

**SMALLTOWNGIRL**  
Leslie Beachboard encourages everyone to enjoy the season

A4



**FOURTH&LONG**  
David Friedman has a few requests of the Jolly Ole' Elf.

A8

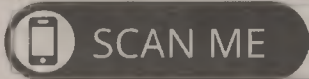


**CARPENTERSTOOLS**  
Pastor Wallace Phillips says enjoy the simple things.

A9



Bertie Ledger-Advance



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# Bertie Ledger-Advance

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## Windsor Christmas tradition carries on

**LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
Managing Editor

**WINDSOR** - It has become a Windsor Christmas tradition.

The Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce and the Bertie Arts Council hosted horse and carriage rides two nights last week.

Participants gathered at the Bertie County Arts Council to be picked up by one of several carriages offering rides.

Participants would be driven through downtown

Windsor to see the town's Christmas decorations by the horse drawn carriages.

According to Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lewis Hoggard, it was a great turn out of participants on both nights the rides were offered.

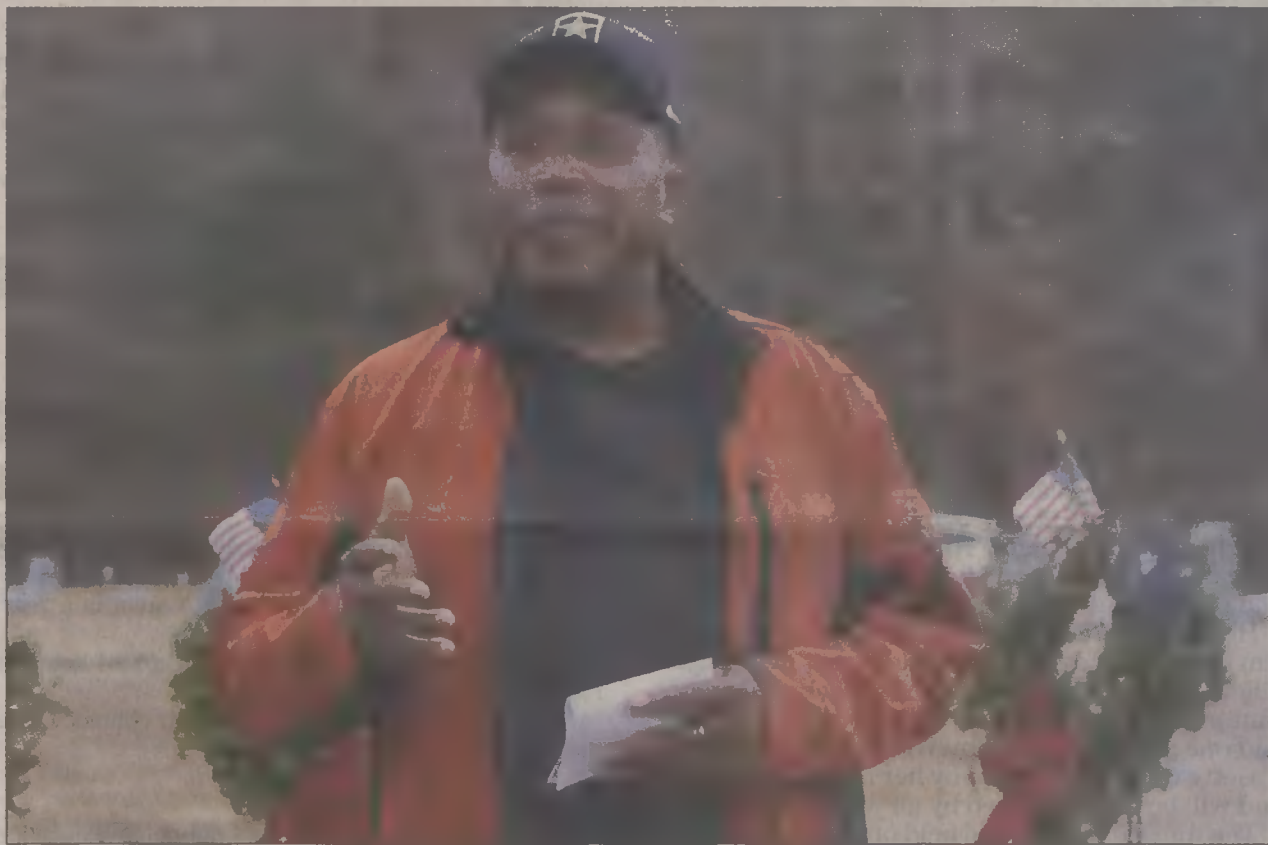
"The weather was perfect for both nights. It was not too cold for everyone to come and enjoy a horse and carriage ride around the town. There were a total

