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SCAN ME

Volume 124:  
No. 28

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

Thursday · July 14, 2022

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## WPD nabs man wanted for 26 counts

Chief Jackson applauds proactive police work

**THADD WHITE**  
Group Editor

**WINDSOR** - A vehicle stop for lack of insurance led to the arrest of a man wanted on more than 26 counts.

Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson said officers arrested a Windsor man wanted in multiple

jurisdictions, but not before a full on attempt to resist arrest.

According to reports, Windsor Police Officer Jessie Mizelle was patrolling King Street when he noticed a car being driven with an insurance stop and proceeded to make a traffic stop.

As he was approaching the vehicle, Officer Mizelle said the passenger got out of the car and - despite being ordered to remain in the vehicle - proceeded to flee on foot.

Officer Mizelle gave chase and

was able to catch the subject when the latter tripped over some wire in a garden.

The suspect reportedly reached toward his waist, leading Officer Mizelle to deploy a taser.

Despite being tased, the suspect continued to resist arrest until Windsor Police Cpl. Chris Leggett and Bertie County Deputy Dakota Young arrived to help take him into custody.

Once he was taken into custody, officers found a white bag contain-

ing crack cocaine.

The officers then placed Derick Speller, 37, of 629 Grabtown Road in Windsor under arrest for felony possession of cocaine, felony possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a public officer.

In addition, he was found to have been wanted for 26 counts of obtaining property by false pretense in Bertie County and one count of resisting a public officer in Martin County.

Speller was confined to the Ber-

tie-Martin Regional Jail in lieu of a \$30,500 secured bond.

"Officer Mizelle did a great job in this case," Chief Jackson said. "This is a prime example of how protective police work protects our community.

"I appreciate the backup we received from Deputy Young. Thanks to Sheriff (John) Holley for allowing his officer to assist," he added.

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A field of soybeans near Roxobel. The rain did good for just about every crop last week.

## And the rains came...

**JOHN FOLEY**  
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

While local farmers were as stressed as the crops were that folks drive by daily, last week's abnormally wet weather has alleviated some of that, at least for the crops, that is.

While drought conditions have hindered local peanut, soybean, corn and tobacco crops, the fields are cur-

rently almost too wet, with more rain in the forecast for the week ahead.

"That was a million dollar rain" said Jeff Powell of Powell and Stokes, adding, "The crops have been very stressed, but they are beginning to come back."

Powell, Vice President of the Windsor-based Powell and Stokes, claims he has 25 or so clients that are a bit happier than they were

last week.

Keith Edmisten Professor of Crop Science & Extension Cotton Specialist for Crop & Soil Sciences at North Carolina State University is optimistic about this year's crop.

"The recent rain has really helped. We have a good chance to make a decent crop, a good crop since the rain. The dry weather really slowed growth, but we may

be alright now," shared Edmisten.

While the past few days have been dry and have helped dry out the fields, there is more rain in the forecast. Depending on the amount of precipitation, this could further help local crops.

John Foley can be reached via email at [bertienews@ncweeklies.com](mailto:bertienews@ncweeklies.com).

## Blood drive set for Aulander

Red Cross facing critical shortage after June

**THADD WHITE**  
Group Editor

The American Red Cross is facing one of the largest shortfalls in recent years after donations dipped in June.

According to Cally Edwards of the Red Cross, the organization collected 12 percent fewer blood donations than needed last month, which made it one of the largest shortfalls in recent years.

"When less people answer the call to donate, the blood supply shrinks - and that could mean blood prod-

ucts are ready for hospital staff to reach for in emergencies," Edwards said.

Donors are sought to make appointments now to prevent a blood shortage this summer.

In July, the American Red Cross is teaming up with Discovery for Shark Week and inviting people to "dive in" to help save lives by giving blood or platelets this month.

Thanks to the partnership, all who come to give blood or platelets in July will automatically be entered for a chance to win an exclusive Shark Week merchandise package that includes:

See **DRIVE**, A3

## Spectacular 5K registration begins

**MICHELLE LEICESTER**  
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

**WINDSOR** - registration is open for participants to sign up to run in the Bertie Spectacular 5K and 1-Mile Run/Walk.

The Spectacular, which is the only fundraising event of the year for the Good

Shepherd Food Pantry, is slated for Saturday, Oct. 29.

"The race committee is planning to hold this year's 13th annual Spectacular as an in-person event in the hopes that we can share this event with more people in our community. A big shout

See **5K**, A3

## Bertie Backpack program seeks assistance for 2022-23

**JOHN FOLEY**  
For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

With inflation eating away at family food budgets, the Bertie Backpack program is more important this year than ever before, and is seeking donations.

While the program fills the stomachs of Bertie County's most needy school-aged children, it also feeds the minds of those children in need. Statistics prove that



hunger impedes learning, and the Bertie Backpack program works hand-in-hand with the Bertie

County School's to alleviate weekend hunger.

Backpacks are filled with nutritious, kid-friendly food that are distributed to children to take home on the weekend. This program is designed to ensure children that might go without have access to healthy food over the weekend.

Going into its sixth year of operation, the program could offer assistance this year to as many as

215 Bertie County children over weekends when not in school.

Backpack program co-founder Ronald "Ron" Wesson has a passion for filling plates.

"We just completed our fifth year in existence," said Wesson, adding, "This past year we fed 185 elementary school kids from four schools each weekend. This coming year we will add a select group of middle school kids who 'aged out' of our elementary school pro-

gram, but whose families still need assistance. We anticipate that our starting count for year six will be 215 kids served."

The Backpack program seed was planted for Wesson six years ago when he attended the kickoff of a Backpack Program in another county.

"There was a third grade little girl who spoke and told us that

See **BACKPACK**, A3

### In this edition



GOOD MORNING,  
PEGGY WILLIAMS  
OF AHOSKIE

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