

## Continued

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

## Ten

From A1  
first appearance in Bertie County District Court on May 12;

■ Julius Derrick Swain of Morning Road in Windsor was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, possession of cocaine and driving while license revoked. He will make his first appearance in Bertie County District Court today (Wednesday);

■ Cecil D. White of 1109 Wakelon Road in Windsor was arrested and charged with possession of drug par-

aphernalia and a probation violation;

■ Phillip Daniel Vick, 34, of Millennium Road in Aulander was arrested after a search warrant was executed at his residence. He was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver heroin, maintaining a dwelling to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. His first court appearance was March 10;

■ William Harden Jr., 33, of Bethany Church Rd. in Colerain was arrested and charged with two counts of trafficking opiates, main-

taining a dwelling to sell a controlled substance, possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule 2 controlled substance, conspiracy to traffic opiates and possession with drug paraphernalia. His first appearance was March 17; and

■ Mary Ellen White, 39, of Bethany Church Rd. in Colerain was arrested and charged with conspiracy to traffic opiates. Her first court date was March 17.

Arrested in Hertford County were:

■ Dudley Vann, 55, of Holoman Avenue in Ahoskie was arrested and charged

with possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. His first appearance in Hertford County District Court was March 14;

■ Clyde Lee, 46, of Pugh Street in Cofield was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver hydrocodone and maintaining a dwelling to keep/store a controlled substance after a search warrant was executed at his residence. His first appearance in Hertford County District Court is April 25;

■ Shanda Gatling, 34, of

Pugh Street in Cofield was charged with possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Her first appearance in Hertford County District Court is April 25; and

■ Curtis Wendell Slaughter, 54, of First Street in Ahoskie was arrested and charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He made his first appearance in Hertford County District Court on March 14.

## Chase

From A1  
the suspects fled into Bertie County."

Sheriff Holley said his officers joined Edenton Police along with officers from the N.C. Highway Patrol and Chowan County Sheriff's Office when the chase entered Bertie County.

Sheriff Holley executed the decision to stop the vehicle on U.S. 17 before it reached Windsor.

"I wanted it stopped before we reached Windsor and it became an even more dangerous situation," he said. "With all the vehicles in Windsor, and the higher population, it was just too

dangerous."

With other vehicles surrounding the car, Sheriff Holley and Bertie County Deputy Richard Oliver pulled ahead of the suspect car and began to slow their speed until they stopped the suspects.

The three men in the vehicle were taken into custody without further incident.

Two of the three men were charged in the incident.

Those arrested were:

- Tykavis Requan Melton, 19, of Sandy Terrace Road, Edenton, charged with felony speeding to elude arrest and multiple traffic violations. Melton was released under a \$5,500 bond.
- Dremale Vanterpool,

18, of 2125 John Hill Lane, charged with littering.

"A third party was in the vehicle but was not charged with any violations," Fortenberry said.

(Chowan Herald Editor Reggie Ponder contributed to this story.)

## Schools

From A1

In the first item, the auditor, Dale Smith, notes "failure to address these matters in a timely matter could result in prompt corrective action being taken by the district's oversight agencies."

According to Trent, the board of commissioners has sought advice and assistance from the State Board

of Education, and as of this date, there has been no formal response from this oversight agency.

In an email received by the Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer over the weekend, the county has received a brief note from the State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Mark Johnson, who conveyed his willingness to review this matter.

"This is a serious financial crisis for the Bertie County school system and the taxpayers who ultimately pay the bills, and support the school system with \$2,497,750 in annual debt service payments and \$3,009,500 in current expense payments for operations as reported in the county audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30," said Trent.

"Today's meeting is solely about the children of Bertie County and protecting their future," he added.

"This situation we are facing is stunning and troubling. First let me say that the school board, just like county commissioners, rely on managers, financial officers and Certified Public Accountants (CPA) to do their jobs properly to be able to

make good decisions," said Bertie County Attorney Lloyd Smith. "I think the school board has been supplied bad information or has not been supplied enough information to do the good job for our school system."

Smith recommended the following steps:

- \* have the requested line item expenditures made available to the board of commissioners, manager and finance officer;

- \* the School Superintendent and Chief Finance Officer (CFO) meet with the county manager and the county's finance officer weekly; and

- \* the school board through their attorney makes such claims as are appropriate on surety bonds and upon the former CPAs if there is negligence.

Another issues addressed were the transfer or otherwise utilize school food service fund to pay general fund obligations.

"We need to know definitely, is it a violation of state law to transfer these funds," added Smith.

Smith advised the commissioners that NC General Statute 115c-429 (c) provides that "the board of commissioners shall have full authority to call for, and the board of education shall have the duty to make available to the board of county commissioners, upon request, all books records, audit reports, and other information bearing on the financial operation of the local school administrative unit.

