Schedules 1, 2, 3 and EIC (Earned Income Credit); Form 1040 with Schedules A, B, C-EZ, D, C, R and SE; Form 1040-V; Form 1040-ES; Form 2441 (Child & Dependent Care Credit); Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit); and

Form 8863 (Education Credits). They will prepare related North Carolina and Virginia tax forms.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, the Rotary sponsored site in Hertford, will use free electronic filing. An e-filed tax return means a fast refund. The IRS can generally issue refunds to taxpayers who combine e-file and direct deposit in as few as 10 days. To file taxes electronically on a Married Filing Jointly tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

What will you need to provide? Taxpayers need to present the

following items to have their returns prepared:

- Photo identification
- Valid Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse, and dependents
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s), Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and

account numbers for direct deposit

- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total paid for day care (to allow you to work)
- Day care provider's identifying number
- Evidence of Health Insurance (Health Insurance Card, Medicare Card, Form 1095-A, B, or C)

This year appointments will be available on Tuesdays from noon until 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon. Individuals interested in using the VITA service must call 252-619-7618 to make

an appointment for one of the scheduled times prior to the April filing deadline. Please do not call the Emergency Management Center for an appointment. The first available date is Feb. 6 and the last is April 14.

The forms you will need for the returns prepared by the VITA site are included. If you need other forms Perquimans County Library, in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, is a distribution site for federal tax forms. To download federal tax forms, visit www.irs.gov; to download state tax forms, go to www.dornc.com.

ROTARY

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call 252-619-7618. Hours are Tuesdays from noon till 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon.

The program will again be staged at the Perquimans County Emergency Management Center at 159 Creek Drive in Winfall.

For a time the Rotary offered the service at the Perquimans County Library.

The emergency management center has been a good fit for what the Rotary is offering, he said.

"It was a little disruptive (in the library) and we had to have change to use the printer to make copies," he said.

Rotary bought their own printer and the EMS center has access to restrooms, a vending machine and access of Saturdays.

"The EMS center has worked out really well," Stevenson said.

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax help generally to people who earn \$55,000 and less. The Tax Counseling for the elderly (TCE) Program offers free tax help to taxpayers who are 60 and older.

While the income limit is \$55,000, Stevenson said it's a little flexible.

"If you made \$56,000 we wouldn't turn you way," he said.

If it's \$100,000 a year, they would. He said that has happened.

Most of the people who use the service make about \$20,000 a year.

Stevenson is a retired architect, but said he's always been good with math. He can't be specific about clients and can't release names because of privacy laws.

"I enjoy working with our clients. By and large they have been very appreciative.

Some clients are filing for somebody who deceased. In one case a man was living in the Philippines and his father lived in the Hertford area and he'd died. He son traveled to Perquimans County for the funeral and the tax issue."

Another client was born in Scotland. She married a U.S. serviceman after World War II.

The VITA volunteers have to attend a go through an ethics program. They've volunteers, and the class basically says "you can't accept tips," Stevenson.

The woman from Scotland brings Scottish shortbread cookies as a thank you.

Stevenson doesn't think the IRS counts the cookies as a tip.



STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Avangrid's Craig Poff (left) talks to officials from Perquimans and Pasquotank counties last week during a check presentation.

SNOW

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Jan. 22-23 went from being an early release day, optional teacher work day and required teacher work day to being full student day. March 30 is still a holiday, but optional work or early release days on March 28-29 are gone.

Graduation is still set for June 8 and school officials say if there are further storms the option of doing "Saturday School" will be the last one on the table.

While the big storm may be gone, power bills to pay for it will arrive soon.

Albemarle EMC was warning that members would likely see higher power bills from January usage because of the extremely cold weather the area encountered.

During the cold snap, the Hertford-based cooperative reached a peak demand of 91 megawatts.

"Members should be prepared to receive power bills that are higher than what they are accustomed to this time of year."

Gary Ray
General Manager
of Albemarle EMC

That is the highest the coop has ever recorded.

"Members should be prepared to receive power bills that are higher than what they are accustomed to this time of year," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "Everyone who was using electricity to heat their homes during this cold period will see higher bills."

Beginning on Jan. 1 the temperatures only rose above freezing for one day during a six-day period. The high bills are a

result of heating systems working overtime to keep homes at a comfortable temperature.

Any utility customer can reduce their electricity consumption by turning their thermostats down to 65 degrees or lower. Electric space heaters should be used sparingly to heat confined spaces for short amounts of time. Also, homes should be properly insulated, and gaps around windows and doors should be sealed.

