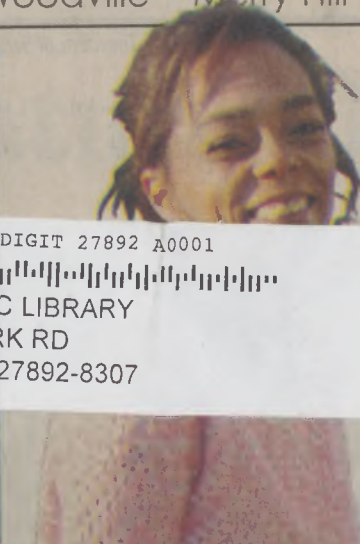


Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • APRIL 16, 2020

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Teamwork leads to arrests outside BCI

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – It has become one of the most successful partnerships in law enforcement.

The Windsor Police Department and the Bertie County contingent of N.C. Wildlife Resources Commis-

sion have successfully captured dozens of criminals in the immediate area of Bertie Correctional Institute over the past several years.

That partnership was in full swing in the past two weeks.

“We have developed such a good working relationship with the N.C. Wildlife Com-

mission officers,” Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson said. “They are truly our partners in trying to prevent people using game lands to commit a felony in trying to provide contraband to prison inmates.”

The most recent incident was over the weekend, when a hunter alerted officers to

a suspicious suspect being seen in the game lands near the prison. According to the hunter, the suspect had a backpack, but wasn't carrying a gun to be a hunter.

Windsor Police Lt. Frank Ratzlaff and Officer Jessie Mizelle went to the prison and began walking the woods line to attempt to lo-

cate the suspect. N.C. Wildlife Officers Rodney Jack and Jordan Keyes were called in to help join the search.

With the four officers searching, they located the suspect – later identified as 27-year-old Ethan Tyler Smith of 45 Courtney Dr. in

See **TEAMWORK**, A6

Most cases solved

COVID-19 active cases down to 4

THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – As North Carolina officials announced stronger regulations on social distancing, Bertie County officials released good news.

On Monday afternoon, new stringent restrictions on the number of people allowed to enter retail establishments went into effect at the order of N.C. Governor Roy Cooper.

The same afternoon, Bertie County announced that 10 of the 12 people diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered and only one case is active. The twelfth person died of the disease.

Early Tuesday afternoon, however, the active cases inched back up as three new cases were confirmed leaving the county with 15 cases, four of which are

See **COVID-19**, A6

EASTER CELEBRATIONS



A youngster braves the wind to show off her Easter hat at Askewville Assembly of God Sunday.

JENNIFER JERNIGAN CULLIPHER / Contributed Photo

EASTER: THE STORY OF OUR LIFE

Editor's Note: With churches gathering for drive-thru and Facebook services on Easter, it seemed fitting to share not only sights from Easter Sunday, but a message as well. What follows is Sunday's sermon from one of our columnists and the Pastor of Askewville Assembly of God, the Rev. R.O. "Buddy" Denton Jr.

BY THE REV. R.O. DENTON JR.
 Askewville Assembly of God

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1-2,26 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep.



Worshippers gathered at Sandy Run Baptist Church in Roxobel for Easter service.

CHRYSAL PITTMAN WHITE / Contributed Photo

And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters...Then God said, 'Let US make man in Our image,

according to Our likeness..." John 1:1-5 “In the beginning

See **EASTER**, A5

County names leader

Vaughan has interim tag removed

THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – Bertie County has a new county manager – sort of.

As of April 1, Interim County Manager Juan Vaughan II had the interim tag removed from his title and became Bertie County Manager.

Bertie County Commissioners made the decision to move forward with Vaughan's promotion following a performance review conducted March 13, according to Commission Chairman Ronald D. Wesson.

“We had a discussion about his performance in closed session as we had agreed to do after the period of time since he was named interim,” Chairman Wesson said. “We felt he was doing a good job.”

Once the board moved back into open session, Commissioner John

See **MANAGER**, A6

Man charged with vandalizing Windsor business

THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR – One of Windsor's most respected downtown businesses was the victim of vandalism last week.

Fortunately, officers from the Windsor Police Department made quick work of

catching the suspect, landing a 64-year-old Bertie County man behind bars.

Windsor Police Lt. Frank Ratzlaff said there was more than \$2,500 in damages done to lawnmowers, plants and other items at Bertie Sentry Hardware April 8.

Windsor Police Officer

Tonya Todd was alerted there was a male suspect at the front entrance of Bertie Sentry Hardware, and Sgt. Jason Thomas and Cpl. Chris Leggett each arrived to provide backup.

Officers saw objects sticking out of the suspect's pockets and saw several items

had been damaged. Upon searching the suspect – later identified as Ronnie Sherrod Rascoe of 217 Cow Track Rd. in Windsor – officers found the fence lock from the store, along with several dipsticks Rascoe had allegedly removed from at least seven lawn mowers.

“Rascoe had broken into the fenced in area attached to the store, damaged seven lawn mowers and destroyed four planter pots,” Sgt. Thomas said. “In the process, Rascoe had destroyed multiple plants.”

See **VANDALISM**, A3

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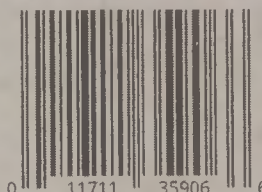


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