

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022

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SCAN ME



PAGE A2
 Salvation Army seeing need rise, fundraising slow



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 'The capacity of community': Pitt family helps Ukrainian find refuge



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 Holley helps Lady Pirates pull away from Grizzlies

2022 in review: Pirates win title, S-Bridge opens

Cole took reins in Hertford, \$4M received for boat basin

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

It was a busy year in Perquimans County. Here are a few of the major developments that were covered in the Perquimans Weekly:

Election — In the Nov. 8 General Election, Perquimans Board of Commissioners Chairman Wallace Nelson, a Republican, was reelected as a county commissioner. Two new commissioners were elected: Republican James Ward

YEAR IN REVIEW

and the county's first unaffiliated commissioner, Tim Corpew. Democrat Fondella Leigh lost her bid for re-election to a third term.

With Ward joining Republicans Nelson, Kyle Jones and Charles Woodard on the board, the six-member board now has a Republican majority for the first time.

In the May 10 primary, the only local contested race on the ballot was the Perquimans Board of Education election. Incumbent Anne White, the school board's chairwoman, was reelected, and first-time candidates

Kristy Corpew and Matt Winslow were both elected to the board's two other open seats. Corpew and Winslow will replace Matt Peeler and Amy Spaug, who did not seek reelection.

New committee structure in Winfall — In July the Winfall Town Council adopted a committee structure that redirected most of the administrative responsibilities that had been shouldered by the town's long-time mayor, Fred Yates, to various council members.

Each member of the council was assigned one or more areas of responsibility such as public safety, fire,

recreation, finance, sewer, and tourism. Yates, who has served as the town's mayor for three decades, previously exercised general administrative oversight of the town.

Confederate monument controversy resolved — In April the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners approved language for interpretive signs to be placed next to the Confederate monument on the lawn of the Perquimans County Courthouse. The move was a compromise of sorts between those

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PHOTO BY DEAN STRICKLAND

Perquimans players celebrate their 1A NCHSAA state title win on the infield of Ting Stadium in Holly Springs on June 4. The Pirates won their second state title in as many years by beating Cherryville High School two games to one in the best-of-three game series.

Region's finest



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Hertford Grammar School Principal John Lassiter, dressed in pajamas as part of a holiday-themed staff gathering at the school Tuesday, Dec. 20, learns from 2022 N.C. Principal of the Year Patrick Greene (left) that he had been selected Northeast Region Principal of the Year for 2023.

HGS' Lassiter region's Principal of Year

Turner, Greene surprised Lassiter with news at school

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

Hertford Grammar School Principal John Lassiter has been named Northeast Regional Principal of the Year.

That recognition makes Lassiter one of eight finalists across the state for North Carolina Principal of

the Year.

The current N.C. Principal of the Year, Patrick Greene of Greene Central High School in Snow Hill, joined Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner and other local school officials at Hertford Grammar School Tuesday, Dec. 20, to surprise Lassiter with the news of his selection as Regional Principal of the Year.

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Hertford Grammar School Principal John Lassiter celebrates his selection as Northeast Region Principal of the Year with Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner, Tuesday, Dec. 20.

\$400K to help CA upgrade tracks, bridge

Some of railroad upgrades will be made in Perquimans

From staff reports

Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad will receive more than \$400,000 in state grant funding to make needed bridge improvements and track upgrades in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

The railroad, which operates 69 miles of track between Chesapeake, Virginia, and Edenton, received

the short line railroad matching grant earlier this month from the N.C. Department of Transportation's Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Program. The FR-RCSI, established in 2013 by the General Assembly, enables DOT to partner with rail companies on improvement projects to help move freight more effectively.

According to Chesapeake & Albemarle, the

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High winds knock out power to 2,300

All outages on Friday restored within several hours

BY JOHN FOLEY
 Staff Writer

The arctic front that pushed through the region on Friday brought strong winds and resulted in the coldest holiday temperatures in Perquimans in 40 years.

Temperatures were projected to drop below freezing within two hours of the front's passage over the region, bringing wind gusts between 40 and 50 mph for roughly an hour, followed by gusts between 30-45

mph the rest of the day.

Because of the high winds, roughly 2,300 power customers in Perquimans were temporarily without power at some point on Friday.

According to Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation spokesman Chris Powell, AEMC's Burgess substation lost power at 10:22 a.m. following an outage on a Dominion Power line that feeds power to the substation. The outage affected 1,546 meters, he said. Dominion was able to restore power to the substation a little

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Vehicle collides with school bus; 1 taken to hospital

11 students aboard when collision reported on US 17

BY REGGIE PONDER
 Staff Writer

A Perquimans County school bus was involved in

a collision with another vehicle as students were being transported home at the start of the holiday break Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Bus 129, which was transporting students from Perquimans County High School and Perquimans County Middle School, was struck from behind by another vehicle in the 400 block of U.S. Highway 17 while traveling north near the N.C. Department of Transportation

shop in Winfall, according to emergency officials.

The accident is being investigated by the N.C. Highway Patrol. An update on the wreck wasn't available this week.

Julie Solesbee of Perquimans Emergency Services said in a press release that there were 11 students, a bus monitor and a driver aboard the bus at the time of the collision. The accident was reported to emergency officials around 12:46 p.m. and school officials were notified around 12:51 p.m.

The students were removed from the bus after school officials arrived because the bus was still in the roadway following the collision, Solesbee said.

She said "several people involved in the accident" were evaluated by emergency medical services personnel at the scene before one person was transported to Sentara Albemarle Medical Center in Elizabeth City. She did not say whether the person was someone

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CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

Perquimans Middle School, shown Wednesday, Dec. 21, served as the reunification point for parents picking up middle and high school students who were aboard a school bus that was rear-ended by a vehicle on U.S. Highway 17.

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