

# Sentara Albemarle named Primary Stroke Center

BY JON HAWLEY  
The Daily Advance

An international quality assurance and accreditation firm has recognized Sentara Albemarle Medical Center for its management of stroke patients by designating the hospital a Primary Stroke Center.

DNV GL Healthcare, a branch of Norway-based DNV GL, certified Sentara Albemarle as a Primary Stroke Center following an on-site review in September, the hospital announced recently. According to Sentara, it's the first time the hospital, formerly known as Albemarle Hospital, has won the distinction in its 104-year history.

The certification validates

the hospital's abilities, but also shows providers and staff are dedicated to high-quality health care for north-eastern North Carolina. Sentara President Coleen Santa Ana said in the release.

"Attaining a certification of this magnitude required commitment from across the entire hospital to develop and execute a new program, and we will continue to aim toward the highest levels of performance," Santa Ana said in the release.

There are several key steps the hospital has taken to improve stroke care since 2016, the release explains. It implemented "tele-stroke technology" that allows quick contact between a patient and a neurologist, as well as new stroke pro-

ocols and training to provide a rapid, hospitalwide response to patients showing signs of a stroke. That allows a "stroke alert team" to immediately provide care, the hospital said.

Additionally, the hospital has worked to diagnose ischemic strokes – strokes caused by blood clots or otherwise reduced blood flow to the brain – and provide a "clot-busting" medication within an hour of a patient's arrival at the hospital. The American Stroke Association recommends that standard, the hospital said.

Sentara Albemarle also has added a nurse practitioner and stroke coordinator to the hospital's work force, and partnered closely with

Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Medical Services to streamline care for stroke patients transported by the ambulance service.

In Sentara's release, EMS Director Jerry Newell offers his "kudos" to the hospital, noting EMS and Sentara Albemarle have worked to deliver "big-town stroke care at our community hospital."

The release notes that the Primary Stroke Center designation is the second-highest of three stroke certifications DNV-GL can award. The lowest level is Acute Stroke Ready, which can help stabilize patients for transport. Primary Stroke Centers can manage stroke patients' care and only need to transport them for "neu-

rosurgical emergencies."

The highest-level certification is Comprehensive Stroke Center, which applies to hospitals that provide the most advanced stroke care. The closest Comprehensive Stroke Center to Sentara Albemarle is Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, according to Sentara's release.

The certifications are also based on standards set by the American Stroke Association and Brain Attack Coalition, the release notes. In a follow-up email, Sentara Albemarle spokeswoman Anya Soucy said the hospital isn't seeking to become a Comprehensive Stroke Center, but will continue working to improve care for stroke patients. The hospital's initia-

tives include speeding up administration of an anti-clotting medication and teaching community members a mnemonic device, "BEFAST," for spotting strokes. BEFAST refers to monitoring for impairment to a person's balance, eyes, face, arms, speech, and the time that has elapsed since the person's normal functioning.

Citing statistics from the National Stroke Association and the N.C. Stroke Association, Sentara Albemarle's release said strokes kill nearly 130,000 people nationwide every year. Coastal North Carolina is also part of the "stroke buckle" where the death rate from strokes is "twice the national average," the release adds.

## PETS OF THE WEEK



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**Top, Pablo is growing like a weed and would love to spend the rest of his kitten days in a home with lots of toys. He along with the other cats and dogs in the Tri-County Shelter can be adopted for \$25 during the month of December.**

**Right, Gigi is a wiggling bundle of love at the Tri-County Animal Shelter. She would do best as the only pet and prefers older children.**



## Welding students apprentice with the DOT Ferry Division

From Staff Reports

College of The Albemarle has partnered with the Ferry Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to offer apprenticeships for students enrolled in the welding technology program.

COA officials first met with the Ferry Division two years ago to begin discussion of a partnership. Back in the spring, Jed Dixon, deputy director of the NC Ferry Division, said "we appreciate this partnership with COA and look forward to working with the students. It will give the students some valuable hands-on experience in the trade, and it will potentially give us a valuable local talent pool to fill our openings."

The first internships were offered to COA students of the welding technology program over the summer of 2018. The nine students' primary focus was marine diesel repair during the course of internships. Upon completion of the summer internships, the Ferry Division started thinking about how additional partnerships could be developed for programs at COA and other community colleges along the coast of North Carolina.

On Nov. 28, eight community colleges, staff from the North Carolina Community College System and staff from Dare County Schools, met in Manns Harbor to see how the apprentice program between COA and the Ferry Division was modeled. The group had the opportunity to tour the facility and discussed expansion of the apprentice programs with the Ferry Division, to see how the apprenticeships could



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Robert Wynegar, President, COA (left) stands with Harold Thomas, director, of the N.C. Ferry Division.

be duplicated at other community colleges.

"Other jobs being considered for future apprentice programs include HVAC technicians, painters, chipper and electricians for boats with the Ferry Division," stated Tim Sweeney, Dean, Dare County Campus. "While other community colleges offer these certifications, many do not have

apprentice opportunities established. There is a great need for skilled labor along the coast and the partnership with the Ferry Division provides beneficial experience for our students."

For more information on the Welding Technology Program, visit <https://www.albemarle.edu/programs-classes/credit/programs-of-study/welding-technology/>.



**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the Town of Winfall Board Councils will hold a Public Hearing on **January 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** It is scheduled to take place in the **Winfall Town Hall Community building located at 100 Parkview Lane, Winfall, NC 27985.** The purpose of this meeting is to receive comments pertaining to the proposed purchase of a fire/rescue vehicle for the Winfall Volunteer Fire Department. Funding for the propose project will be through funding provided by USDA Rural Development. Immediately after the Public Meeting, the Town will discuss the proposed project.

Contact the Town of Winfall for information  
**252-426-5015**

Is a New Pet in Your Future?

Look into the Classifieds to find dogs, cats and plenty of other pets looking for a home like yours!

**PETS**

**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**

To advertise in place, a classified ad, please call 252-335-8076.

**Minzies Creek Sanitary District**

Monthly meeting will be held on

**DECEMBER 29, 2018**

**AT 10:00am**

The Meeting Will Be Held at  
139 Treasure Lane, Hertford

**EARLY ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR NEW YEARS**

**THE DAILY ADVANCE**

PUBLISHING DAY	DEADLINES
<b>DISPLAY ADS AND LEGALS</b>	
TUE, JAN 1	FRI, DEC 28 NOON
WED, JAN 2	FRI, DEC 28 NOON
<b>CLASSIFIED LINE ADS</b>	
SUN, JAN 1	FRI, DEC 28 9 AM
TUE, JAN 2	FRI, DEC 28 9 AM

**CHOWAN HERALD & PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**

PUBLISHING DAY	DEADLINES
<b>DISPLAY &amp; LEGAL LINE ADS</b>	
WED, JAN 2	THU, DEC 27 2 PM
<b>CLASSIFIED LINE ADS</b>	
WED, JAN 2	FRI, DEC 28 9 AM

**ALL OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 1st**

**Town of Winfall Offices are Closed:**

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

**In case of an Emergency call 426-5751**

**APG**

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

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effective January 2nd.

The Call Center can help with subscription payments, delivery issues, vacation stops, classified ads, legal notices, cards of thanks/memorial ads, occasions such as anniversaries, births, engagements, and weddings, and more!

Call us at  
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