

Bertie Ledger-Advance

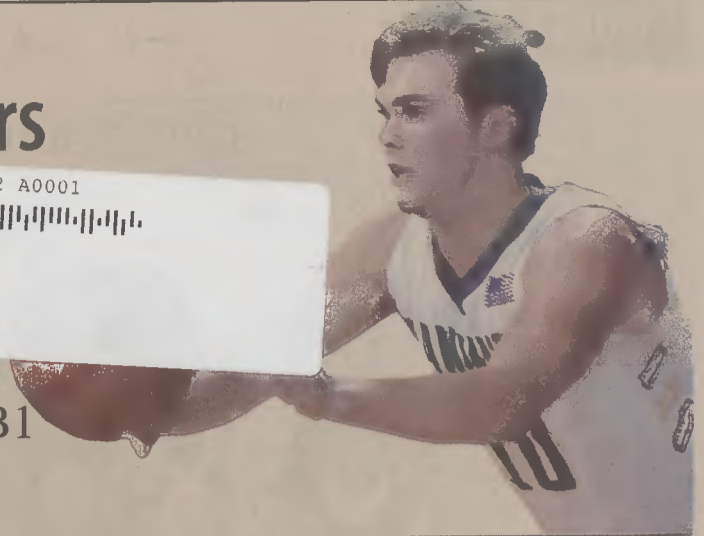
WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 23, 2016

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SPORTS | B1



School system operating in red

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Where did the funds go?

That is the question asked by the Bertie County Commissioners to the Bertie County Board of Education at an emergency meeting

Monday morning. According to Bertie County Commission Chairman John Trent, on Aug. 24 the Bertie County Board of Education Chair Tarsha Dudley and Vice Chair Bobby Ocena reported to the Bertie County Commissioners of a potential budget shortfall of

\$500,000 for the current fiscal year, which began July 1. They also reported the school system's fund balance had dropped to a level of approximately \$85,000.

"We are here to discuss the deficiencies in the school board's financial budget," said Trent.

Trent continued to read the statements as follows:

* On Sept. 14 the Board of Commissioners met in a work session to discuss the school system's financial situation and agreed to consider a monthly contribution of \$42,000 in a proposed equity partnership plan including

joint ownership and operation of the vehicle maintenance garage and bulk fuel station;

* On Oct. 6, Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer and Bertie County Attorney Lloyd Smith reported jointly to the

See RED, A6

State wants action

MCC must respond

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WILLIAMSTON - The Martin Community College Board of Trustees has one month to put together a plan.

That plan, required by the North Carolina Community College System, must address issues raised in a report released Friday.

The report questions areas of concern including human resources, fiscal management, management and governance.

The problems arose for MCC when a routine financial audit turned up enough findings to cause a deeper review.

In September, the State Board of Community College passed a motion directing staff to obtain information including: the most recent audit, employee turnover, spending issues, procurement, organizational structure, local board governance and strategies to rectify any deficiencies.

The group visited Martin County Sept. 29-30 and conducted interviews with more than 34 people either in person or by telephone.

The six-person panel requested financial statements, board minutes, bank reconciliations and organizational

See MCC, A5

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ABBY PARKER / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Patrons enter St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Roxobel Saturday evening. It was the first regular service held at the church in nearly a decade.

Church is on a 'mission'

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

ROXOBEL - St. Mark's Episcopal Church is on a mission. Quite literally.

The church, which traces its roots to 1883, held its first regular service in nearly a de-

cade Saturday night, drawing more than 25 people.

An Evening Prayer Service was held Saturday, officially kicking off the church's designation as a mission by the Diocese of East Carolina.

"As a mission, we plan to do things differently and try to

reach the community at different times and with different events," said St. Mark Senior Warden Johnna Browne Lewis. "Our services will be held on Saturday evenings, and we welcome everyone."

See MISSION, A7

County offers help

Permits required

BY THADD WHITE
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - Bertie County is doing its best to aid those trying to return to their homes following flooding.

Despite the waiver of fees, however, permits are still an important part of repairing flood-damaged property.

"Please remember, there will be no fees charged for any permits for storm damage, but paperwork must be completed to comply with the N.C. Building Code and the National Flood Insurance Program," said Bertie County Planning and Inspections Director Traci White.

White reminded citizens the Building Inspector needs to see the structure before

See PERMITS, A6

WBES: Together

Dinner theater draws families

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

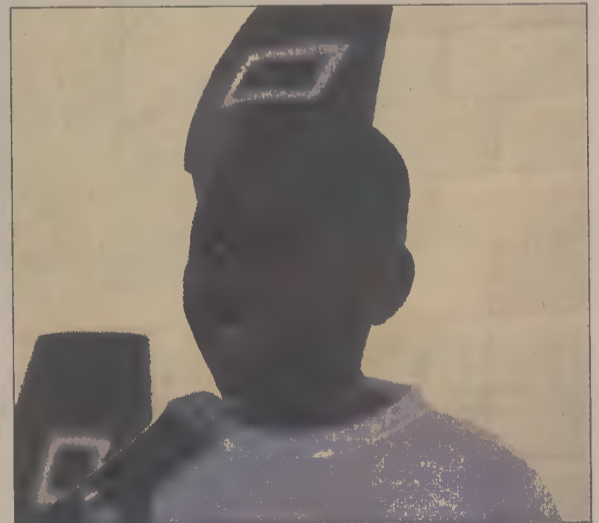
KELFORD - West Bertie Elementary School second graders put on a show for their families to bring them together.

The second grade students from West Bertie Elementary School hosted "How Our Communities Started" last week as a dinner theater for parents.

West Bertie Elementary School teachers Ada Brinkley, Jamee Gray and Elizabeth Grimes directed the play. Bettie Walston painted the scenery.

The play included groups of narrators, Native Americans and pilgrims, with special guest appearances of Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Johnny Appleseed, Pocahontas, Squanto

See TOGETHER, A5



LESLIE BEACHBOARD / Bertie Ledger-Advance

A second grader explains the first Thanksgiving.

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 BARBARA DEMRY
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