

# Bertie Ledger-Advance

50¢

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 19, 2018

## Lady Falcons reach final

SPORTS | B1



# Vidant officials warn of consequences



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**WINDSOR** - Changes proposed to the State Health Plan could be devastating to Vidant Health to the tune of \$40 million.

The message is one being delivered throughout eastern North

Carolina by Vidant Health Chief Executive Officer Dr. Michael Waldrum.

Last week, Dr. Waldrum and Vidant Bertie Hospital/Vidant Chowan Hospital President Brian Harvill sat down with this newspaper to discuss the situation, and how it could negatively im-

pact small hospitals such as the ones in Windsor and Edenton.

The proposal in question was made by State Treasurer Dale Folwell, and aims to restructure how the N.C. State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees pays providers in an effort to produce an estimated savings of

\$300 million for taxpayers, and \$65 million for plan members annually. The State Health Plan is one of the state's largest purchasers of health care services.

Folwell's restructuring will significantly reduce reimburse-

See VIDANT, A5

## Junior board sworn

LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
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**WINDSOR** - For the first time ever, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners and the Bertie County Board of Education swore in junior board members, along with the newly-elected commission board members at Monday's meeting.

While the junior board members will not be allowed to vote, they will have a voice and will bring the student perspective to all aspects affecting our county and schools.

The junior board members will weigh in on all matters brought before each board.

The junior board members are an extension of the newly implemented student government associations in each school.

One junior and one senior will serve on each board for a one-year term beginning in December and lasting through June 2019.

The special junior board members were selected in November.

Bertie County Commissioner Ernestine Bazemore is credited with the concept, which is the first of its kind in the state.

The aim is for opportunities to be opened to these special students, and for the students to experience the democratic process in action.

The junior commis-

See JUNIOR, A5



Bertie High School JROTC Cadet Perry Byrum salutes a wreath during the Wreaths Across America ceremony held annually at Edgewood Cemetery in Windsor.

## Wreaths Across America continues annual tradition

LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
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**WINDSOR** - Despite raining conditions, Edgewood Cemetery veterans were honored this holiday season.

Individuals from near and far gathered at Edgewood Cemetery at 12 noon Saturday, Dec 15 for the annual nationwide Wreaths Across America event.

The event honors veterans by placing a live balsam wreath on his or her tombstone and saying their name as a way of paying tribute during the holiday season.

Windsor Mayor Jimmy Hog-

gard opened the event. Participant Joe Hale led the participants in prayer at the start of the event.

Bertie County's Wreaths Across America Coordinator Len Joyner thanked everyone for coming to the event and asked if they would join her in a moment of silence.

"Would you join me in a moment of silence to remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, the missing in action and to honor those who have served and are serving this

See WREATHS, A3



Len Joyner has organized Wreaths Across America in Bertie County since its inception.

## Blood need grows

LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
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**WINDSOR** - Be a holiday hero - give the gift of life.

Emergencies do not take a holiday, and the American Red Cross urgently needs blood and platelet donors to make an appointment now to donate to ensure patients can get the treatment they need at a moments notice.

In November 2016, a 100-foot maple tree fell on Mike McMahon, causing life-threatening injuries.

McMahon needed 11 units of blood during emergency surgery, and another seven units to treat complications after.

Six weeks following the accident, McMahon was released from the hospital- just in time to spend the holidays with his family.

"I am grateful for the donors who gave me such an amazing gift- the gift of life. I was an occasional blood donor before the accident. Today, I donate as often as I can to help ensure others receive blood when they need it most," said McMahon.

Now is an important time to give blood and platelets.

A seasonal decline in donations occurs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day when donors get busy with family gatherings and travel.

In addition, severe winter weather can

See BLOOD, A3

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