Periods of high demand can stress a power grid considerably, Ray said. In the winter, peak demand typically occurs between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Members can help the cooperative reduce the peak demand by limiting power consumption during those times of the day. This could include doing laundry in the afternoons rather than the mornings.

Another shot of arctic air will be spread over the area behind the storm Wednesday night with lows dropping into the teens to lower 20s, so any snow and water will likely freeze solid Wednesday night.

WIND

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Brenda Lassiter, the executive director of the Perquimans Schools Foundation. For the past three years Avangrid has helped fund the foundation's Water Turbles project with \$19,000. It's designed to each every kindergarten child about water

safety by giving them two weeks of swimming instruction at the YMCA in Elizabeth City.

The program is in its seventh year.

All but two Pasquotank County Commissioners attended Wednesday's event. Absent were Frankie Meads and Lloyd Griffin.

Pasquotank County Manager Rodney Bunch

said his board would likely use the money to fund existing commitments, like school needs. He also said the money may mean the board can hold the line on property taxes.

Muzzulin was the only Perquimans County Commissioner to attend the event at the operations building off Four Mile Desert Road.

PLAY

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lord, overly eager to rid himself of aged tenants.

■ Heather Van Pree: An employee of Saucy Slips, is looking for better opportunities, a modeling career or just her boxes.

■ Clair: The big client who is in her 60s.

■ UPS Man: Cute and a little lonely.

■ Other UPS Man: The strong and silent type.

There is also a role for a person's voice for the man at the front desk.

Raymond said the theater usually gets 12 to 15 people audition. A lot depends on the parts.

"Some of them have a lot of small parts and people are more comfortable in doing small parts if they are just starting out," Raymond said.

Unlike past Carolina Moon performances, "Nana" will not be a dinner theater. That means tickets will be less (\$18) than the dinner performances (\$25). There is no reserved seating.

Raymond said setting up for a play with dinner can also be difficult because

while the food is catered, volunteers serve the meals. "Some are waiting on tables and they've never waited on tables before," she said.

The theater can seat 100 people, but Raymond said they usually only sell 90 to 95 tickets because it makes moving around easier.

The performances are at 7 p.m. May 4-5 and 4 p.m. on May 6. During the last play, the Friday and Saturday performances sold out all but about five tickets. When tickets do go on sale, they will be available at Carolina Trophy on Church Street.

Power Of The Purse event returns

From Staff Reports

The Women Givers of Northeast North Carolina is hosting the 10th annual Power of the Purse and Pretties raffle and silent auction on Feb. 3 to support charitable efforts in Camden, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

The event will take place on at Arts of the Albemarle at 516 E. Main St. in Elizabeth City from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. For tickets, contact or visit:

■ Arts of the Albemarle
516 E. Main St., Elizabeth City
338-6455

■ Page After Page Bookstore
111 S. Water St., Elizabeth City
335-7243

Tickets are \$25 each. Shay Leslie Boutique, Lazy Frog and Hopeline Clothesline will offer a fashion show and a light lunch will be served. The event raises funds to support grants for direct services of area non-

profit organizations meeting local needs of women and children. Area nonprofit organizations can apply online for grants beginning March 9 by visiting: <http://www.nccommunityfoundation.org/women-givers-of-northeast-nc/applying-for-grants>

For more information, contact Natalie Peel, NCCF regional director, at npeel@nccommunityfoundation.org or (252) 562-9824 or visit the NCCF website at nccommunityfoundation.org.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARD REDUCTION
(RISK ASSESSOR/DESIGN/CLEARANCE)
ASBESTOS INSPECTION SERVICES**

Perquimans County is requesting proposals from certified Lead Based Paint and Asbestos Inspection Services firms to provide LBP inspections, risk assessments, post-rehabilitation lead clearance test and asbestos inspection services necessary to complete a North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP17) Project. The ESFRLP17 project consists of essential housing rehabilitation for approximately five (5) single family dwellings and will be financed with \$175,000 of NCHFA funds (100% of total program costs). A detailed request for proposal further describing project and proposal submission requirements may be obtained from Frank Heath, County Manager, 128 North Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944, telephone 252-426-8484. Proposals must be received by Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 5:00 PM. Perquimans County encourages proposals from small, minority, and female-owned businesses; and does not discriminate on the basis of handicap status. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request.

Esta información está disponible español o cualquier otro lenguaje a petición. Póngase en contacto con Frank Heath, 252-426-8484 para obtener más información.

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MLK

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in the room comes from immigrants.

Then Franklin quoted King.

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

Then he said "God moved this morning when you woke up."

Winfall Mayor Fred Yates named Shirley Skinner as the NAACP's "Unsung Hero" winner.

Yates said Skinner is always there to help when she is needed.