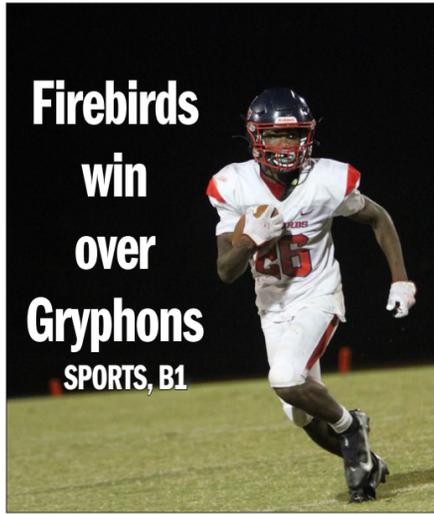


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SATURDAY-MONDAY, OCTOBER 16-18, 2021

Man killed by deputy had mental health issues

BY JOHN H. WALKER
Staff Writer

TARBORO — Edgecombe County Sheriff Cleo Atkinson said his deputies had no time to react Thursday when a 32-year-old man with a history of mental illness stabbed one deputy in the back two times before being fatally wounded by another deputy.

The suspect was dead by the time Edgecombe County Emergency Medical Services arrived.



HARRIS

4328 McNair Road after a woman placed a 911 call at 2:04 p.m. stating a man was chasing her with a knife.

The injured deputy was transported to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville and was treated and later released Thursday night.

The deputies had responded to

Atkinson told reporters during a Friday morning press conference that the first deputy arrived at 2:07 p.m. and a second backup officer arrived at 2:09 p.m.

“The deputies spoke to the caller in the front yard who then goes to let them in the house,” Atkinson said. “As soon as the caller opened the door, a 32-year-old male lunges out with a knife.”

He described the knife as an “assault-type pocket knife.”

“I tell you guys, watching this

on video, my deputy was stabbed within three seconds,” he said. “My deputies had no time to react ... three seconds.”

After the suspect stabbed the deputy, he was shot by the second deputy.

Atkinson said a third deputy arrived at 2:10 p.m.

“He was getting out of his truck as the stabbing occurred and witnessed all of this,” Atkinson said.

Atkinson paused, becoming emotional as he called the wound-

ed deputy a “hero.”

“Despite being stabbed, he remained calm, providing instructions to the other two deputies,” he said.

Atkinson, standing in front of a sign with the names of the three Edgecombe County deputies who have died in the line of duty, said, “I thank God he built a tent around him or there could have been a fourth name.”

See SHOOTING, A6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rocky Mount native Win McCullough is hiking across the state to raise awareness about Christian Adoption Services' new ministry, The Emmanuel Home.

Area native hikes for new ministry

From Staff Reports

A Rocky Mount native is hiking 600 miles across North Carolina to raise awareness about a new ministry.

Win McCullough began a 600-mile trek on Oct. 1 in Caswell and will finish on Nov. 6 in Thomasville. He is hiking the state to bring awareness to Christian Adoption Services' new ministry The Emmanuel Home in Thomasville, which is a home for women in crisis pregnancy situa-

tions to find healing after choosing adoption for their child.

McCullough's trek is stopping at various points in the state that have a relationship with Christian Adoption Services. He will be stopping Tuesday at the Rocky Mount office of Christian Adoption Services to greet supporters and begin the final leg of his journey.

“I walk for the brave — the adoptive families who choose to answer God's call to adopt, the courageous

birth mothers who chose their child above themselves,” McCullough said. “I walk for the more than 150 million orphans who don't know the love of our Heavenly Father.”

For 42 years, Christian Adoption Services, a ministry of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, has been ministering to expectant mothers and bringing families together through adoption.

Christian Adoption Services works with birth mothers during and after

their pregnancies. On average, roughly 200 women contact the organization for services each year and over the past 42 years, Christian Adoption Services has placed more than 2,000 children into loving homes.

“Our story is certainly a story of restoration for the children whose lives are touched by adoption — but what happens to the courageous birth mothers who place their children

See HIKE, A6

Nashville again seeking new finance director

BY AMELIA HARPER
Staff Writer

After several years of upheaval in its finance department, the Town of Nashville is getting back on track and is looking for a new finance director.

Samantha Sanchez, the town's latest finance director, resigned effective Sept. 17. She had served in the position full-time for near-

ly two years but is moving on to a new position in the finance department for the Town of Wake Forest, Nashville Town Manager Randy Lansing said in a recent interview.

“She has been an excellent finance director, and we really hate to lose her,” Lansing said. “We had a lot of stuff on the books that needed to be cleaned up. Ms. Sanchez took time to

work with the auditor and get us back on track.”

Nashville is now off the Local Government Commission Watchlist after spending the last several years under scrutiny. In a recent statement, State Treasurer Dale Folwell announced that the Local Government Commission had removed 38 entities from its Unit Assistance List, a monitoring device

that flags and tracks local governments and public authorities battling financial and governance challenges.

The Town of Nashville was among the 27 towns, eight counties and three utility districts commended for their progress. These entities, the statement said, “had made such significant improvements that they

See NASHVILLE, A6

Council set to consider ward maps

Two plans proposed

BY WILLIAM F. WEST
Staff Writer

A special called work session of the City Council is set for 4 p.m. Monday for the council to discuss two proposed maps of redrawn council ward lines as part of redistricting to ensure equal representation as a result of the 2020 U.S. Census.

During the Oct. 11 council work session, demographer Bill Gilkeson showed the council a map labeled Alternative A and a map la-

beled Alternative B.

The bottom line is that the results of the census showed that Ward 2, represented by Councilman Reuben Blackwell, and Ward 1, represented by Councilman Andre Knight, experienced a significant decline in population from 2010 to 2020.

The results of the census also showed that of all seven council wards, only Ward 6, represented by Councilman W.B. Bullock, and Ward 5,

See MAPS, A2

Local musician wins lottery ticket jackpot

From Staff Reports

Ricky Rapoza of Rocky Mount, a drummer and singer of Top 40, beach music and gospel songs, recently purchased a \$5 scratch-off ticket and rocked out to the tune of a \$200,000 win.

Rapoza bought four Diamond Mine 9X tickets when he stopped for gas at the Kangaroo Express on South Wesleyan Boulevard in Rocky Mount. He was back at home watching TV when he scratched the tickets and saw he had mined a big prize on the fourth one.

“It was pretty wild,” Rapoza said. “I didn't believe it till I got here today. But it's a great feeling.”

He claimed his prize at lottery headquarters in Raleigh and took home \$141,501 after required federal and state tax withholdings.

“I'm going to put it in the bank and sit on it,” Rapoza said. “I'm just going to live

as normal a life as possible.”

Rapoza, who has a new gospel CD in the works, said he enjoys

playing the lottery because it raises money for education.

“I think it is a great thing,” he said. “I would still play even if I didn't win because I believe in what North Carolina is doing.”

Ticket sales from scratch-off games make it possible for the lottery to raise more than \$900 million a year for education.

A \$10 million grant, using money raised by the lottery, is helping Nash County build the new Red Oak Elementary School.

For details on other ways Nash County benefits from lottery funds, visit www.nclottery.com and click on the “Impact” section.



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Index

Carolina.....A2
Classifieds.....E1-6

CommunityC1,4
CrosswordD3-4

LifeD1
NationA3

Obituaries.....A6
Opinion.....A4-5

Sports.....B1-4
Weather.....A2