

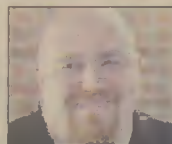
SMALLTOWNGIRL
Leslie Beachboard says its too cold, ready for warmer weather.

A4



MEDITATING
Sylvia Hughes encourages believers to vow to obey God.

A3

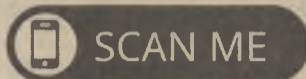


FOURTH&LONG
David Friedman remembers the great Sam Jones.

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Bertie Ledger-Advance



Volume 124:
No. 1

Bertie Ledger-Advance

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Thursday · January 6, 2022

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Vidant Health introduces new protocols

Cloth masks no longer permitted

TYLER NEWMAN
Staff Writer

Vidant Health has introduced new hospital visitation protocols and updates that recently went into effect at 8 a.m. on Dec. 30.

The changes, replacing the previous guidance from Dec. 10, no longer permit cloth masks in hospital facilities.

This update includes both local

hospitals: Vidant Bertie Hospital and Vidant Chowan Hospital.

In addition to no longer allowing cloth masks on hospital premises, the number of screened healthy adult visitors to inpatient departments has dropped from two to one.

All visitors must stay in patients' rooms unless visiting the hospital café, which is the same as past

guidance. However, visitors may no longer switch out with other visitors as of the Dec. 30 guidance.

Current visitation policy remains the same for the children's hospital and women's center (including labor, delivery and maternity).

At individual medical practices and outpatient clinics, Vidant now asks that patients not bring visitors unless absolutely necessary.

For surgical outpatient procedures, visitors may no longer visit

the recovery area.

In the emergency department, visitors are not allowed in the lobby, waiting areas, hallways or curtain-only rooms.

All of these changes come as the highly transmissible Omicron variant sweeps through communities across the state, pushing positive case counts to record levels.

"As Vidant Health continues to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing spread of the Omicron variant, we

are taking steps to ensure the safety of all," Vidant's press release read. "In consultation with infectious disease experts and based on current trends, Vidant is proactively updating visitor guidelines for the health system and adjusting the reopening of the Wellness Center - Greenville."

In addition to visitation updates, Vidant is now pushing visitors to check in online before arriving at

See **PROTOCOLS**, A5

Inmate dies from apparent suicide

Offender was incarcerated for robbery

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Managing Editor

WINDSOR - A Bertie Correctional Institute inmate is dead after an apparent suicide over the weekend.

Dontavian Barteel was found unresponsive in his cell around 6:49 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 1. The prison's first responders performed lifesaving measures until paramedics from Bertie County Emergency Services arrived.

The paramedics also worked to resuscitate him, and Barteel was pronounced deceased at 7:14 a.m.

Law enforcement was notified of the death, and is still investigating. The Department of Public Safety is cooperating fully in the investigation, and is also conducting their own investigation, according to the N.C. Department of Corrections in a press release.

Barteel, 24, was serving a seven-year, five-month sentence for robbery with a dangerous weapon after being convicted in Wake County.

Barteel began his sentence on Sept. 1, 2017 and was projected to be released on Feb. 26, 2025.

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



Workers at Perry-Wynn's Fish Company "back in the day"

Eastern NC Living features Perry-Wynn's Fish Company

THADD WHITE
Group Editor

The latest edition of Eastern North Carolina Living is available throughout the 14-county coverage region, and features stories from Bertie, Hertford, Martin and Chowan counties among others.

One of the features in the magazine is a look back at Perry-Wynn's Fish Company, which was founded in 1952 and became one of the main economic drivers for Colerain and the surrounding area in Bertie and Hertford counties.

The company had 200 seasonal workers before a combination of the lessening of available herring in the Chowan River and Hurricane Isabel created destruction from which the company could not recover.

"It's a way of life and culture that



is gone. It's a tremendous loss," said historian Frank Stephenson, who penned the book "Herring Fisherman: Images of an eastern North Carolina tradition."

In addition to a story from Bertie County, the magazine's Biography features retired Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard. After serving as a town commissioner, Hoggard spent a dozen years as mayor before retiring in November.

A couple of the standard columns in the magazine are authored by Bertie County folks. Grandma's Kitchen, written by Windsor's Sylvia Hughes, features recipes for vegetable beef soup, beef stew and a cooked blueberry snack.

In addition, Grace & Truth - a devotional - is written by Askewville Assembly of God Connections Pastor Amanda Hoggard.

The story from neighboring Martin County features a remembrance of Mike Canada, who was recently honored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Canada, known as a dedicated fireman and community member, died after suffering a cardiac arrest just hours after responding to two fire calls.

"He loved helping people," his

See **ENCL**, A5

Colerain man gets larceny charge

Arrests was made in Bear Grass

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Managing Editor

BEAR GRASS - A Colerain man is behind bars charged with breaking and entering in Martin County.

At approximately 4 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 2, deputies from the Martin County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the Bear Grass community regarding a breaking and entering of a motor vehicle that was in progress.

Upon arrival to the scene, deputies found that the victim had observed the suspect breaking into one of the victim's vehicles and several neighbors had assisted in detaining the suspect.

During the detention of the suspect, the suspect assaulted the victim.

After a brief struggle with deputies, the suspect was taken into custody.

Through further investigation and additional evidence, it was found that the suspect was connected to numerous motor vehicle break-ins that had occurred since December 2021.

Kirklain McCoy Williams, of 233 Thompson Rd. in Colerain, was charged with first degree burglary, eight counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle, six counts of attempted

See **ARREST**, A5

Some new laws took effect in North Carolina as of January 1

TYLER NEWMAN
Staff Writer

While the onset of the new year typically brings resolutions and champagne, it also brings new laws and measures enacted by state governments.

Quite a few new measures went into effect on Jan. 1 in North Carolina, following their signings into

law throughout 2021. Here are some of them.

- Senate Bill 248: Additional info on health insurance cards. Every insurer offering a health benefit plan will be required to provide the health benefit plan subscriber with an identification card. The card is required to list policyholder's obligations for copayments for primary care, specialty care,

urgent care and emergency room visits; list the contact info for the subscriber; and list if the health benefit plan is a fully insured plan or a self-funded plan. Gov. Cooper signed the bill in June.

- Senate Bill 300: Criminal justice reform. The new law aims to increase protections, training and oversight for state and local law enforcement officers. As part of

the law: a decertification database will be created; the FBI's Next Generation Identification System (a massive database of personal and biometric information) will be required for all officer fingerprints by 2023; establishing minimum mental health screening protocols for applicants that must be met in order to qualify for entry level employment and retention as a crim-

inal justice officer in temporary, probationary or permanent positions; and the relevant law will be amended to provide immediate disclosure of body-worn camera recording related to death or serious bodily injury. Gov. Cooper signed SB 300 in August.

- Senate Bill 473: Set to magnify

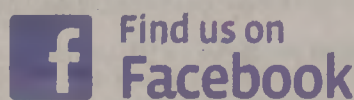
See **LAWS**, A5

In this edition



GOOD MORNING,
SYLVIA HUGHES
OF WINDSOR

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