

Bertie 50¢
Ledger-Advance
 WEDNESDAY • APRIL 24, 2019

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Falcon track competes

SPORTS | B1



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SARAH HODGES STALLS / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Anthony Mabine, a Bertie High School junior, put on quite a show during the softball throw competition.

WPD, WRC thwart prison contraband

THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – Attempts to smuggle contraband into Bertie Correctional Institute failed yet again.

Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson said his officers worked with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Officer Rodney Jack to thwart an attempt to smuggle cell phones and tobacco into the prison.

Officer Jack found a suspicious vehicle parked near the prison on April 17 and contacted the Windsor Po-

lice Department. While checking on the unoccupied vehicle, Officer Jack found the plates being displayed were fictitious and also saw opened cell phone packages inside the car.

After receiving the call, Windsor Police Lt. Frank Ratzlaff and Officer Jessie Mizelle went to the prison to see if they could locate the owners of the vehicle.

Officer Mizelle located two suspects walking near the vehicle both of whom were wearing backpacks.

See CONTRABAND, A5

Day of Champions

Bertie County holds Special Olympics



SARAH HODGES STALLS
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Crowds began filing into Roy L. Bond Jr. Stadium Thursday morning as if it were Friday night and time for football.

However, the sun was shining and there was a very different type of competition.

It was time for Bertie County's Special Olympics to take the field.

Isaiah Jones, a recent graduate, kicked off the festivities by reciting the Special Olympics oath from the podium.

"Let me win, if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Bertie High School

See CHAMPIONS, A5

Participants at the Bertie County Special Olympics took to the field for group warm-ups before the competitions began on Thursday.

Commission approves deputy raises

SARAH HODGES STALLS
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WINDSOR - May paychecks will reflect a positive change for certified deputies with the Bertie County Sheriff's Office.

"The Board has taken a fairly bold step," County Manager Scott Sauer said.

On April 16, Bertie County Commissioners held a special called meeting and went directly into closed session.

Once the meeting reconvened in open ses-

sion, Commissioner Ronald D. Wesson made a motion to increase certified deputy sheriff position base pay to \$40,000. The change would go into effect, based on the motion, with the May 2019 paycheck.

Wesson included within this motion to eliminate the \$2,500 signing bonus and included that five of the existing vacant deputy sheriff positions be "frozen immediately," per the county manager.

See RAISES, A5

Bond, Peele will assist limited-resource, minority farms

THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

GREENSBORO – Two Bertie County men will lend their time and efforts to helping limited-resource and minority small farms.

Carl Bond, a retired farmer and member of the State Farm Bureau board, and James Peele, a retired Ex-

tension agent, will serve on the new panel announced recently by the Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T State University.

The task force is comprised of 13 people – county officials, extension personnel, farmers and retired farmers – who will provide assistance to the limited-resource and minority farm-

ers seeking new strategies to keep their farms viable. It is designed to promote and encourage the use of Cooperative Extension resources and strengthen rural communities and their families within targeted areas in North Carolina.

"Small farms are the backbone of our state's \$87 billion agriculture industry,"

said Dr. Rosalind Dale, Cooperative Extension Administrator and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences. "More than 80 percent of our state's 50,000 farms are small. With the creation of this task force, we are seeking to improve the quality of life and their farms' sustainability."

Bond joins a host of others from neighboring counties on the task force, including Byron Horton and Moses Matthews of Williamston, David Rouson Jr. of Plymouth and Cecil Sumner of Ahoskie.

Other task force members include Beverly Bownes of

See FARMS, A5

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 BERTIE COUNTY
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