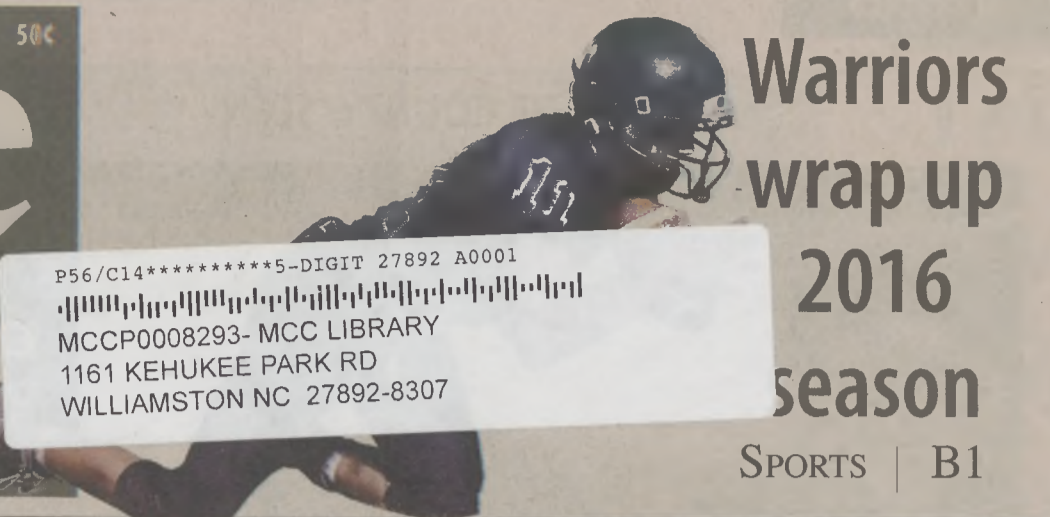


# Bertie Ledger-Advance

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 2, 2016



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## Warriors wrap up 2016 season

SPORTS | B1

# Shoplifter adds child neglect charge

## Suspect left children alone during crime

BY THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - It started as a simple case of shoplifting.

It blossomed into more, and resulted in the arrest of a Windsor man on child neglect charges.  
Windsor Police Chief Todd

Lane said officers were dispatched to the Dollar General store on Granville Street because of a shoplifting incident on Oct. 27.

Det. Eddie Hoggard went to the scene and spoke with Dollar General personnel who said the suspect fled the store and headed toward the now defunct carwash on Sterlingworth Street.  
Det. Hoggard located a

man matching the suspect's description on Cherry Street and stopped him to discuss the situation.

After a discussion with the suspect - identified as James

See NEGLECT, A5

# FEMA stays open

## Over 500 register in Bertie Co.

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The Disaster Recover Center (DRC) will remain open until further notice.

Bertie County's Disaster Recovery Center opened Oct. 22 to receive applications from Bertie County residents affected by Hurricane Matthew.

The facility was scheduled to close on Sunday, Oct. 30.

According to FEMA Media Relations Specialist Nate Custer, the facility did not close on Oct. 30 and will continue to be open until further notice.

The Disaster Recovery Center is located at the Bertie County Senior Center at 103 West School Street, Windsor. The facility will continue to operate from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

According to Custer, 255 individuals have visited the DRC and there have 557 registrations in Bertie County. The last FEMA dollar amount approved for Bertie County as of Oct. 25 was \$464,350.86. Any updates on these numbers will not be available until Nov. 2. These numbers are release once a week.

Residents of FEMA declared counties for Individual Assistance who suffered losses and damages as a result of Hurricane Matthew can receive help by applying for federal assistance, learn about the types of assistance available, the appeals process and get updates regarding their applications at any DRCs operating six days a week in the impacted counties.



THADD WHITE / Bertie Ledger-Advance

The 91 people who participated in the seventh annual Bertie Spooktacular begin the 5K race on York Street in Windsor Saturday morning.

# Spooktacular holds seventh event

## 91 participate in annual 5K run

BY THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Year seven was much like year one.

With Windsor and Bertie County recovering from devastating floods, people took time out to support a worthy cause.

The seventh annual Bertie Spooktacular was held Saturday morning to help fund the operation of the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

Runners came from far and wide to participate in the annual event. This year 91 people participated in the annual event.

