

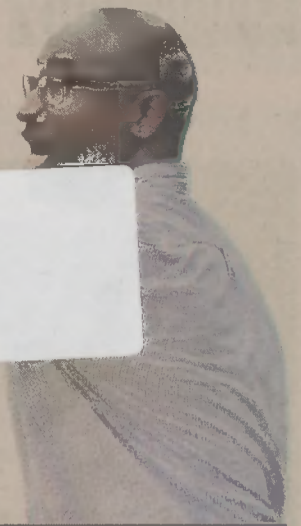
# Bertie Ledger-Advance

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 25, 2017

## Falcons

P56/C14\*\*\*\*\*5-DIGIT 27892 A0001  
 MCPP0008293- MCC LIBRARY  
 1161 KEHUKEE PARK RD  
 WILLIAMSTON NC 27892-8307

SPORTS | B1



# Hurricane Matthew recovery continues

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**POWELLSVILLE** - Bertie County Commissioners received updates about Hurricane Matthew recovery.

Chris Hilbert, Program Administrator for Holland's Consultation discussed pos-

sible options that may be available in the future for Bertie County citizens.

According to Hilbert, a mitigation meeting took place several weeks ago in Plymouth. The discussion concerned the possible three ways individuals may be assisted if they had filled

out an application.

The three options available to applicants would be buyouts, physical elevation of the home or complete rebuilding.

"These options have not been approved, so it does not mean that if you fill out an application you automati-

cally get assistance; but, the application will be on file when they are approved," said Hilbert.

Currently the Bertie County Planning Office is taking applications.

"If you want help, you must fill out an application," added Hilbert.

Hilbert also explained there was a second meeting in Greenville with representatives from East Carolina University and North Carolina State University.

Hydrologist Dr. Stan Riggs has offered to come to Ber-

See RECOVERY, A6

## HISTORICAL RECORD



The 1969-70 State Champion Bertie High School basketball team in one of many memories shared by Jerry Smith.

# PRESERVING HISTORY

## Former BHS coach donating memorabilia

BY JIM GREEN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

In March 1970, the Bertie High School varsity boys basketball team made history with the school's first-ever state championship.

Now, more than 45 years later, the head coach of that team, Jerry Smith, wants to preserve that history by donating several items to the town.

"I am a big believer in history and how important it is," said Smith, who coached at Bertie from 1967-76. "I believe



Then Bertie High School coach Jerry Smith (right) speaks with Bing Mitchell during the 1969-70 run to the state title.

See HISTORY, A3

# LaShonda Cartwright honored

BY DEBORAH GRIFFIN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WILLIAMSTON** - LaShonda Cartwright loves interacting with people.

This works well for her since she answers 911 emergency calls, some days nonstop, for 12 straight hours.

Cartwright is one of 10 emergency dispatchers for Martin County Communications. Re-

cently, she was named Dispatcher of the Year by many of the people she interacts with daily.

The dispatchers at Martin County Communications work closely with the county's sheriff, police, fire and rescue, highway patrol and department of transportation.

See CARTWRIGHT, A5



Martin County Communications 911 Telecommunicator LaShonda Cartwright recently was awarded 2016 Dispatcher of the Year.

## In this edition

- Obituaries.....A2
- Opinion.....A4
- Sports.....B1
- Church & Faith.....B3
- Classified.....B4



**GOOD MORNING, NANCY JERNIGAN**  
 Thank you for subscribing!

Find us on Facebook

Volume 119: No. 4



# Rev. Harrell succumbs

BY THADD WHITE  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**ROXOBEL** - One of the stronger voices of Bertie County fell silent Jan. 9.

The Rev. Dr. Lycurgus R. Harrell passed away on that day following nearly four decades of ministry at Sandy Branch Missionary Baptist Church.

Rev. Harrell was a staple of the Roxobel community, despite his long-standing residence in Gates County. He was involved in a variety of organizations both related to his post as pastor and those that were not.

In addition to spending 38 years as pastor of Sandy Branch, Rev.

Harrell was a missionary from both Sandy Branch and

Lebanon Grove Baptist Church in Gatesville.

He served as President of the District Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention, which included Bertie, Gates, Halifax, Hertford and Northampton counties.

In addition he was past president of Gates County NAACP, GEMS, the Happy Golden Club and the Rosa B. Riddick Alumni of Elizabeth City

See HARRELL, A3

# Task force nabs 11

BY THADD WHITE  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

Three Bertie County men are among 11 arrested by the newly formed Down East Drug Task Force.

The task force, which includes the Ahoskie Police Department, Bertie County Sheriff's Office, Hertford County Sheriff's Office and Northampton County Sheriff's Office, is made up of the existing narcotics investiga-

tors from each of those agencies.

"I worked 11 years with the Roanoke Chowan Drug Task Force and I know from first-hand experience that collaborative efforts stop crime," District Attorney (D-6) Valerie Asbell said. "People who commit crimes do not have jurisdictional borders; therefore, when departments pool their resources, it makes our

See NABS, A5

# Offenders give back

BY DEBORAH GRIFFIN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WILLIAMSTON** - Giving instead of taking.

Past criminal offenders enrolled in a behavior modification program are finding ways to give back to the community.

The program, called Recidivism Reduction Services (RRS), aims to keep offenders from repeating their crimes.

"We give them the tools to change the way they think," said instructor Beverly Turn-

See GIVE, A5