

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2023

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2022 playoff run gives Pirates something to build on



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## Winfall election candidates eye new post-Yates era

Mayoral, council hopefuls weigh in on town's future

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Candidates for mayor and town council in this fall's Winfall election offered varying views when asked recently about the town's impending transition to a new era following longtime Mayor Fred Yates' decision



CUNNINGHAM



ORMOND



RICHARDSON



ITTER



WHITE

to not seek re-election.

Yates, who has been the town's mayor — and guiding force — since the ear-

ly 1990s, decided not to file for a new term during the recently ended filing period. Two candidates,

ceed him.

Besides White and Ritter, The Perquimans Weekly also asked three candidates

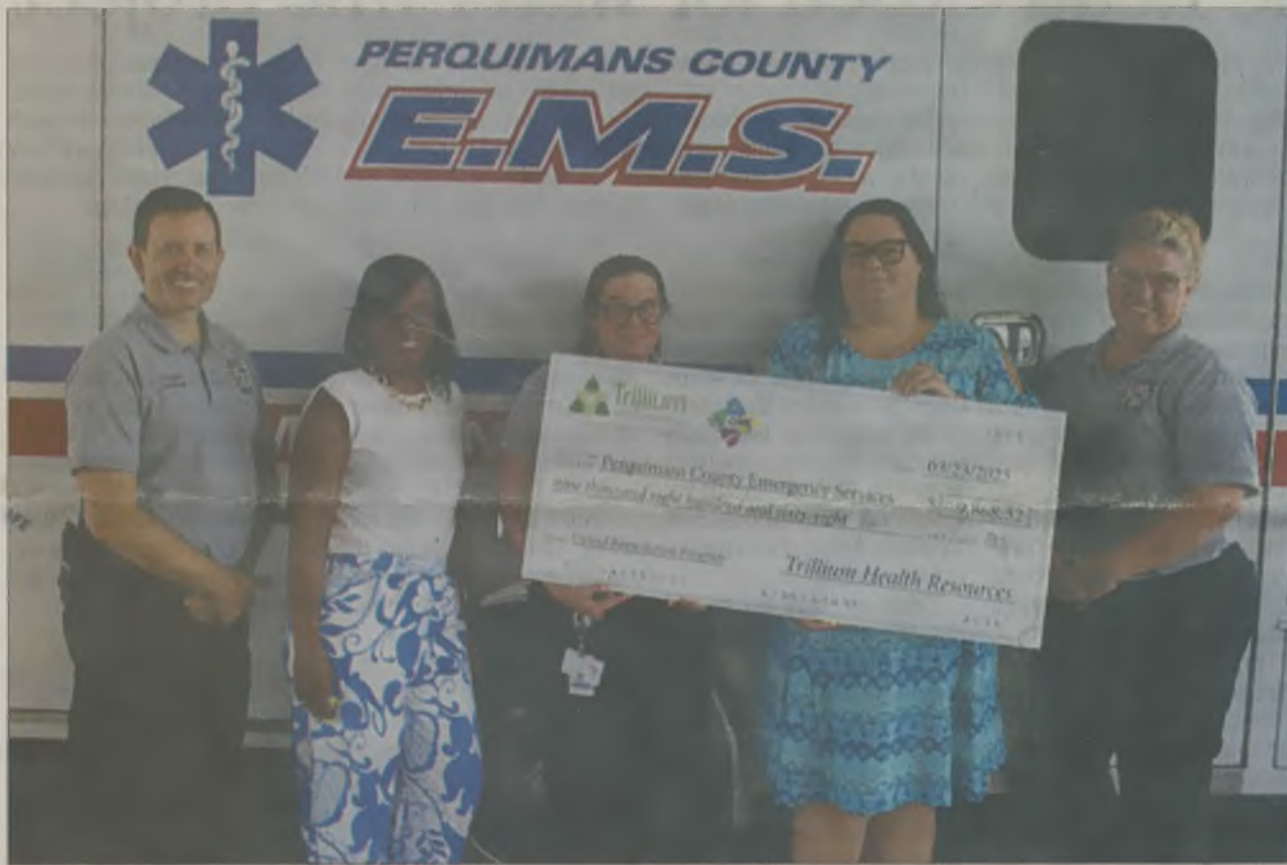
seeking the two open seats on the Winfall Town Council — Christopher Richardson, Cynthia Gayle White, Cunningham and Arnetta Ormond — the following question: "With longtime Mayor Fred Yates not seeking reelection, how might that change how town government in Winfall operates? What should change or not change in how the town is run?" Their responses follow:

Mayor

**White:** "Change opens your mind to new ideas. It makes you question the status quo and gives you the willingness to go against convention. Adaptable people aren't scared of change as they will first make necessary plans to handle it. The world is changing in many ways. Some of the changes

See **ELECTION**, A3

## Ammo for opioid fight



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Trillium Health Resources Community Liaison Tracey Webster (second from left) and Trillium Northern Area Director Bobbie Lowe (second from right) present a check for \$9,868.32 to Perquimans County Emergency Services officials Monday to replenish the county's stock of the lifesaving medicine Narcan. Flanking the Trillium officials are Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon (left), Perquimans Mobile Integrated Healthcare Coordinator Bethany Buttram (center) and Perquimans Assistant Emergency Services Director Julie Solesbee (right).

