

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

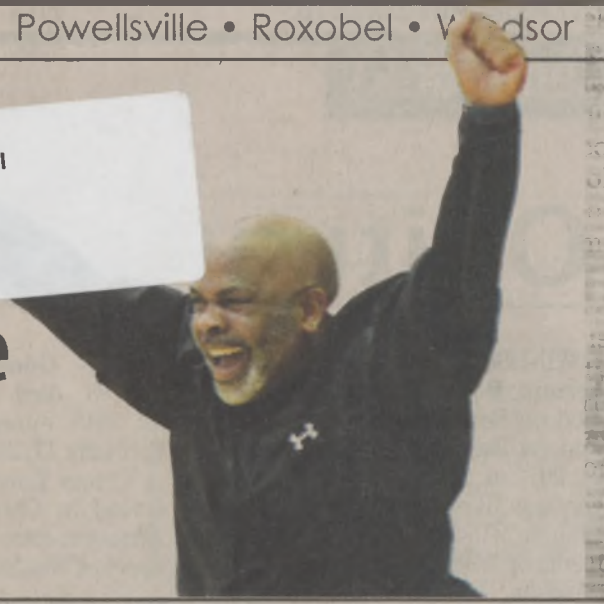
WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 21, 2018

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SPORTS | 8



## Threat closes Bertie Co. Courthouse

Phone call claims 'wrath' coming

THADD WHITE  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – The Bertie County Courthouse and Administration Building were closed for several hours last week following a threat.

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley said a call came to the office of Clerk of Superior Court Vasti James at approximately 2:40 p.m. last Thursday.

"The person said 'this is Mohammed Sharif and you will feel the wrath of Mo-

ammed Sharif at 0400 hours,'" Sheriff Holley reported.

Once the threatening telephone call was received, the Bertie County Courthouse, Bertie County Administration Building and the Cooperative Extension Service offices were evacuated.

"We didn't let anyone into the buildings once the phone call was received," Sheriff Holley said. "We moved quickly to evacuate the three buildings in close



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See COURTHOUSE, 10

Emergency personnel close access to the Bertie County Courthouse last week.

### Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH

# A life well-lived

## 7 Askew thankful for God's love

DEBORAH GRIFFIN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

His eyes smile and twinkle as he talks about the past. At 100 years old, his face belies his age. His soft features are a testament to the peaceful life he has lived.

Not an easy life - one full of hard work - but dedicated to serving the Lord.

Littleton T. Askew has seen a lot in the century he has been alive. One thing he has learned is that nothing stays the same - except the love of God.

He grew up in an era where people cared for their neighbors.

"When I was a boy, everyone was friendly and would help each other. If someone got sick, people would go and help them," Askew said.

"I can remember when one of the deacons of the church got sick, my daddy took us boys down there with the mule - there were no tractors back then - and we plowed his crop. The next week another family would go and plow his crop," he added.

"That was friendship. You gave each other a hand. Whatever I had, you had," he continued. "But the thing of it is, now, everyone has their hand out for their self, mostly," he laments.

See ASKEW, 3

## Most offices contested in early filing

Commissioners, sheriff will face opponents

THADD WHITE  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – There will be choices for nearly every elective office on the ballot in Bertie County.

With one week still left before the filing deadline, all three Bertie County Commissioners and the sheriff will face opposition as they seek to retain their seats.

In District 2, two Democrats have filed for the seat currently held by Stewart White, who does not have a party affiliation.

Former Bertie County Sheriff Greg Atkins will be seeking his first political office since leaving that post in 2010. Opposing Atkins in the race for the Democratic nomination will be longtime Bertie County Board of Elections leader Michael Freeman, who also serves on the county's ABC Board.

District 3 incumbent Democrat Tammy Lee

will seek a second term as a county commissioner. Lee will be opposed by former Aulander Commissioner Corey Ballance Sr., also a Democrat.

In District 5, incumbent Bertie Commissioner Ernestine Byrd Bazemore will seek a second term. She will be opposed by Carl K. Bond, who has been active on several committees and boards throughout the county.

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley will seek his third term in office. The 30-year veteran law enforcement officer will be opposed by retired N.C. Highway Patrol officer Adrian Bowen. Both have filed as Democrats.

The only local office with no opposition is that of Bertie County Clerk of Superior Court. Incumbent Democrat Vasti James has filed for a second term. Thus far

See FILING, 8

## Roxobel welcomes commissioner, discusses traffic

THADD WHITE  
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ROXOBEL – Tim White will serve the remainder of a two-year term on the Roxobel Board of Commissioners.

White was appointed in January by the current Roxobel board, and was sworn in last week at the monthly commissioners meeting.

"Congratulations," Mayor Gary Johnson said. "We are honored to have someone of your ability and integrity on the board."

White, who was born and raised in Roxobel, was appointed on a motion by Commissioner Robert Phelps, which

was seconded by Commissioner David Baisey Sr. It passed without objection.

Once White took his oath, he immediately began deliberating key town issues with the remainder of the board.

The first discussion centered around a playground the Roxobel Revitalization Committee is attempting to build in the town. The minutes from the previous meeting were read where the board was asked to consider giving \$20,000 to the project because of delays in attempting to get a grant.

Johnson said he had spoken with members of the committee, and ex-

See ROXOBEL, 10



THADD WHITE / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Tim White takes the oath of office as a Roxobel Commissioner, which was administered by Town Clerk Evelyn Humerickhouse.

### In this edition

Obituaries.....	2
Out & About .....	2
Opinion.....	4
Church & Faith .....	5
Classified .....	6
Sports .....	8

**GOOD MORNING, WILMA HOLLEY OF AHOSKIE**  
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