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WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 4, 2017

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Bertie woman killed

Wreck in Greenville claims life

GREENVILLE - The Greenville Police Department is investigating the second fatal vehicle-related wreck in two days after a 51-year-old Windsor woman died in a wreck on Monday night.

The wreck occurred about 7:45 p.m. on Monday in front of the Quality Inn at 821 S. Memorial Drive. According to a police department news release, Meta Bridgett Gilliam of Windsor was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 2007 Mercedes Benz, driven by 23-year-old Daniel Corey McLawhorn of Ayden, was traveling north on Memorial Drive when it collided with a 1997 Toyota driven by 58-year-old Arcelious Eugene Valentine of Rich Square, according to a release.

Valentine told police he was attempting to cut across five lanes of traffic from a business when the collision occurred, the news release said.

The impact of the crash caused the Mercedes to leave the roadway and strike a road sign at the Quality Inn.

McLawhorn, his passenger, 21-year-old Antonio Demetrius Brown, of Greenville, and Valentine were transported to Vidant Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash is still under investigation, and charges are pending, police said.



Some of the children who attended the inaugural Peanut Drop touch it after it was dropped at 9 p.m. Saturday night.

Peanut Drop held in Windsor

Inaugural event draws 120

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Citizens of Windsor celebrated the New Year in a unique way.

Even though it was a few hours early.

Destination Windsor held a peanut drop at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and welcomed more than 100 people to the event.

"I was thrilled with the event and the turnout," Windsor Tourism Director Billy Smithwick said. "It went well - very well."

Smithwick estimated the crowd - which included a large number of families - at approximately 120. The event was held at an earlier time so those wishing to participate could bring

children to celebrate the New Year.

The weather also cooperated with the inaugural event, with Smithwick calling it cold, but not unbearable weather.

"It was coat weather for sure, but it wasn't freezing cold," he said. "The whole event only lasted about 20 minutes, so it wasn't bad to be out in the weather."

The Peanut Drop was scheduled for a year ago, but weather delayed the debut of the event. The peanut is made of Paper Mache, thus meaning it couldn't be dropped in the pouring rain as in 2015.

Smithwick said the event would be "dressed up" a little for year number two, but would definitely continue.



Youngsters play during the time just before the Peanut Drop on New Year's Eve.

Wilson enjoys giving to others

WINDSOR - For Dorothy Wilson, giving is something she has done from an early age.

Born into a family where her parents were constantly sharing and giving, even when she thought they didn't have enough for themselves, Wilson learned a person doesn't have to have wealth to give to others.

Wilson said giving makes her heart happy because she knows she has helped.

"The fact of giving takes my mind off my own problems, and helps me see life in a different perspective,"

Wilson said. "The smile on a child's face or a thankful adult lets me know my work is not in vain because I've made a difference in someone else's life. I like giving because it just feels good."

On Dec. 17, Wilson and others in the community sponsored a giveaway at the PPI Building in Windsor for residents of Bertie County.

There were items, including children's toys, bicycles, clothes, shoes, coats and household items.

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Members of the George W. Lee Lodge and Daughters of Excelsior Temple prepared to give away toys to flood victims.

Lodge gives back to community

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - A giving gift to those in need.

The members of the George W. Lee Lodge #756 and the Daughters of Excelsior Temple #692 of Windsor held a Toys for Tots event Wednesday, Dec. 21.

This was the third year the groups have sponsored the event. This year's event con-

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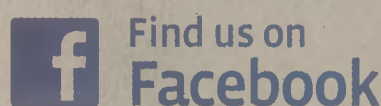
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