



GRACE&TRUTH
Webb Hoggard says "a new thing..."

A2



LUCKYSEVEN
Brandice Hoggard says "thrown to the wolves."

A4



FOURTH&LONG
David Friedman says "We need more Russells, less Watsons."

B1



SCAN ME

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Bertie Ledger-Advance

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Tethering tug-of-war begins in Bertie Co.

JOHN FOLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

There could be a tug of war in the making over tethering dogs in Bertie County.

The term tethering, as it refers to tying up and securing of one's dog, tends to ruffle feathers, no matter what side of the line one is on.

That was apparent at the July

18 Bertie County Board of Commissioners meeting when the subject, the fifth item on the meeting's agenda, being presented by Bertie County resident Beth Northcott, was listed as Tethering Ordinance Request. The item prompted immediate public comments before Northcott made her presentation.

Bertie County resident Tom Hoggard stood up for those who tether their dogs.

"It's been an item of discussion for some time here. It is nothing new. Certain dogs need to be secured," said Hoggard, adding "Some dogs cannot be controlled."

He went on to give examples of dogs that climb chain link fences, break loose from yard enclosures, and are "simply too vicious to leave untethered."

The topic came to light after Bertie County resident Chelle

Askew was arrested on seven misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals by Bertie County deputies in June after PETA filed complaints about the condition. One of Askew's dogs' skeletal remains were found, still chained in a dog house.

That incident prompted Northcott to prepare statistics and address the county commissioners while proposing an Animal Wel-

fare Ordinance be considered.

"It's something that has been on my mind and in my heart for a long time. There was a recent case of animal cruelty, in Bertie County, that has come to light in the papers. One dog died from starvation. PETA was working with the dog owner and had the necropsy performed on the dog. I spoke to

See TETHERING, A3

Windsor man arrested after shooting

BRANDICE HOGGARD
Staff Writer

WINDSOR - On Monday, July 25, the Bertie County Sheriff's Office arrested Earl Ali Bunch, 35, wanted for assault with a deadly weapon with intent to inflict serious injury and with intent to kill along with possession of firearm by felon.

Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson said the investigation began when Bertie County dispatch received a phone call from East Carolina Health of Greenville Police called and advised they had a shooting victim, who stated she was shot on Ghent St. in Windsor by Earl

Bunch. The shooting happened between 1-2 a.m. on Sunday, July 24.

Windsor Police Det. Sgt. Jason Thomas made contact with the victim in the emergency department at East Carolina Health of Greenville and the female victim stated she was shot in the leg by Bunch.

When Bertie County Sheriff's Office detained Bunch on Monday, July 25 he was given a court date of Wednesday, July 27 with no bond. He was previously charged with attempted murder and possession of a firearm by a felon. His court

See SHOOTING, A3

Employee retention credit may be available

JOHN FOLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

While many Bertie County business owners are still attempting to recover and reach yearly revenues that were significantly higher pre-2020 there may be light at the end of the struggle.

For area businesses challenged to keep their doors opened and staff employed throughout the COVID Pandemic there is an opportunity to recoup some of those losses.

The Employee Retention Credit (ERC) is a stimulus program designed to assist

those businesses that were able to retain their employees during the pandemic. The program was established under the CARES Act and is a refundable tax credit in the form of a government grant, not a loan, that an owner can claim for his or her business.

The ERC is available to both small and mid-sized businesses and is based on qualified wages and health-care paid to employees. The intention of the program was to encourage businesses to keep employees on

See RETENTION, A3

Matthews welcomed to BHS

JOHN FOLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie County school board members, administrators, friends, teachers and school district employees gathered in the coolness of the Bertie High School's Media Center to offer a warm welcome to



Jonathan Matthews, Bertie High

School's new principal.

Matthews is a native of Fayetteville, where he graduated from Terry Sanford High School, the same high school alma mater as the world famous hip-hop artist J. Cole.

The stylish Matthews, sporting a broad smile, a pale blue linen blazer embroidered with mini pink flamingos accented with a pink tie, was the center of attention at the Thursday afternoon's meet-and-greet.

"I am excited to be here. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year and working with everyone in the district," said the dapper new school leader.

Matthews attended East Carolina University in Greenville, and is a two time graduate of the university. He graduated as a N.C. Teaching Fellows Scholar in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education (percussion), and later obtained his Master's Degree in School Administration in 2013.

He was recently named the Principal at Bertie High School and began his tenure on July 1.

Before coming to Bertie High, Matthews served as an administrator at Topsail High School for five years where he managed building operations, transportation, school safety and disci-



JOHN FOLEY/FOR THE BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

New Bertie High School Principal Jonathan Matthews.

pline for the school, which served nearly 1,600 students and employed over 120 staff members.

While at Topsail High School, Matthews also served as the administrative liaison for the various support systems as well as the social studies, science, foreign languages and fine arts departments where he provided mentorship and instructional leadership.

Matthews' list of credentials and accomplishments reads like a community course guide for extra curricular activities. As an administrator and partner to the local community, he worked closely with Renovation Church, the Topsail Athletic Booster Club, the Friends of Topsail Football organization, and the PTSO to secure necessary resources for the school and to provide for the best possible educational expe-

rience for the students in the Topsail community.

His stylish persona and wardrobe may be influenced by his musical attributes. Before his rise to administrator, Matthews taught high school band throughout eastern North Carolina, most recently at South Central High School in Winterville, where he worked diligently for six years until 2017 to grow the band program.

His musical affection led him to teach band at New Bern High School and Southwest Onslow High School.

Throughout his career, he has had students consistently represented in local, regional and state level honor ensembles, including the North Carolina Bandmasters Association (NCBA), Eastern District All District Honor Band, the NCBA All State Honor Band and the

N.C. Governor's School.

As a Bandmaster, he has also performed at the NCBA Concert Band Music Performance Adjudication and the NCBA Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Adjudication, having consistently received Excellent and Superior ratings in both events.

As a marching band director, he has had bands compete all across North Carolina, amassing awards in all categories, including a Grand Champion Award at the Crystal Coast Band Classic in 2009.

Outside of his own classroom, Matthews has served as a percussion instructor, private lessons teacher and clinician and guest conductor throughout the state, including the East Carolina University Summer Band Camp, the

See PRINCIPAL, A3



FILE PHOTO

The Bertie Alumni Community Association seafood festival.

Festival slated for this weekend

JOHN FOLEY

For the Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - This is the weekend everyone is talking about and for which they have been waiting.

A Seafood Festival with a five-entry Food Truck Rodeo, a car show and a music festival combined in downtown Windsor, on Saturday, August 6.

The Bertie Alumni Community Association, in conjunction with the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce is presenting the event. It's the second annual fundraiser to benefit the educational and community program for Bertie High School and Bertie Early College High School and the Bertie community.

A community event it will

be. At least five major food trucks, each with its culinary style are going to be feeding the crowd while Chevies, Fords, Cadillacs and Chryslers of all vintage and styles line the streets.

According to BACA President Jack White, "We have confirmed vendors of five food trucks coming from

See FESTIVAL, A3

In this edition



GOOD MORNING,
WILLIAM BISHOP
OF ROXOBEL, NC

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