



**PICTURETHAT**  
Andre' Alfred says disabled does not mean dysfunctional.

A4



**GRACE&TRUTH**  
Pastor Webb Hoggard says 'profit' from the Bible.

A5



**LAWRENCEWINS**  
Lawrence Academy's varsity girls roll past rival Ridgecroft.

A7



SCAN ME

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# Bertie Ledger-Advance

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## It won't go away: COVID cases still rising

### Bertie case numbers still surpassing 100

**LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
Managing Editor

**WINDSOR** - Still climbing. The COVID-19 positive case count has dramatically increased in Bertie County and throughout the region as the Omicron variant rapidly spreads. The Albemarle Regional Health

Services (ARHS) provided an update with its weekly surveillance report on Friday, Jan. 21 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.

According to the report, there have been 3,752 lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 for Bertie County, with 3,583 of those cases considered recovered. There are currently 111 active COVID-19 cases reported.

Sadly, there have been 58

deaths due to the virus since the beginning of the pandemic.

Albemarle Regional Health Services reported two additional COVID-19 related deaths in the district. None of those deaths were in Bertie County.

Currituck and Gates counties both reported one COVID-19 related death each. Both individuals were in the 65 years old and older age range. One of those deaths is associated with a facility out-

break. The Bertie County Schools COVID-19 Dashboard reported 24 COVID-19 cases for the week of Jan. 17-21.

There were three cases reported at Colerain Elementary School, one case reported at West Bertie Elementary School, four cases reported at Windsor Elementary School and 16 cases reported at

See **UPDATE**, A3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/JENNIFER LEGGETT

Children throughout Bertie County had a chance to get out and play in the snow last week.

## Bertie County blanketed with snow

**LESLIE BEACHBOARD**  
Managing Editor

**WINDSOR** - It was a winter wonderland.

Snow lovers finally got their chance to enjoy some snow after a winter storm brought rain, ice and snow to Bertie County and a large portion of the state this past weekend.

The Winter storm that brought a

Winter Storm Watch to Bertie County by the National Weather Service in Wakefield, Va., began with rain, ice and a few snow flurries with little to no accumulation on Thursday night.

Another round came through the area Friday night into Saturday morning and brought approximately five to seven inches of snow throughout the county.

Bertie County Emergency Manage-

ment Director Mitch Cooper, alerted citizens to be prepared for the storm and possible power outages.

Cooper urged citizens to be prepared for the expected winter precipitation with needed essentials to shelter in place and have back up accommodations planned if needed as Bertie County did not have any plans

See **SNOW**, A3

## BCI inmate dies by suicide

**THADD WHITE**  
Group Editor

**WINDSOR** - An inmate at Bertie Correctional Institute died of an apparent suicide Wednesday.

According to information released by the N.C. Department of Public Safety, Jeffrey A. Jacobs was found unresponsive in his cell at approximately 6:18 a.m. Wednesday.

John Bull of NCDPS said the prison's staff worked on life-saving techniques until the arrival of local paramedics, who then took over. Neither were able to resuscitate Jacobs, and he was pronounced dead at 6:48 a.m.

The Windsor Police De-

partment was contacted and is investigating, a practice DPS called "common."

Jacobs, 43, was serving a life sentence for first degree murder. He was convicted in Johnston County and began serving his sentence on Sept. 12, 2002.

Jacobs is the second inmate to die of an apparent suicide this year at BCI.

Dontavian Bartee was found dead in his cell on Jan. 1 from an apparent suicide. He was serving a seven-year, five-month sentence for robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Thadd White can be reached via email at [twhite@apgenc.com](mailto:twhite@apgenc.com).

## Region mourns loss of 'Dr. Fred'

**HOLLY TAYLOR**  
Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald

**COLERAIN** - Dr. Fred Saunders, who served the Roanoke-Chowan area for decades, passed away on January 17 at the age of 93.

Saunders, a native of Aulander, received his undergraduate degree and then medical degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. Afterwards, he did a year of residency at the Medical College of Virginia, and then joined the army as a medical doctor, serving mainly in Inchon, Korea.

Saunders opened his own practice in Aulander when he returned home in 1958, following in the footsteps of his father who was also a doctor in Aulander. He treated the ailments of people in the town and surrounding areas for decades



ROANOKE-CHOWAN NEWS-HERALD

Dr. Fred Saunders

until fully retiring in 2004.

Colleagues, employees, and friends all had fond remembrances of Dr. Saunders and the impact he made on the lives of many.

"I worked with him for 22 years," said Robin (Byrum) Centner, former office manager for his practice. "He was a very well-liked person by all. He wasn't only a boss, but he was a friend to us. He was like family."

See **SAUNDERS**, A3

### In this edition



GOOD MORNING,  
OLIVIA BOND  
OF WILLIAMSTON  
THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING!

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