"We are here to dem-

onstrate to our citizens that we can and will be faithful stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, and find a solution to this fiscal crisis, and begin the process of repair so that this never happens again," said Trent.

"The school board is admittedly 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' using restricted school food service proprietary funds to meet the current year accounts payable obligations, and the suggested solution of 'repaying Paul' is to have the county commissioners write a check for \$925,904 before June 30," said Sauer.

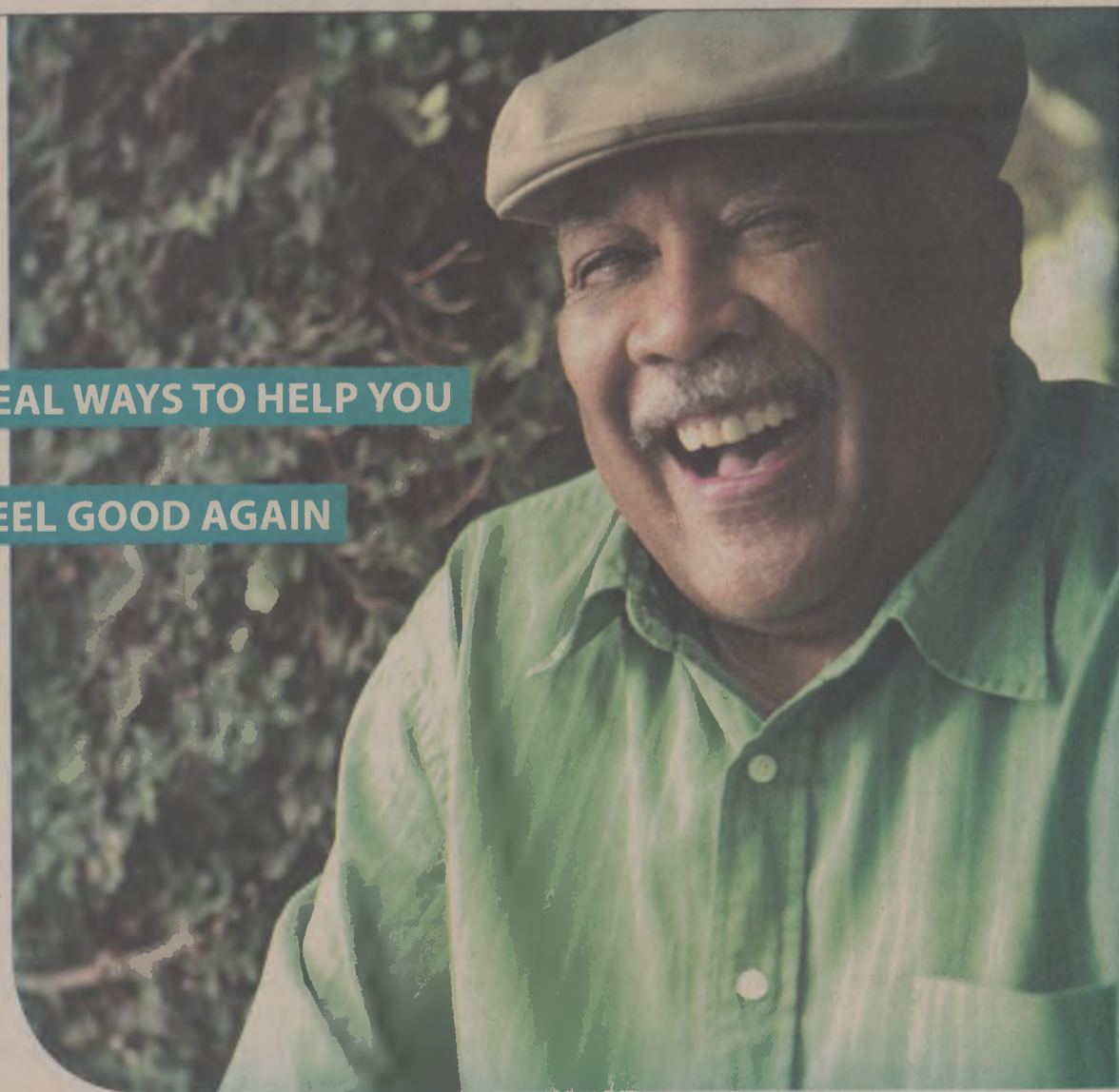
According to Sauer, he is concerned because there are three deficits to address - the \$704,955 deficit from fiscal year 2016, a current general fund deficit of \$800,000 to \$1 million for fiscal year 2017, and a growing liability for the misuse and misappropriation of food service proprietary funds that will need to be restored for which no estimate has been given.

"School administration suggested a 'local government loan' figure of \$925,904 is predicted on the \$828,379 deficit spending for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. I am concerned that the school administration has not calculated, or at least shared publicly, an accurate estimate of the year to date expenditures over revenues, and has not projected this figure through June 30 with the confidence and accuracy we need," he added.

No action was taken nor money given to Bertie County Schools.

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