

Bertie Ledger-Advance

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WEDNESDAY • APRIL 19, 2017

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SPORTS | B1

Chase ends with criminal charges

Roxobel man faces multiple felony counts

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - An attempt to flee officers failed Friday. Windsor Police Chief Todd Lane said officers charged a

34-year-old man from Roxobel with several charges following a chase that originated at a traffic stop.

Windsor Police Cpl. Frank Ratzlaff and Officer Jessie Mizelle were conducting a

traffic safety checkpoint on N.C. 308 Friday when a small black vehicle approached. The driver stopped the car suddenly and turned around, causing the officers to give chase.

Chief Lane reported the driver made several attempts to elude officers before being brought to a successful end near Indian Woods Rd. Once the driver stopped, he attempted to flee on foot, but Officer Mizelle caught him and, after a brief struggle, placed the

suspect under arrest. Officers searched the suspect and found one-half pound of marijuana and \$4,775 on his person.

The suspect - Travis Antwain Smith, 34, of Governor's Rd. - was charged with felony

See CHARGES, A5

Town seeks aid

N.C. State, ECU offer assistance

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Seventy-two structures were included in the local application for the federal buy-out program.

Windsor Town Administrator Allen Castelloe reported last week 72 structures were included in the application that was sent March 31.

"The expedited list did not allow commercial structures," Castelloe said. "That means they kicked back some of them, and we ended up with 40 structures in the program."

The program is for homes or businesses damaged by flooding. The program is being considered due to the high amount of flood damage to certain properties in the past 20 years due to the four major flood events.

Castelloe said the buyout list can be expanded to as time goes on. The next application deadline is May 1, and he encouraged anyone interested in filling out an application to do so soon.

See TOWN, A5

RECEPTION AND ART SHOW



Lars Simonsen speaks to those visiting the Bertie Arts Council last week.

LESLIE BEACHBOARD / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie Arts Council highlights work of Lars Simonsen

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - The Bertie County Arts Council celebrated the works of Lars Simonsen last Thursday, April 13 with a reception and art show.

A large crowd gathered to view paintings and metal works created by Simonsen as well as to spend the evening getting to know the artist.

"I grew up in a home full of art," said Simonsen.

According to Simonsen, his family is from Germany, and his grandmother sold art in Germany to make a living during World War II.

Simonsen creates unique pieces of art using metal and one-of-a-kind paintings.

Simonsen's wife, mother and family attended the showing in support of his artwork and talents.



Lars Simonsen fields questions from those who attended a show at The Gallery.

While enjoying refreshments and getting to know Simonsen, event attendees also had the opportunity to view other works of art for sale and getting to know the faces

that operate The Gallery on King Street.

The Bertie County Arts Council Interim President Karen Sours says each event this year continues to grow larger and better.

"We want everyone to know they are welcome to come to our events. You do not have to be a member to attend. We want everyone to come and enjoy the arts," she added.

Simonsen is a lawyer and owns Simonsen Law Firm in Edenton. He and his wife, Chamblee, have been married for 30 years and have three older sons.

The Bertie County Arts Council will host its next event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 28. The event will be a Poetry Slam (open mic) Night at the Gallery, 124 South King Street.

BCSO seeks help

Suspected shooter sought

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Law enforcement officials are seeking a local man on attempted murder charges.

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley said the shooting occurred in Windsor, but the victim was able to drive to U.S. 13/17 before pulling over to the shoulder of the road.

A passerby noticed the vehicle and went to check on the situation. The victim was found bleeding, and the citizen called 911.

Sheriff Holley said investigation revealed the victim was shot in the head.

The victim was taken to Vidant Bertie Hospital in Windsor, and then air-lifted to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville.

Sheriff Holley said witnesses identified the shooter as James Saunders, and law enforce-

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James Saunders

Williford selected for commission seat

BY THADD WHITE
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WINDSOR - The list of three candidates was whittled to one last week.

The Windsor Board of Commissioners discussed a trio of candidates for the vacancy on the town board

before settling on one in a unanimous vote. The seat is that of the late Bob Brown, who died last month.

Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard said he contacted multiple candidates suggested by the community and the board, and three of those agreed to serve if they were

appointed. The mayor praised all three candidates.

"All three are really good people, and all of them expressed their appreciation for being considered," Mayor Hoggard said.

The three candidates were Randy K. Whitaker, Randy

Walston and Amy Williford. The mayor said all three brought "unique talents" and each would make good board members.

Commissioner David Overton said he agreed with the mayor's assessment.

"I feel we have three good candidates," he said.

Overton said his initial leaning was to appoint Williford.

Commissioner Jon Powell said all three were good candidates, but he leaned toward Walston because of personnel experience, which

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