

Five decades of serving Bertie Co. folks

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - A final farewell brings a new dentist to town.

Dr. Wayne Attkisson, who has been serving dental patients from Bertie and surrounding counties in his office on Sterlingworth Street for almost 50 years, has decided to retire.

Attkisson, a Richmond Va. native, says his years have been wonderful but didn't come without trials.

He was 5 years old when he was stricken with polio during the height of the 1944 epidemic.

It was a mild case only affecting his arms and legs. It did not require hospitalization or braces.

His family moved to Kinston in 1953, where he graduated from high school.

Attkisson says his motivation to become a dentist came from growing up in Kinston where he went to a dentist with whom he was really impressed.

"I liked the lifestyle and working with my hands. I was pretty much fixed on that. I never really wavered during high school," he added.

Attkisson received the Morehead Scholarship, and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill beginning in 1958.

"I didn't really find college difficult. I enjoyed it," he said.

While in college, Attkisson met and married his wife, Margaret.

During his last year of dental school, he requested to be assigned to the U.S. Air Force.



Dr. Wayne Attkisson is retiring after almost 50 year of providing dental care in Windsor. Dr. Jonathan Hairr will be taking over the practice and serving existing and new patients. Standing, left to right: Shannon Smith, Terry Jernigan, Carol Perry and Whitney Hardin. Seated are Dr. Jonathan Hairr and Dr. Wayne Attkisson.

Attkisson was stationed in Washington D.C. where he was made captain. He worked as a dentist in the Air Force until 1968.

After leaving the military, Attkisson began looking for the perfect location to start a permanent practice.

"I looked all over the state. I knew I wanted to be near the water. I decided on Windsor. It was a good location. I liked the area and I liked the people," he said.

Attkisson built an office in Windsor and has remained there for nearly 50 years.

He says retirement almost came earlier due to post-polio syndrome, from which he began to suffer years after opening an established practice.

"There was no cure. The

best remedy for the syndrome was rest. I was only 53. I loved my work and didn't want to retire," Attkisson added.

His remedy was an electric scooter. It allowed Attkisson to retain his mobility and continue to serve the patients in his practice.

"I have a wonderful staff, and my patients have been great, but it's time to retire," he said.

Attkisson who now resides in Edenton says he will be able to spend more time with his three grandchildren.

Although Attkisson is retiring, the office will not be without a dentist.

Dr. Jonathan Hairr will be taking over the practice from Attkisson.

Hairr, a Selma native, says

his influence to become a dentist came from his local dentist back home.

"He was a strong pillar in the community. He planted the seed," he added.

While Hairr was working on his undergraduate degree at East Carolina University he was a member of the Pirate Cheerleaders for two-and-a-half years.

"One of the events we participated in was Children's Dental Day on February 2nd. The cheerleaders went to visit the patients at a local pediatric dental office. So then I decided to shadow them, and that's how I figured out I wanted to be a dentist," said Hairr.

He attended the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry in Chapel Hill, and

graduated in 2015.

After working in Rocky Mount for some time, Hairr decided he wanted to find somewhere that reminded him of home and where there was a need.

"One day I went for a ride through God's country and drove through a lot of small towns. I made my way to Windsor. I circled the town and saw this office. I decided I would call and just talk with them," he added.

As luck would have it Attkisson was out to dinner in the same restaurant as Hairr's father-in law.

"Wayne told him he was looking to retire, and my father-in law told him I was a newly graduated dentist looking for a practice. Wayne and I connected, and since then I have been working here on Mondays and Thursdays," Hairr said. "The people here are great. The girls in the office are wonderful. Everyone has been warm and inviting."

Hairr and his wife Gayna were married in October and currently reside in Greenville.

"I look forward to serving the existing patients as well as accepting new ones," closed Hairr.

Although a new name for the office has not been decided, those interested in an appointment or who wants more information can contact the office at 252-794-2053 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays or from 8 a.m. until noon on Fridays.

Leslie Beachboard can be reached via email at lbeachboard@ncweeklies.com.

Roxobel Ag Festival seeks sponsor, vendors

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

ROXOBEL - Those wishing to be involved in the second annual Roxobel Ag Festival can start now.

The event, which celebrates the agricultural heritage of Roxobel and Bertie County, will be held on April 7.

Those planning to help sponsor the event can do so - and the event is making the sponsorship levels just a little more fun.

Those contributing \$1,000 will be known as "Rain Maker Sponsors" while those at the \$500 level and above will be known as a "Barn Raiser Sponsor." The levels continue as "Harvester Sponsor" at

\$350, "Cultivator Sponsor" at \$100 and "Seed Sower Sponsor" for those contributing less.

Sponsors will be recognized at the event, receive advertising on signage and will also receive a Roxobel Ag Festival T-shirt.

Those wishing to attend the event as a vendor can begin signing up to do so

now.

The Ag Festival is accepting vendors to sell food or merchandise, and serve as Advertising/Promotional/Educational providers. In lieu of a fee, vendors are requested to donate an items valued at \$20 or more to be used for door and raffle prizes.

All spaces will be 10 feet

by 10 feet unless the vendor requests additional space.

Vendor setup on the date of the event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and must be complete by 9:30 a.m.

Those wishing to become sponsors or vendors can do so by contacting Cindy Vaughan at 252-209-4738 or via email at Cindylou6280@yahoo.com.

Drugs

From A1 the driver's side of the vehicle on foot. As the officer approached the vehicle, he saw a male subject behind the wheel and the subject appeared to be passed out or experiencing a medical emergency.

Windsor Police Cpl. Jason Thomas joined Leggett on the scene and the two were able to wake the man, who stated he was simply

tired.

"Both officers were familiar with the subject, and Officer Leggett inquired if the man had consumed or was in possession of a controlled substance," Chief Lane said.

Once asked, the suspect - Michael Larue Jr. of King Street in Windsor - reportedly admitted he was in possession of illegal controlled substances.

A search of the vehicle revealed two bindles of heroin and a small amount of marijuana along with a pipe and needles.

Larue was then taken into custody and charged with felony possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of marijuana and several motor vehicle violations.

He was confined to

the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$7,500 secured bond, and will make his first appearance in Bertie County District Court today (Wednesday).

Just days later, Larue was in trouble with the law again.

Cpl. Frank Ratzlaff arrested him on an outstanding warrant for misdemeanor larceny. According to the warrant, Larue was

accused of taking \$80 in cash from a family member on Feb. 2.

Larue was again transported to the magistrate's office where he was placed under a \$5,000 secured bond.

"Officer Leggett did an outstanding job of recognizing a suspicious situation and taking the appropriate enforcement action," Chief Lane said.

"Windsor is also ex-

periencing the same opioid epidemic as the rest of the state, just on a smaller scale. The officers of the Windsor Police Department are doing an excellent job of identifying the sellers and users of these drugs, and making the necessary arrests," he added.

Thadd White can be reached via email at twhite@ncweeklies.com.

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