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Lewis Hoggard says Christmas events have gone well in county.

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Thadd White seeks help from cooks due to COVID-19.

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Pastor Chuck Hartman says follow your own convictions.

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Bertie Ledger-Advance



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Windsor Mayor: Time is right to retire

THADD WHITE
Group Editor

WINDSOR - Each step of his political career Jimmy Hoggard has known when the timing was right.

That's still true as he closes out his life as an elective office holder this morning (Thursday) and hands the mayor's gavel to his successor.

"I've always heard you just know when it's time," the retiring Windsor Mayor said. "I want to

do some traveling that I haven't been able to do and I want to get further invested in the grandparent business."

Those reasons led Hoggard, who has been mayor of Windsor for a dozen

years and served as a commissioner for two decades prior, to decide now was the time to move on. He didn't run for re-election in

November, and indeed backed his successor, Lewis Hoggard, for the position.

"Lewis will make a good mayor and I'm excited for him," Jimmy Hoggard said. "I'll be here to support him any way I can, but I also know the best way I can support him is stay out of his way and let him be the mayor in his own right."

Hoggard's political career began when he sought office as a town commissioner. He said several things factored into that de-

"I want to do some traveling that I haven't been able to do and I want to get further invested in the grandparent business."

Jim Hoggard

cision, including high utility rates and low police officer pay.

Hoggard said he felt the board of commissioners - both then and now - have done a good job of rectifying both situations.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is the professionalism and training of the Windsor Police Department," he said. "They are as good as they come."

The mayor said he has kept in mind the importance of never returning to the financial struggles

See **MAYOR**, A5



LESLIE BEACHBOARD / BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Santa hears the wants of one young man for the coming Christmas.

Hometown Christmas celebration



LESLIE BEACHBOARD / BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Students from Aulander Elementary School sing traditional Christmas Carols.

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Managing Editor

AULANDER - It was a hometown Christmas celebration.

The town of Aulander officials and citizens of all ages gathered last Friday (Dec. 3) for the town's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Aulander Community Building.

To kick off the night's

festivities, the Bertie High School band and dance team performed a variety of selections for the spectators waiting for the tree lighting.

Aulander Mayor Larry Drew welcomed everyone to the evening's special event.

Aulander Commissioner Jeanette Tinkham gave the opening invocation.

See **AULANDER**, A5

Bertie Co. man killed in single car accident

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Managing Editor

MERRY HILL - A single car accident claimed the life of a Windsor man last week.

According to N.C. State Highway Patrol Trooper H. Mizelle, he was dispatched at approximately 2:46 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 to investigate a single car accident on Avoca Farm Road.

Henry Craig, of 155 Morning Rd. Ext. in Windsor, was traveling east on Avoca Farm Road, when he ran off the right side of the road and struck a ditch. The car

overturned several times, resulting in Craig being ejected from the vehicle.

Craig was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Trooper Mizelle, Craig was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.

The investigation is ongoing.

There have been 18 fatalities in the Bertie, Hertford and Gates counties, which comprise Troop A District 2.

Leslie Beachboard can be reached at beachboard@ncweeklies.com.

Races develop in county elections

THADD WHITE
Group Editor

Filing is under way for federal, state and local offices.

And, Bertie County has already developed a race for County Commissioner.

Incumbent Greg Atkins is seeking a second term in office and will be challenged

by Bertie County Schools Administrator Michael White. Both men have filed for the District 2 seat.

A race is likely in District 3 as well. Corey Ballance Sr. is seeking a post on the county board. He filed as a Democrat earlier this week.

Incumbent Bertie County

See **ELECTION**, A5

Leadership roles change among Bertie Co. Commissioners

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Managing Editor

WINDSOR - The Chairman and Vice Chairman roles are changing in Bertie County.

The Bertie County Commissioners voted to appoint a new chairman and vice chairman at their regularly scheduled meeting held Monday night in the Commissioners Room.

According to Bertie County

Manager Juan Vaughan II, on the first Monday meeting in December North Carolina General Statutes require every county commission board go through a reorganization process.

"We will now take nominations for a new chairman and vice chairman for the board," added Vaughan.

The then board chair Tammy Lee turned the gavel over to Vaughan.

Commissioner Ron Wesson moved to nominate Vice Chairman John Trent as the new Chair for the Bertie County Commissioners.

There was no discussion, and the vote passed unanimously.

Next was to seek recommendations for the vice chairman's position.

"I would like to make a nomination for Commissioner Wesson as vice chair," said Vice Chairman

Trent. There was no discussion, and the vote passed unanimously.

Chairman Trent was first elected as a Bertie County Commissioner in 2012, and is currently serving his third term. He formerly served as chairman of the board in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

Vice Chairman Wesson was first elected as a Bertie County Commissioner in 2012, and is currently serving his third term. He formerly

served as chairman of the board in twice and served as vice chairman in 2018.

The next Bertie County Commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting will held at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10 in the Commissioners' Room at the Bertie County Government Building.

Leslie Beachboard can be reached via email at beachboard@ncweeklies.com.

In this edition



GOOD MORNING,
THELMA WALTON
OF LEWISTON WOODVILLE
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