

Contraband

From A1
One of the suspects was reportedly wearing a backpack on his front with a jacket covering the straps.
"Officer Mizelle was able to see items in the backpack that were consistent with packaged contraband," Lt. Ratzlaff said. "He could also smell an odor of marijuana coming from both subjects."

The suspects were identified as James Foushee III and Hosea Bradsher. The two suspects then granted permission to have their backpacks searched.

Officers located five packages in each of the backpacks. Once opened, the packages were found to contain 19 cell phones and a large amount of tobacco.

In addition, Foushee was found to be in possession of marijuana and Bradsher was in possession of cocaine.

The two men were arrested and taken before a Bertie County Magistrate.

Bradsher was charged with possession of a Schedule II narcotic, attempting to furnish cell

phones to an inmate and attempting to furnish tobacco to prisoners. He was confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond.

Foushee was charged with possession of a Schedule VI narcotic, as well as attempting to furnish cell phones to prisoners and attempting to furnish tobacco to inmates. He was also confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond.

The men each made their first appearance on April 17.

"We appreciate Officer Jack being so observant and getting in touch with us," Chief Jackson said. "His quick action combined with a quick response by Lt. Ratzlaff and Officer Mizelle helped us catch these two people before the contraband was inside the prison."

"Working together is always a plus," Chief Jackson added. "I'm glad we have such good working relationships here in Bertie County."

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



SARAH HODGES STALLS / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Sgt. Bonnie Powell of the Bertie County Sheriff's Office shows the drummer a thing or two before the opening parade of participants.

Champions

From A1
Coach Marvin Rankins looks forward to this day.

"I have been involved since 1984," he explained. "And I love it."

He called seeing participants come through as students and return as adults "a joy."

Cynthia Bunch has coordinated the local event for a decade. After this event, she will turn the reins over to her assistant local coordinator,

Renaldo Windham. Windham, who works with Alternative Programs for students in the school system, is only in his second year of involvement with the Bertie County Special Olympics.

To see him work the crowd, visitors may believe he was a seasoned professional in the role.

"My favorite part is all of this," he said looking out at the field of participants and student volunteers working together.

"Just seeing it," he paused, "seeing everything come together."

The Bertie County event has not only competitive events for youth and adults, they have also incorporated a kids village with face painting, a bouncy house and other activities for children who may be too young or unable to compete.

"We definitely want this day to have something for everyone," Windham explained.

For anyone just wanting to take a break, there was a tent with Jenga and Connect Four



Dianna Berry (left) and Laneisha Perry (right) ran the final leg of the torch run during the opening ceremony.

games. For Windham, the day is about another group of young people. Students are paired up with participants, painting faces in the kids' village and helping run games. Some of these have come through his programs with their own challenges.

"It means so much to see all these groups from around Bertie County come together for such an event," Windham said.

Windham said the event was larger this year, adding activities and games with the hopes of keeping everyone occupied, even as they wait for their turn to compete.

"A big thank you goes to all our sponsors, volunteers who make this event possible," Windham said. "Without them, we would not be able to continue growing and serving our amazing participants."

Windham said he hopes to help the event continue to grow, maybe even going regional.

Anyone who would like to join the event as a sponsor, vendor or volunteer for next year may contact Windham at rwindham@bertie.k12.nc.us.

Sarah Hodges Stalls can be reached at shstalls@ncweeklies.com.

Raises

From A1
er's office.

The motion also included adjustments to the base pay for certified telecommunicators to \$28,069 and "reclassifications as presented, discussed and modified" to also include the Telecommunications Supervisor.

Chairman John Trent made a second to the motion, which passed by unanimous vote. Wesson, Trent were in attendance along with Commissioners Greg Atkins and Ernestine Bazemore. Commissioner Tammy Lee was absent.

Actions to raise salaries for deputies were a result of discussions between

county officials over the past month.

Discussions between Sheriff John Holley and commissioners at the April 1 Board meeting regarding staffing for courthouse security revealed the initiative was on hold due to vacancies within the department.

At the time, 12 of 35 sworn deputy positions were vacant, and Holley explained lack of competitive salaries kept their department from receiving applications. The current hiring salary was \$34,442.

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Farms

From A1
Whitsett, Kyle Cashwell of Garland, Henry Crews of Henderson, Joyce Holloway of Greenville, Victor Hunt of Middleburg, Eliza MacLean of Graham and Kelly Olsen of Greensboro.

Ex-officio members are Dr. Fletcher Barber Jr., small farms recruiter; Dr. James Oliver, small farms coordinator; and Dr. Fitzroy Beckford, program leader for agriculture and natural resources for the Cooperative Extension at N.C. A&T.

The new group held its first meeting during Small Farms Week. The task force will solicit and review data from small farmers to help improve their profitability as well as discussing issues directly affecting rural communities.

Other tasks including studying food alliances and cooperative for a way to help small farmers boost marketing efforts, serving as a liaison between small

farms and community leaders and identifying ways to improve existing Cooperative Extension programs.

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