

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023

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AME Zion, UMC congregations plan joint ventures



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God's Bible is more than love letter, manual for living



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Holley, Lady Pirates storm past Falcons on seniors night

## State: Winfall detention center to reopen in 2024

Facility will reopen as need for juvenile housing grows

BY TYLER NEWMAN  
Staff Writer

WINFALL — The state juvenile detention facility in Winfall, which closed over a decade ago, is scheduled to reopen its doors sometime next year, bringing close to 40 jobs to the area.

Diana Kees, deputy director for external affairs at North Carolina's Division

of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, told The Perquimans Weekly last week that the Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center is slated to reopen in 2024.

The center, located on Jessup Street, closed in November 2012 because of tighter resources and a reduction in the number of juveniles being held in secure custody. The facility had been open for about 15 years prior to the closing.

A change to state and federal laws has increased the

need for the facility again, Kees said.

"Currently, juvenile detention numbers are increasing statewide following implementation of newer federal law and corresponding state statutory provisions that now require the housing of juveniles whose cases are transferred to Superior Court in juvenile detention instead of jail," she said.

Juvenile detention facilities in North Carolina are currently housing more

children than they have available beds, according to Kees. The state is also projected to need 397 juvenile detention beds by 2025; currently there are only 347 beds.

"The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is now seeking additional detention space, and renovations of the Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center, as well as renovations at other sites, are

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TYLER NEWMAN/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The Perquimans Juvenile Detention Center in Winfall, which closed in November 2012 because fewer beds were needed for the juvenile justice system, will reopen in 2024, a state official said last week.

## Winfall seeks to fill seat on council

Powell's resignation from town board created vacancy

From staff reports

WINFALL — The town of Winfall is seeking applicants for a vacant council seat after a town councilor recently resigned from the town board.

Councilwoman Virginia Powell, who was elected to the Winfall Town Council in 2019, resigned because she has moved from the area, a town employee confirmed last week.

The town is accepting applications for Powell's vacant council position through Feb. 28.

Applicants must be qualified Perquimans County voters who have lived within Winfall's boundaries for at least one year. They must be at least 21 years old and not be a convicted felon.

The person selected to fill the seat will complete Powell's four-year term that began in November 2019 and ends this November. That means the seat will be up for election this fall.

Applications and information about the application process are available at the town of Winfall office, located at 100 Parkview Lane.

Information about the vacancy is also available by calling the town office at 426-5015.

## Hearts & Heroes



PHOTOS BY REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

David Laperrier (center) is flanked by first responders who helped save his life on May 13, 2022, during Perquimans County Emergency Services' Heart & Heroes banquet, Monday, at American Legion Post 126 in Hertford. Among the first responders who assisted Laperrier were telecommunicator Steve Pyle; Emergency Medical Services providers Sonia Davenport and Heather Miller; Bethel firefighters Alan Corprew, James Ward, Caleb Hobbs and Jaylin Prince; and Nightingale flight crew members Jeremy Miller and Janice McKay.

## PES celebrates 3 lives saved by CPR



Dr. Konstantin Krychtiuk addresses the audience at Perquimans Emergency Services' Hearts & Heroes dinner at American Legion Post 126, Monday evening. Krychtiuk is a professor of internal medicine at an institution in Vienna, Austria, who currently is working with Duke University on a research trial called Randomized Cluster Evaluation of Cardiac Arrest Systems, or RACE CARS.

Krychtiuk: Knowing CPR can make cardiac arrest survivable

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Perquimans County this week celebrated the lives of three people saved from sudden cardiac arrest by the quick actions of family members and first responders.

Julie Solesbee of Perquimans Emergency Services narrated the lifesaving incidents during the Hearts & Heroes dinner Monday at American Legion Post 126 in Hertford. She noted that David La-

perrier became unresponsive after returning home from a bike ride on May 13.

An air ambulance was requested and CPR was initiated at his home. He was transported to a facility for specialized cardiac care.

Among the first responders who assisted Laperrier were telecommunicator Steve Pyle; EMS providers Sonia Davenport and Heather Miller; Bethel firefighters Alan Corprew, James Ward, Caleb Hobbs and Jaylin Prince; and Nightingale flight crew

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## County man dies in Gates collision

Patrol: Fischman's SUV hit rear of truck on NC 32

BY JULIAN EURE  
Managing Editor

GATESVILLE — A Perquimans County man was killed in Gates County Tuesday, Feb. 7, when his SUV collided with the rear of a tractor-trailer stopped in the roadway for a disabled vehicle.

First Sgt. L. Hill identified the deceased motorist as Brian Scott Fischman, 46, of Bagley Swamp Road, Hertford.

According to Hill, Fischman was driving south on N.C. Highway 32 about 3:45 p.m. when his 2019 Toyota RAV4 approached a line of traffic stopped about 1½ miles south of Gatesville. Traffic was backed up because of a vehicle that had broken down and was waiting to be moved from the roadway, he said.

Fischman's RAV4 failed to reduce speed and "hit the back of the tractor-trailer," Hill said.

Fischman was pronounced dead at the scene, Hill said.

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## Patton helps give first responders a boost

Nixon: Therapy dog 'partner' for Emergency Services

BY CHERI L. SHERIDAN  
Correspondent

When the going gets "ruff," Patton the therapy dog gets going. He stops by the Perquimans Emergency Services building in Winfall

to provide a little TLC for his favorite EMTs.

There are dogs that wag their tail politely. And there are dogs with a "wiggly-butt." The wag starts at their shoulders and registers on the Richter Scale. Patton is a 3-year-old brindle boxer mix with a world-class wiggly-butt that he loves to share with his public safety pals.

First responders are available in the community 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They work 8-, 12- and 24-hour shifts, often with little sleep. They get hearts beating and

stop arteries from bleeding. They spray Narcan to reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

They pull up to an accident not knowing if the seat-belted driver is banged and bruised or if an unbelted driver is in a lifeless heap on the side of the road. Suicide calls are the worst.

Jonathan Nixon, director of Perquimans County Emergency Services, manages 75 full-time and part-time dispatch and medical personnel. He describes Patton as a "partner to the agency."

"Patton is a mental health maintenance tool for our staff," Nixon said. "Just

having him in the building livens everyone's spirits."

As they head to 911 calls, Perquimans telecommunications staff listen to frenzied family members and coach them in CPR and first aid. Fear is one side of the emotional coin and anger is the other.

Dispatchers are often cussed out because an ambulance hasn't magically appeared. Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical technicians, who receive updates along the route, arrive on scene and walk into a family's worst nightmare, facing rage that is really terror.

Domestic violence in-

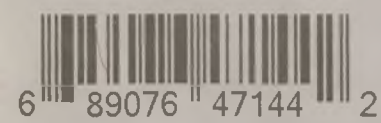
idents can be the most frightening. If there is a gun, it can be just as easily be aimed at first responders as at a family member.

Being first is dangerous. Paramedic Nicole Anderson notes that just petting a dog can reduce stress, lower blood pressure and release feel-good hormones.

"We can talk to Patton and he doesn't judge us," she said. "He listens and loves us unconditionally. Patton is a healthy way for us to deal with the stress of our jobs."

First responders deal with trauma, but they

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FEBRUARY 2023

**ALBEMARLE Business DIRECTORY**

YOUR GUIDE TO ALBEMARLE AREA BUSINESSES & SERVICES!

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Find this year's Albemarle Business Directory inside today's edition of The Perquimans Weekly.