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# Former Powellsville mayor enters plea

## Judge reluctantly accepts deal for Asbell

SARAH HODGES STALLS  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - Thomas C. Asbell, former mayor of Powellsville, appeared in Monday's session of Bertie County Superior Court.

Pitt County Judge Marvin Blount grudgingly accepted a plea, via a bill of information, from Asbell on one felony count of embezzlement. The charge as presented is a Class H felony.

The plea deal is the end re-

sult of more than two years of controversy and investigation into accusations of financial mismanagement by Asbell, who was mayor of Powellsville until 2017.

"With some reluctance, I am going to let him plead to

the charge," Blount told the courtroom.

This was after an array of leaders from the Powellsville community addressed the court.

Current Powellsville Mayor James L. Peele was among the representatives.

"The citizens of Powellsville are the victims of all

this," he told the judge. "Our every effort now is to revive the town. We have learned a lot from this, and hope we can grow from this."

Powellsville Commissioner Carlyle Hoggard spoke about the ramifications of what they saw as Asbell's actions

See ASBELL, 3

# Water grant helps

## Aulander gets assistance with aging system

SARAH HODGES STALLS  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**AULANDER** - The town of Aulander has been awarded \$200,000 in the form of a Community Development Block Grant for Infrastructure.

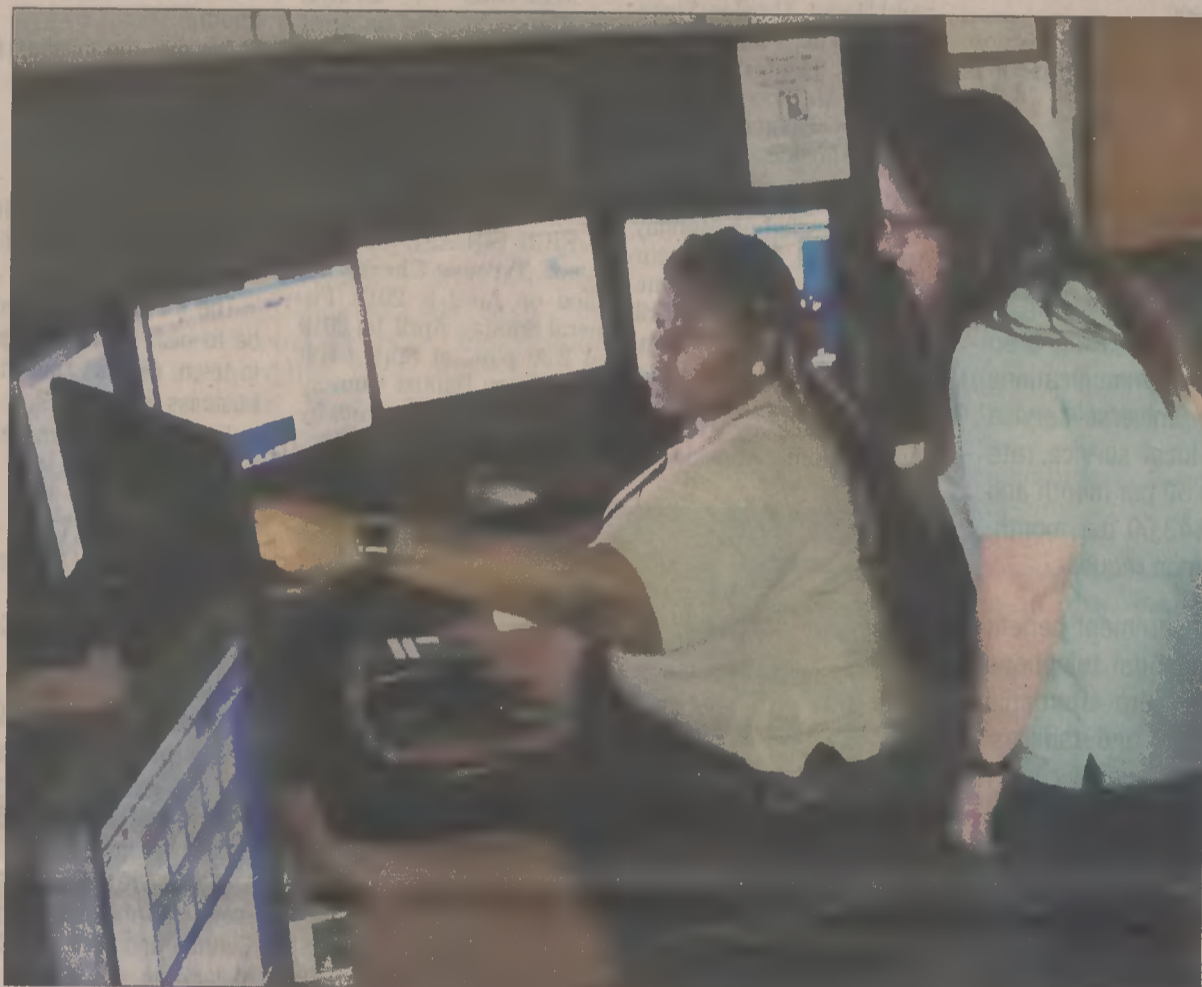
Monies are dedicated for the 2018 CDBG Wastewater System Improvements Project, which lists a total cost of \$2,012,500.