## Trillium \$9K grant to help restock Narcan

Narcan helps responders, families reverse overdoses

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Trillium Health Resources has awarded Perquimans County Emergency Services more than \$9,000 to enable the agency to restock lifesaving Narcan for distribution to local first responders and trained community members.

"Hopefully it will save a lot of lives," Trillium North-

ern Area Director Bobbie Lowe said Monday.

Bethany Buttram, coordinator of Mobile Integrated Healthcare for Perquimans County, said that when emergency medical staff respond to an opioid overdose they encourage a family member — or someone else close to the person who has overdosed — to get trained in how to administer Narcan. Once the person has been trained, Narcan is made available to that person so they can provide lifesaving emergency response

in the event of another overdose.

And the lifesaving antidote is available to concerned members of the community who request it, she said.

"Anybody who asks for it, we give it to them and make sure they know how to use it," Buttram explained.

All county fire departments have Narcan available and Perquimans County Sheriff's Office deputies carry it with them. It's also on-site at county buildings where there are automat-

ed electronic defibrillators present, and discussions are underway with Perquimans County Schools officials about having it on-hand at schools.

"That's a really big deal," Lowe said of the discussion with school officials.

Perquimans County Emergency Services Director Jonathan Nixon said that administration of Narcan and implementation of hands-only CPR are the difference between life and

See **GRANT**, A3

## Open Door gets \$97.7K grant for new equipment

Freezers, other equipment will be used in new facility

BY JULIAN EURE  
AND REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writers

HERTFORD — The Golden LEAF Foundation has awarded The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County nearly \$100,000 to use purchasing new freezers, refrigerators and other equipment for its still-under-renovation new facility expected to open early next year.

The board of directors for the Rocky Mount-based nonprofit said Thursday

that the \$97,774 grant to The Open Door was one of 24 grants totaling \$2.78 million being awarded during the first round of funding from its Food Distribution Assistance Program. The remaining \$7.22 million from the program will be awarded at the board's December meeting, the agency said.

Dina Hurdle, chair of The Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans County Board of Directors, said the agency's board and volunteers were "elated" about the grant and offered the Golden LEAF board its

See **DOOR**, A3

## DSS board to expand to five

Woodard: Move follows DSS oversight trend across state

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Perquimans County is increasing the size of its social services board from three members to five.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to make the local social service board a five-member board — the most common board makeup across the state.

Commissioner Charles



WOODARD

Woodard, who currently serves as a county appointee on the social services board, cited the statewide trend of five-member boards in proposing the switch.

Woodard said Perquimans should follow the practice of most other counties and move to a five-member social services board.

See **BOARD**, A2

## Local man faces child sex charges

BY JULIAN EURE  
Managing Editor

HERTFORD — A Perquimans County man is facing charges he took indecent liberties and engaged in a sex act with a child late last year.

Michael Andrews, 42,

of the 200 block of Cartwright S w a m p Road, Hertford, was arrested July 31 following his in-



ANDREWS

dictment by a grand jury. Andrews was indicted July 17 on two felony counts of taking indecent liberties

See **CRIME**, A3

## Possible school site still a mystery

High: More than one site being considered for school

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Perquimans County officials may soon have a public announcement of a proposed site for the county's new intermediate school.

Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath said recently that he hopes "to have an announcement soon" regarding the site.

Perquimans county and school officials are looking at a potential site for the new school but are not dis-

closing the location.

The Perquimans Board of Education met in closed session at its July 21 meeting. Before entering the closed session, board members indicated their interest in discussing a potential site for building the new school.

Asked last week about the location of the potential site, Perquimans County Schools officials referred questions to Heath, stating: "That is in the hands of the county commissioners."

When asked about the location, Heath responded: "Any sites are subject to internal negotiations, so I am not at liberty to discuss

those at this time."

State law allows local governing boards to meet in closed session for specific purposes, including "to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease."

The Perquimans Weekly asked Hackney High, county attorney for Perquimans, whether the location and ownership of the property

in question should be considered "material terms" under that provision of the law.

High told the newspaper Monday that the county's position is that it's legal and appropriate for the board not to disclose the location at this time. He did confirm that more than one site was under consideration.

In September of last year the Perquimans County Schools was awarded a state needs-based school facilities grant of nearly \$37 million for a new school to serve grades 3-8.

The new school would replace Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans Middle School.