

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

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Lady Eagles roll

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## Race develops for commissioner

THADD WHITE  
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WINDSOR – There will be a race for the Democratic nomination for Bertie County Commissioner in District 1.

Two-term incumbent Commissioner Ronald D. Wesson will seek re-election to his

seat, and is being challenged by former Bertie County Board of Education member Pamela Chamblee.

No Republicans have filed for the seat.

There will be no primary for the District 4 seat on the Bertie County Board of Commissioners as no one filed for the seat.

Bertie County Elections Director Shelia Holloman confirmed incumbent John Trent has filed a petition to seek office as an unaffiliated candidate. Trent has filed in that fashion both of his previous terms.

Holloman said the petition cannot be certified until January.

Another current Bertie County Commissioner will be on the ballot as well, but not seeking re-election. Ernestine Byrd Bazemore will seek the District 3 State Senate seat being vacated by Erica Smith.

Bazemore is the only Democrat to file and will advance to the November Gen-

eral Election where she will face Republican Thomas S. Hester Jr., a Vance County Commissioner.

The N.C. House of Representatives seat in District 1 will be contested, but not in the March primary. Only Republican Ed Goodwin filed

See FILING, 8

## Prison term set

Lee gets 10 years in federal penitentiary

THADD WHITE  
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NEW BERN – A Lewiston Woodville man will be spending the next 10 years of his life behind bars.

Donnell Lee, 42, was sentenced on a combination of charges from multiple arrests.

Lee will spend 128 months behind bars, followed by three years of supervised release under the order of U.S. District Court Judge Louise W. Flanagan.

The case against Lee began to take shape in 2016 when the Bertie County Sheriff's Office began using a criminal informant to purchase heroin from Lee. The informant met with Lee three times at the latter's home on Oak Drive

See PRISON, 8

## SANTA'S WORKSHOP IN AULANDER



Santa's Workshop opened after the Christmas parade in Aulander Dec. 14. Above: Two students pay a visit to Santa as they describe some of the items they would like to see under their tree this year. Left: Aulander Mayor Larry Drew shared a light-hearted moment as he worked on an elf hat. Right: Children work on some of the crafts available to them while waiting to see the Jolly Ole Elf.

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## Issues with audit

BCS paid \$27K in unneeded expenses

LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
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WINDSOR - The Bertie County Schools 2018-2019 audit is in.

During a presentation earlier this month, Dale Smith, CPA with Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC, gave Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood and board members an overview of the system's finances.

"This is a clean, unmodified report," said Smith.

"We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business type activities, each major fund and the aggravated remaining fund information of Bertie County Board of Education, as of and for the year ending June 30,

See AUDIT, 3

## Windsor women charged with abuse in Martin Co.

SARAH HODGES STALLS  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WILLIAMSTON – Two Windsor women are among three people charged in separate incidents at a local rehabilitation and nursing care facility.

During the month of No-

vember, police were called to Roanoke River Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, located at 119 Gatling St. Both calls were in reference to patients who had reportedly been assaulted.

According to Detective Lt. Gene Biggs, police arrived on Nov. 5 and were "informed

a staff member had reportedly struck a resident in the face."

The investigation led police to Clara Hyman Hill, 60, of 102 West Robin Lane in Windsor, who was identified as the staff member who reportedly struck a patient.

Hill was charged with felo-

ny patient abuse.

Biggs stated in a press release, police determined another staff member, Brenda Askew, 50, of 433 West Hwy. 13/17 in Windsor, had assisted Hill in "avoiding prosecution" and was subsequently charged with accessory after the fact to patient abuse.

Police were again called to the facility on Nov. 20. Upon arrival, they were informed a different resident had been struck multiple times on the forearm, which caused bruising.

As a result of the investiga-

See CHARGED, 8

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