Funding comes from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure.

Steven Draper, Public Works Director for the town of Aulander, said, "We are very pleased to have received funding for this project."

Draper continued, "While the system was put in originally in 1925, it has had upgrades over the years. But as the system continues to

See AULANDER, 10



SARAH HODGES STALLS / Bertie Ledger-Advance

911 Communications Supervisor J.W. Stalls (left) assists dispatcher Courtney Walton as a call comes into the Bertie County Communications Center.

# UNSUNG HEROES

## This is National Telecommunicators Week

SARAH HODGES STALLS  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - Often emergency responders in the field - fire, rescue, law enforcement - are seen as the answer to the crisis. Many never realize or some may forget the people who get them to the scene.

For 12 hours at a time, the

dispatchers of Bertie County Communications respond to emergency calls from across the county.

This includes three EMS stations, 12 volunteer fire departments, the sheriff's office and three police departments.

Add to that list animal control, along with night and weekend calls for agencies

such as animal control, social services and many more.

Courtney Walton, who has been on the job for five years, hopes the public understands just how much the dispatchers care about their callers.

"Their hurt can be our hurt," Walton explained. "But

See HEROES, 3

# Meet time slated

## Town officials set upcoming night session

THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - The Windsor Board of Commissioners will hold a special session to hear from its citizens.

Meeting in regular session last week, the board agreed to hold a special gathering April 25.

Citizens appeared before the board to discuss horses and other animals being allowed within town limits. Representatives of the group said more people would like to come, but were unable to miss work to be at the 8:30 a.m. meeting.

Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard said the board had previously met with citizens in the evening, and he felt board members were open to doing so in this case.

Upon further discus-

See WINDSOR, 3

# Medical supply scam prevalent in North Carolina

THADD WHITE  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

Those who may have received medical supplies they didn't order should beware.

N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein said his office has received complaints from

people being sent medical supplies - particularly back and knee braces - they never ordered.

Shortly after the items appeared, the recipients start being harassed by robocalls demanding payment for them, according to those be-

ing harassed.

The scam is not a new one and has been perpetrated throughout the country, Stein said. In fact, the federal government recently charged 24 individuals for scamming people out of more than \$24 million.

Stein said the scam usually follows the same procedure, i.e. telemarketers call and tell individuals their health insurance (usually Medicaid or Medicare) qualifies them to receive a free medical device.

While most consumers de-

cline the offer, the devices are sent to the home addresses anyway. After they are received, scammers will attempt to bill health insurance or call the consumer seeking payment.

See SCAM, 10

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OF WINDSOR**

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