

**LUCKYSEVEN**  
Brandice Hoggard says always look for blessings.

A4



**FOURTH&LONG**  
David Friedman says sports brings family together.

B1

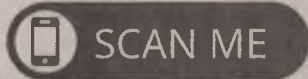


**THISISTHEDAY**  
Pastor Johnny Phillips says live life with integrity.

B4



Bertie Ledger-Advance



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No. 40

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

Thursday · October 6, 2022

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## Windsor man shot, killed near Washington

The Daily Reflector

Two brothers were shot and one died in a Washington mobile home park Sunday night, according to the Pitt County Sheriff's Office.

A news release from the office said that about 11:12 p.m. deputies responded to the area of Linda and Rivercreek drives in the Rivercreek Mobile Home Park after received reports of a person shot.

There they found two brothers suffering gunshot wounds.

Deputies found Au'Mau'Vion Shiy'Trell Watford, 28, of Windsor deceased on the scene. Auviaugne Shakinge Wat-

ford, 29, of Williamston was transported to ECU Health for treatment. The office had no update on his status.

The sheriff's office is asking anyone with information to call them at

840-4141 or Pitt-Greenville Crime Stoppers at 758-7777.

The younger Watford's death is one of 14 reported in Pitt County this year. Greenville Police have reported eight homicides

and the sheriff's office four to include Watford. Ayden Police have also reported two homicides.

Contact Pat Gruner at [pgruner@reflector.com](mailto:pgruner@reflector.com) and (252)-329-9566.

## Next phase of construction begins on TGOW

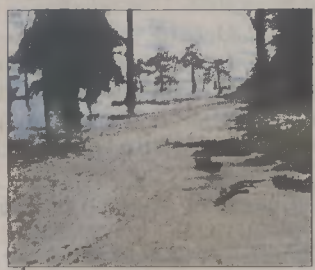
JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

The Bertie County Tall Glass of Water (TGOW) project will be closer to becoming a reality on Tuesday, Oct. 11 when the next phase of construction begins.

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners awarded the \$1,271,000 contract to A.R. Chesson Construction Company of Williamston at their regular September board meeting.

The projected completion date of the project, according to project coordinator Robin Payton Payne, is early summer 2023.

The transformation of Bertie Beach will be noticeable with the addition of a two-mile hiking trail, restrooms, a picnic shelter,



JOHN FOLEY/BERTIE LEDGER-ADVANCE

The Bertie Beach will see upgrades and changes as the next phase of construction begins later this month.

kayak storage along with eight primitive camping sites and a water fountain with water bottle refill capabilities. The site will also provide an ADA accessible path with handrails to the

See TGOW, A3

## Aulander conservationist Alton Perry earns award

JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

Aulander resident Alton Perry is dedicated to helping poor families, rich in land, create wealth through timber management.

It's that dedication that earned Perry the "Forestry Conservationist of the Year" honors from the N.C. Wildlife Federation (NCWF).

Perry spent 40 years in the N.C. Forest Service, retiring in 2012. Soon after, in 2013, he joined the Roanoke Electric Cooperative as Director of Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project (SFLR).

The program (SFLR) was launched in the year Perry retired by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment) in partnership with two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies: the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service.

The project's goal was to assist rural African American landowners address heirs' property and land retention issues while understanding the value of responsibly managing forest land. Since then, additional supporters focused on redressing Black land loss have included The JPB Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alton Perry (center) receives his Forest Conservationist of the Year Award from Jeff Michael (left) and John Hairr during the 58th annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet held Sept. 10 in Cary.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative's (SFLR) project launched in 2013. One of the project's goals was to enhance the quality of life in the diverse communities it serves.

The program assists families in the company's service area to increase the income and asset value of family-owned forestland. The program works with area landowners and encourages forest health, land retention and the opportunity to create intergenerational wealth.

Under Perry's direction the program has grown to assist families in seven counties in a number of

areas once barriers for African American landowners.

Today, Perry and his team focus on sharing knowledge of forestry, agriculture and conservation, while offering technical assistance and avenues to capital through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs. The program also offers access to attorneys for estate planning.

Perry was among the 19 agency professionals, elected officials, volunteers and organizations honored on Sept. 10 at the 58th Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Awards banquet in Cary.

NCWF Board Chair John

Hairr and Deputy Secretary Jeff Michael with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources presented honorees with custom-made wildlife statuettes following a thank you video message from Gov. Roy Cooper.

"Alton Perry spent 40 years with the N.C. Forest Service, and retired in 2012, but he wasn't quite ready for the golden years. That same year he started work as director of sustainable forestry and land retention for the Roanoke Electric Cooperative, said Award Chairman T. Edward

Chairman T. Edward

Chairman T. Edward

See PERRY, A3

## Harvest Fest set for Saturday

JOHN FOLEY  
Staff Writer

This year's Aulander Harvest Fest is opening its doors at noon on Saturday, Oct. 8 and appears to be making up for the two-year hiatus due to COVID.

Since its 2014 inception when it was originally called the Aulander Peanut Fest, the event was held for the

residents to celebrate the yearly peanut harvest. The town of Aulander changed the name of the event to the Aulander Harvest Fest once Golden Peanut ceased Aulander operations.

While this year's event is an abbreviated event compared to past years, primarily due to the two-year lapse

See FEST, A2



WILLOW ABBEY MEDCANDO/THE DAILY REFLECTOR

J.H. Rose High School graduate Bob Forbes and the school's media coordinator, Olivia Mills, look through an old yearbook and find a picture of Forbes' sister, Cynthia Cranford, who graduated with Rose's first class in 1958.

## Long overdue book returned to JHR

Bertie County resident delivers book to library after 65 years

KIM GRIZZARD  
The Daily Reflector

On a trip from his home in Bertie County to Greenville last week, Bob Forbes decided to take care of some long overdue business — more than 65 years overdue.

The J.H. Rose High School graduate and former co-captain of the Rampants football team stopped by the school library Friday to return a copy of the biography "Thomas Jefferson" by Gene Lisitzky. Stamped on the due-date slip was Oct. 30, 1956.

"It ended up in my parents' attic," Forbes said as he handed in the well-preserved, hard-cover book

at the media center's front desk. "I wanted to give it back to the people that own it."

Rose Media Coordinator Olivia Mills has never seen anyone return a library book more than six decades after checkout.

"This never happens," she said. "Generally, if it's a year overdue we're writing it off like it's a lost-cause kind of thing. The fact that

we're getting it back after (almost) 70 years is kind of mind-boggling."

Forbes, who graduated from Rose in 1971, was three years old in 1956, hardly the age to be reading a presidential biography. His older sister, Cynthia Cranford, a majorette and a member of Rose's first graduating class in 1958, is the

See BOOK, A3

### In this edition



GOOD MORNING,  
RICHARD HOLLOWELL  
OF WINDSOR  
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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
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FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT  
BE A PART OF THE INSPIRATION FOR BERTIE COUNTY'S NEW MURALS