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# Bertie Ledger-Advance

50¢  
WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 31, 2018

## Bethel suffers close losses

SPORTS | B1



# State seeks death penalty for Wissink

## Judge declares capital case in murder of Sgt. Meggan Callahan

THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** – Craig Wissink is officially facing the death penalty. Last week, Judge Quentin T. Sumner ruled there were aggravating factors in the

homicide case against Wissink, who is charged with the murder of Sgt. Meggan Callahan. Sgt. Callahan was murdered brutally in an attack at Bertie Correctional Institute last April. Wissink reportedly attacked Sgt. Callahan

when she was attempting to put out a fire. Wissink was immediately taken into custody, and was later charged with murder following an investigation by the Windsor Police Department and the State Bureau of Investigation.

On Jan. 22, District Attorney Valerie Asbell appeared at a hearing in Bertie County Superior Court, and informed the court she was seeking the death penalty in Wissink's case. She officially filed a motion to declare it a capital murder case.

Asbell appeared with Assistant District Attorney Lisa Coltrain representing the state of North Carolina while attorney Ernest "Buddy" Conner represented Wissink. See **PENALTY, A5**

## Larceny charge filed

THADD WHITE  
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**WINDSOR** – Financial irregularities at Winston Garden have led to the arrest of a former employee. Windsor Police Chief Todd Lane said his office began an investigation into the reported financial irregularities in November of last year. "The investigation revealed a former employee of Winston Gardens was embezzling money meant to pay for residents' room and board for personal gain," Chief Lane reported. "The employee was using resident's debit cards to withdraw funds, but never transmitted the funds to the corporate office as required." Lt. Justin Jackson led the investigation, and was able to locate four victims. He found more than \$5,500 had been embezzled from those victims and converted to personal use by the employee. The investigation revealed the former employee used the debit cards without permission during several

See **LARCENY, A5**

# Flu cases on the rise

## Vidant Bertie Hospital urges caution

LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - The flu has arrived. Bertie County and the surrounding area have seen an increase in positive flu cases over the past few weeks, and the numbers are growing. Vidant Family Medicine Bertie Family Nurse Practitioner Teddie Gore says there has been an uptick in flu activity over the past several weeks. "The flu is pretty much everywhere at this point. According to the latest statistics on Mon, Jan. 29 there have been 21 confirmed flu deaths in North Carolina," he added. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza, also known, as "the flu" is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The CDC explains the flu is different than a cold.

See **FLU, A5**



## WPD nabs thief

THADD WHITE  
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**WINDSOR** – More than meets the eye. Windsor Police Chief Todd Lane said a call for assistance with a shoplifter recently led to the arrest of a Virginia man wanted in Nash County. Chief Lane said Cpl. Frank Ratzlaff and Officer Jessie Mizelle responded to Family Dollar in Windsor Square when they were called about a shoplifter. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers were informed the suspect left the store after stealing cigarettes and an Xbox game. The employee of Family Dollar further stated the person was wearing a black puffy jacket and black jeans. The police officers emerged from the store and saw the suspect exit Food Lion. Officers reported the suspect changed directions upon seeing them and began walking down the alley of the back side of the shopping center. The officers quickly took the suspect into custody, just as he was

See **NABS, A5**

# Swain sentenced to 8-12 years as habitual felon

THADD WHITE  
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**WINDSOR** – A Windsor man was sentenced as an habitual felon here last week. Travis Keil Swain, 34, was sentenced to a total of 106-

149 months in prison for his latest conviction. Swain pled guilty to felonious larceny, felonious larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of a firearm by a felon and to the status of being an habitual felon.

The charges stemmed from two incidents in which Swain stole a tractor and a vehicle. On July 19, 2015 Swain stole a tractor from a farm on Cedar Landing Rd. in Windsor. He was seen driving the tractor

down the road, and the witness was familiar with Swain and the owner of the tractor and knew the driver didn't have permission to have the tractor. The witness called law enforcement, and the tractor

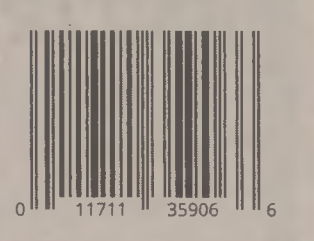
was located abandoned behind a barn approximately three miles from where it was taken. A year later, Swain stole the personal vehicle of Windsor. See **HABITUAL, A5**

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Volume 120: No. 5



**SHADES OF COLOR**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
A time to commemorate African Americans who have Crossed boundaries - Broken down barriers - Contributed to the Arts

**Bertie County Arts Council | 124 South King Street, Windsor, NC 27983**  
252-794-9402 | www.bertiearts.com | bertiearts@gmail.com

**GALLERY RECEPTION**  
**Thursday, February 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Bertie County Arts Council**  
Meet local artists, photographers, authors and musicians

North Carolina Arts Council  
50th Anniversary  
This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.