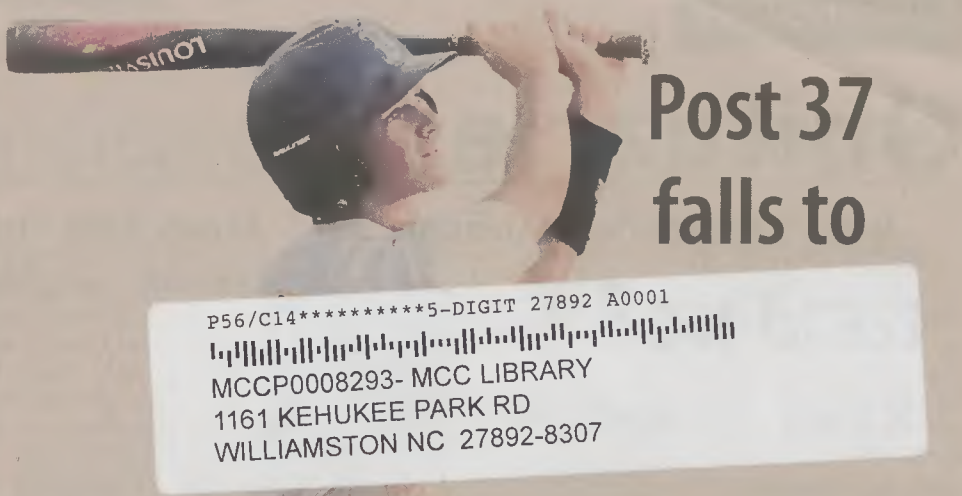


# Bertie

## Ledger-Advance

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WEDNESDAY • JUNE 28, 2017



# Filing slated for municipal elections

## All eight municipalities have positions open

**BY THADD WHITE**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** – The filing period for those wishing to seek office in a Bertie County municipality will begin Friday, July 7.

The Bertie County Board of Elections is set to open filing at noon on July 7 with offices in all eight municipalities set for the November ballot.

Six of the eight municipalities will elect a mayor. Those towns whose mayoral seats

expire this year include Askewville (Gloria Bryant), Kelford (Bailey Parker), Lewiston Woodville (Dayle Vaughan), Powellsville (Thomas Asbell), Roxobel (Alvin Simmons) and Windsor (Jim Hoggard).

Voters in Aulander and Colerain elected mayors (Larry Drew and Thomas Waicun respectively) two years ago. Each serves a four-year term.

In Askewville, the seats of all three commissioners – currently held by Kay Brantley, Carla Pesce and Michael Baker – will be on the ballot.

Aulander will see a trio of commissioners up for election. Those seats are currently held by Ronald Poppell, Phillip Thomas and Jason Tinkham.

In Colerain, three seats will also expire at the end of the year. They are currently held

See **FILING**, 6

# Child assault charge filed

**BY THADD WHITE**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** – An employee of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy has been charged with assaulting a child.

The Windsor Police Department said Tuesday morning Levi Bazemore has been charged in connection with an ongoing investigation.

The incident began when parents of a then student at HCLA reported the alleged assault,

and the Windsor Police Department opened an investigation.

Following that inquiry, Bazemore was arrested Tuesday morning and charged with assault on a child under 12 years of age and communicating threats. He was released after satisfying a \$1,000 secured bond.

Officials at Heritage Collegiate indicated last month they had also reviewed the complaint, but came to different

See **ASSAULT**, 6

## GET READY FOR SOME FIREWORKS



Fireworks will fill the skies of Windsor Monday night during the annual July 3 celebration.

# Annual celebration planned

**BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** - Celebrating freedom Bertie County style.

The Freedom Fireworks celebration is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. with fireworks at dark Monday, July 3. The event will be held at the Roanoke Cashie River Center.

“This will be one of the best fireworks displays in the area,” said Windsor-Bertie Chamber of Commerce Director Lewis Hoggard.

The will be various vendors open throughout the event, serving food, arts and crafts, and the My Little Garden Market will be open.

The local White Oak Band

will provide entertainment beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The White Oak Band is a five-piece band from Windsor, playing beach and oldies music.

The performers in the group have been playing together for over 30 years. The band covers more than 60 songs by differ-

See **FIREWORKS**, 7

# Massey dies after illness

**BY LANCE MARTIN**  
*rrspln.com*

Longtime local funeral director and country gospel singer Harold Massey died Friday morning, his attorney confirmed.

“On behalf of the Massey family we received word that he passed away at approximately 8:30 this morning,” Roanoke Rapids attorney Gil-

bert Chichester said. Chichester and his associate, Geoffrey Davis, were representing Massey in a criminal case where the funeral director had been indicted on 10 counts related to child sex offense charges. Chichester said Massey’s health started to decline soon after the charges were filed

See **MASSEY**, 7

# ‘Raising Bertie’ showing in NC

**BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
*Bertie Ledger-Advance*

**WINDSOR** - Now showing in North Carolina.

“Raising Bertie,” the 2016 documentary set in Bertie County is now in theaters nationwide.

The film was screened June 16-22 at the Studio Movie Grill in Charlotte and is expected to be

shown July 1-2 at Chapel Hill’s Chelsea Theater, as part of the film’s nationwide release through Gunpowder and Sky Distribution.

Shining a light on a neglected rural community of color, “Raising Bertie” is a six-year portrait of three young

See **BERTIE**, 7

# Algae an issue in Chowan River

**BY MILES LAYTON**  
*Chowan Herald*

**EDENTON** - Officials with the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are urging the public to avoid contact with green or blue water in the Chowan River due to an algae bloom.

According to a state DEQ, Chowan County’s algae bloom extends along the eastern side of the river from the Arrowhead Beach area south to Edenton, then continues east hugging the shoreline until just beyond the N.C. 32 bridge.



An algal bloom has invaded the waters by Edenton Bay.

North Carolina has had no reports of adverse health effects associated with the algae

bloom, according to the DEQ. Bridget Munger, DEQ spokeswoman, said

the agency’s water sciences program has been monitoring the bloom since June 12.

The algae have been spotted in many places between Peele’s Fishery near Rocky Hock Landing and Edenton. Downtown Edenton’s bay looks like green tea. Like plastic wrap, a green film covers the top of the water in some places like Harris Landing and White’s Landing. Algae are accompanied by a pungent smell.

Munger said the algae have been identi-

See **ALGAE**, 6

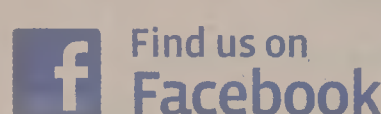
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