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LESLIE BEACHBOARD / Bertie Ledger-Advance

New Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood (right) is greeted by Maintenance Director Matthew Bond.

Two injured during home invasion

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

HEXLENA – The Bertie County Sheriff's Office is investigating a home invasion which occurred early Saturday morning.

Bertie County Chief Deputy Kenny Perry said an elderly couple was assaulted in their home after multiple suspects entered the residence after midnight.

The case is being investigated as possibly being linked to a similar incident in Hertford County in February.

"We have been in con-

tact with the Hertford County Sheriff's Office and we are sharing information," Chief Deputy Perry said. "With the proximity of the two incidents – both occurring on Early Station Road – and the similarity of the crimes, we are investigating them as if they are linked."

Perry said officers were called to the residence at approximately 2 a.m. and immediately set up a perimeter and searched to see if the suspects were still in the area.

"We arrived on the

See **INVASION**, 8

Homegrown talent

Dr. Otis Smallwood named Superintendent

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Welcome home.

At a special called meeting last Friday, the Bertie County Board of Education members introduced the new superintendent of Bertie County Schools.

By unanimous vote, Dr. Otis Smallwood was selected as the new superintendent as of July 22.

Dr. Smallwood is replacing Dr. Catherine Edmonds, who is

taking a position with Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools later this month.

"After interviewing three candidates we (the board) unanimously voted to selected Dr. Smallwood. He comes to Bertie County Schools with 26 years of experience. He has been everything from a bus driver to assistant superintendent," said Board Chairman Tarsha Dudley.

"He is a person of high integrity," she added.

Dr. Smallwood is a native of the Indian Woods community, and a 1989 graduate of Bertie High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Elizabeth City State University, his master's from East Carolina University and his doctorate from Nova Southeastern University.

"Words cannot express how humbled I am to come back to Bertie County. I never thought

See **SUPERINTENDENT**, 8

Stolen gun found in traffic stop

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – A man driving with a suspended license found himself in Bertie-Martin Regional Jail last week.

Windsor Police Lt. Frank Ratzlaff said an officer stopped a vehicle because the driver was known not to have a valid license, and found a stolen handgun in the vehicle.

Officer Jessie Mizelle was patrolling June 12 when he saw Jamarr Montel Slade, 31, operating a vehicle though

he was known to have a suspended driver's license.

Officer Mizelle stopped Slade's vehicle just off U.S. 13 in Windsor.

During the traffic stop, Officer Mizelle confirmed Slade was on probation, and asked him if there was anything illegal in the vehicle. Slade said there was not and gave consent for the vehicle to be searched.

After beginning the search Officer Mizelle

See **GUN**, 9

Library garners federal grant

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

RALEIGH - The local library system has received a federal grant.

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Secretary Susi H. Hamilton recently announced more than \$2 million in 2019-2020 Library Services and Technology

Act (LSTA) grants for libraries across the state.

The event was held at UNC-Wilmington's Randall Library.

The Albemarle Regional Library System, which includes the Bertie County Public Library in Windsor and the Sallie H. Jenkins Memorial Library in Aulander, were grant recipients.

The Albemarle Regional Li-

brary System was awarded a grant of \$39,654 to hire a consultant to facilitate a comprehensive strategic planning process.

The consultant will work with the Albemarle Regional Library Strategic Planning Committee, library staff, elected and appointed officials, library sup-

See **LIBRARY**, 8

Living History Weekend slated at Historic Hope

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - History will come to life this weekend.

For the first time, Historic Hope House will host a Living History Day for the public.

The event will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 22.

The centerpiece of the program is an encampment of Federal and Confederate reenactors.

Visitors will be able to walk through the camp and

see how soldiers lived during the Civil War, observe muster, marches and demonstrations of musket and artillery fire.

The kitchen of the Hope Mansion will be open, and visitors will be able to see various period crafts dem-

onstrated. There will be time era games for children to play. Horse drawn carriage rides will also be available.

"This should be a lot of fun for everyone, especially if you have never been to an event like this," said Historic Hope Foundation President

Turner Sutton.

There will be talks on "Flags of the Confederacy" and "Bertie's Divided Allegiance."

The camp will open for visiting from 9 a.m. until 10

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