

Bertie Ledger-Advance

THURSDAY • APRIL 23, 2020

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Two arrested in LW armed robbery

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LEWISTON WOODVILLE - An armed robbery at a Lewiston Woodville residence has led to multiple suspects being arrested.

Bertie County Chief Deputy Kenny Perry said deputies responded to a call at ap-

proximately 5:45 p.m. April 14 at the Duck Thru convenience store in Lewiston Woodville.

Upon arrival, Cpl. Harris Williams determined the robbery took place at a residence across N.C. 11, and the victims went to Duck Thru to call 911.

Maj. Matt Roebuck arrived

and he, along with Cpl. Williams, met with victims to determine what happened and where.

The victims said they were on Lake Drive when three to four males accosted them, pointed guns at them and took all of their personal belongings. The suspects then fled the scene in the vehicle

of one of the victims.

In addition to the two officers who responded, Lt. Martin Phelps, Det. Ronald Rascoe and Det. Terrence Davis spent three days diligently working the case and were able to identify two of the suspects.

Jalik Lquan Lassiter, 19, of Kelford was arrested on

April 17 and charged with two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and one count of larceny of a motor vehicle. He was confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail under a \$35,000 secured bond.

Lassiter's first appearance

See **ROBBERY**, 7

COVID-19 cases on up swing

Medical Director says 40-50 percent may be asymptomatic

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WINDSOR - The number of active cases of COVID-19 in Bertie County is back on the upswing.

Last week, county officials reported there was only one active case in the county. A week later, the number has risen to 10 active cases as of Tuesday afternoon.

The county now has recorded 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases: 10 active, 14 recoveries and

one death. In addition, three cases have been confirmed at Three Rivers Health and Rehabilitation Center in Windsor. All patients have been tested as of Monday night, and no new cases have been confirmed there.

Bertie Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper said Monday night the residents at Three Rivers have been tested, and staff testing is ongoing.

Cooper commended

See **COVID-19**, 7

BERTIE COUNTY MANAGER SWORN IN



Bertie County Manager Juan Vaughan II takes his oath of office while his wife, Austin, holds the Bible. Vaughan was sworn in Monday night at the Bertie County Commissioners meeting after taking the post officially on April 1. The Vaughans' daughter, Adé Alexandra, was also on hand to support her father.

TAMMY LEE / Bertie County Commissioner

Census numbers below state, national average

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WINDSOR - The bad news is Bertie County is behind.

The good news is there is still plenty of time to rectify the situation.

Monday night, Bertie

County Planning and Inspections Director Traci White gave an update on the progress of the 2020 Census.

As of Sunday, April 19 - the last details available - the self-response rate in the United States is 50.7 percent, while North Carolina is just

off the pace with a rate of 46.8 percent.

Bertie County, however, has a self-response rate of only 37.9 percent.

Some municipalities in the county are struggling while others are near or above the national average.

Askeville is over the national average, with already 57.9 percent of its residents providing self-response for the Census. Windsor is next with 45 percent of its residents having responded, while Colerain is also above near the state average with

40.8 percent responding.

Some towns in the county, however, are struggling with low response rates. Powellsville is the furthest off the pace with only 7.6 percent of its residents responding.

See **CENSUS**, 7

Youth Bertie Inc. still serving, garners \$12.5K grant

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Youth Bertie has remained busy despite school being closed due to the COVID-19 virus.

And, the organization has been rewarded for the work

they do in providing food for students who need it in Bertie County.

The Albemarle Area United Way, a non-profit organization in Elizabeth City, awarded Youth Bertie Inc., specifically the Backpack Program, a grant of \$12,500.

"We at Youth Bertie are extremely excited by the support from the United Way," said Youth Bertie co-chairman Ron Wesson. "This is the second year they have supported us, and to see their support grow from \$7,500 to \$12,500 is a bless-

ing we could not have imagined.

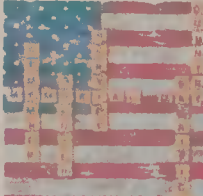
"Youth Bertie Inc., is primarily a grassroots organization supported by individual contributors; no state or federal grants," he continued. "Our only grant sources are The Vidant Hospital Founda-


tion and The Albemarle Area United Way."

The Backpack Program currently feeds 215 children on weekends during the school year. It is provided for students who are consid-

See **BACKPACK**, 7

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