See **CARRIAGE**, A5



LESLIE BEACHBOARD/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

The Windsor carriage rides are a fun event for the entire family.



LESLIE BEACHBOARD/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Retired Lt. Col. James Lee was the keynote speaker at the 2021 Wreaths Across America ceremony at Hillcrest Cemetery. This was the first year the ceremony has taken place at this cemetery.

## Tradition continues, new one begins

**LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
Managing Editor

**WINDSOR** - A tradition of honor continues and a new tradition begins.

The local Wreaths Across America ceremonies were held last Saturday (Dec. 18) at two Windsor cemeteries.

The first ceremony was held at noon at Edgewood Cemetery. This event has taken place annually since 2011.

The second ceremony was held at 2 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery. This was the first year the ceremony was held at this cemetery.

At Edgewood Cemetery, Windsor Mayor Lewis Hoggard welcomed more than 50 participants to the event, which takes place at cemeteries nationwide.

"Welcome and thank you for joining us here today as we celebrate with 2,700 other locations. The

mission is to remember the fallen, honor those that serve and their families and teach the next generation the value of freedom," said Mayor Hoggard.

United States Navy Retired Captain Ken Rome

See **WREATHS**, A5

## COVID-19 cases slowly rising in the district

### First Omicron variant case found in region

**LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
Managing Editor

**WINDSOR** - The COVID-19 positive case count is beginning to increase throughout the health district.

The Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) provided an update on Tuesday, Dec. 21 in addition to the weekly surveillance report showing the updated information on vaccines, active cases, fatalities and facility outbreaks. The report includes Bertie County, and seven other counties, which are part of ARHS, including Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties.

This update will serve as the weekly update. There will be no update given on Friday, Dec. 24 due to the Christmas holiday. The next release will be on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

The Albemarle Regional Health Services is reporting that the Omicron variant has been detected in a lab confirmed test in Chowan County.

While every lab confirmed case is typed to determine the particular virus strain a sampling is done of all cases submitted in order to determine what strains are currently circulating.

"We are currently seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases across the state and the country. With the identification of the Omicron variant in the ARHS region, we are reminded that our efforts to stay safe and healthy are crucial," said Albemarle Regional Health Services Health Director R. Battle Betts Jr., MPA.

"While we do not want to cause any additional alarm or panic, it is important to

See **COVID-19**, A3

## Playing Santa: County DSS workers collect gifts for children

**GENE MOTLEY**  
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - One might say they are 'elves' doing their part to help fill Santa's sleigh.

Members of Bertie County's Department of Social Services Child Welfare Services branch wrapped up their weeks-long drive of collecting toys, all of which will be used to make for a

brighter Christmas for children throughout the county.

"We get donors and sponsors, some from larger organizations, some just ordinary community members, some from churches, and they donate to the Bertie County DSS for children who are less fortunate in the community," said CWS Director Abi Johnson.

Around the conference room are not just gifts, large

and small, but also Christmas trees of all sizes, including some special ones.

"We call it the Angel Tree," Johnson continued. "We don't just offer for the ones in our caseload, but we also provide for children in the general local community who are in need."

"All of these will be distributed, and if we have

See **DSS**, A5



GENE MOTLEY/FOR THE BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

Bertie DSS workers are playing elves for Santa.

### In this edition



GOOD MORNING,  
PAGE MYERS  
OF COLERAIN

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