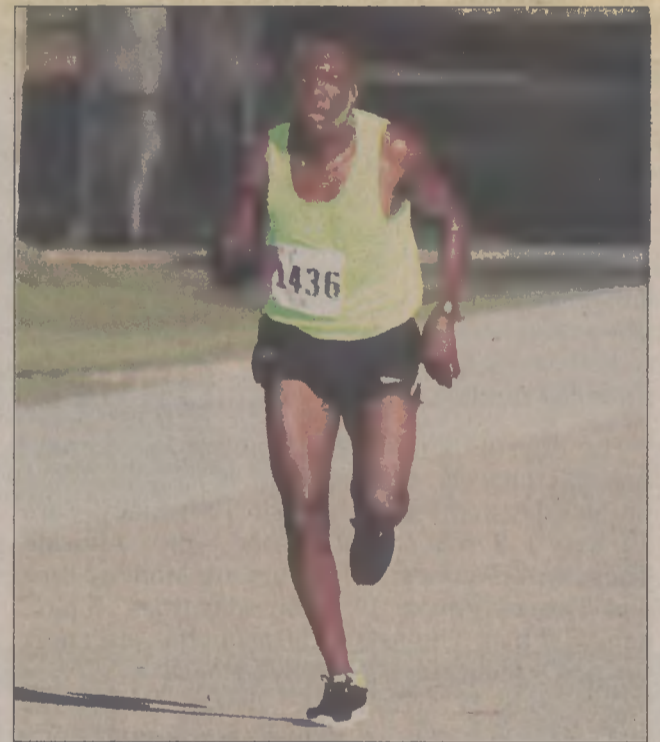
The 5K kicked off promptly at 9 a.m. from York Street. It was just over 16 minutes later that the first finisher crossed the line.

Musa Gwanzura, 44, of Roanoke Rapids reclaimed the top spot after a year's absence. He finished second a year ago. This year Gwanzura earned first overall by completing the race in 16:11. Second place overall went to Devin Swann, 36, of Raleigh who finished in 17:17. Jean Helber was third (17:32).

Kay Evans of Chocowinity, like Gwanzura, reclaimed the top spot after a year's absence. She finished in 21:41 for the first place among the women. Second went to Blair Whitehead, 25, with a time of 22:05. Third was Kaitlyn Stallings, 19.

Other group winners included:  
\* Sonya Rhenbart (Female Masters);

See SPOOKTACULAR, A5



Musa Gwanzura finished first overall during the Spooktacular.

# Avoca Inc. celebrates \$9M expansion

## Facility will double sage production

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

MERRY HILL - Avoca Inc. celebrated its expansion last week.

Avoca Inc. held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new \$9 million facility on Oct. 26.

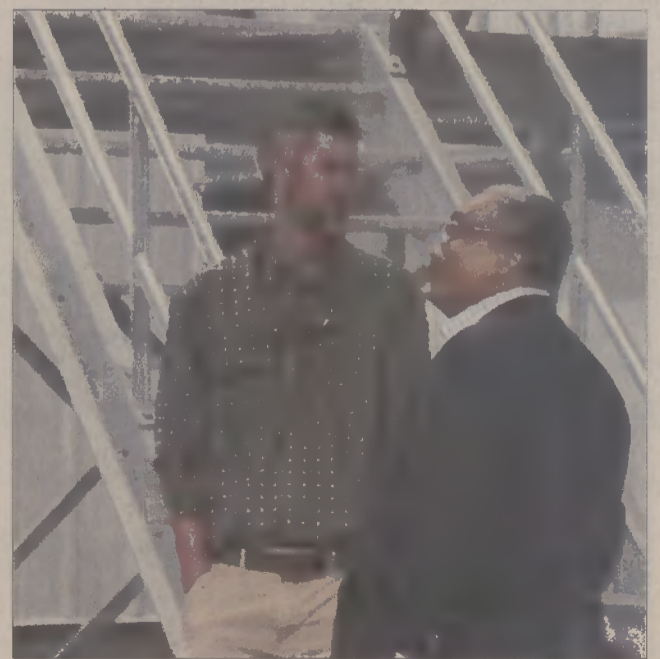
"This investment demonstrates Avoca's long-term commitment to the clary sage business and Bertie County. Bertie County has suffered much devastation from the tropical storm and Hurricane Matthew and the people of this county need some positive news," said Avoca Inc. President Dr. David Peele.

"This project is different that most projects we have done before," added Dr. Peele.

Those in attendance represented a variety of governmental agencies were Bertie County Commissioners Stewart White and Ronald D. Wesson, Bertie County Economical Development Officials Steve Biggs and Tim Ivey, Bertie County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lewis Hoggard and several North Carolina Cooperative Extension Directors including Billy Barrow from Bertie County, Mary Morris from Chowan County and Al Cochran from Martin County.

According to Dr. Peele, the new building will double the production at the facility. Avoca Inc. has been a private company since 2003 and

See AVOCA, A5



Bertie County Commissioner Ronald D. Wesson took a tour of the new facility at Avoca Inc.

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