

Bertie Ledger-Advance

WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 28, 2016

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Williams chosen for Blue-Grey

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Britt's pay halted

State board wants new leadership at MCC

BY DEBORAH GRIFFIN
Enterprise & Weekly Herald

WILLIAMSTON - New leadership is needed immediately at Martin Community College (MCC), the State Board of Community Colleges in Raleigh (SBCC) determined yesterday.

This week the SBCC reviewed a corrective action plan they required the MCC Board of Trustees (BOT) to submit to them because of several concerns. They had threatened to withhold state funding for the college.

Because the findings in the plan were of such a serious nature, the SBCC voted to withdraw State funding of MCC President Dr. Ann Britt's salary effective Jan. 1, 2017 - until an acting or interim president takes over.

Britt had just announced a week ago she would retire in March of next year.

The State board stated an interim president will be employed upon the departure of Dr. Britt.

The SBCC also said the chair of Board of Trustees, Jackie Gillam, should immediately designate a trustee to work with the SBCC to identify and develop terms of employment of an interim president to recommend to the full board. The election of an interim president is subject of SBCC approval.

"While this unprecedented action is certainly unfortunate, the State Board unanimously agreed that it was necessary to uphold its duty to the taxpayers of North Carolina and to ensure that the students and businesses of Martin and Bertie Counties are ap-

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Powellsville celebrates season

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

POWELLVILLE - Citizens gathered for Christmas celebration.

The town of Powellsville hosted a Christmas celebration for its citizens on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Powellsville Community Building.

Approximately 40 people attended the event. They enjoyed refreshments including chips, dip, cake, peanuts, homemade soft mints and punch.

"This is the first time Powellsville have ever hosted an event like this. We look forward to having more events like this in the future," said Powellsville Commissioner Carlyle Hoggard.

Powellsville Mayor Pro-Tempore James Peele spoke about



LESLIE BEACHBOARD / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie County Commissioner Tammy Lee (right) and her husband, Vernon, speak to Powellsville Mayor Pro-Tempore James Peele during the town's Christmas celebration.

See POWELLVILLE, 7

'Raising Bertie' returns home

BY DEBORAH GRIFFIN
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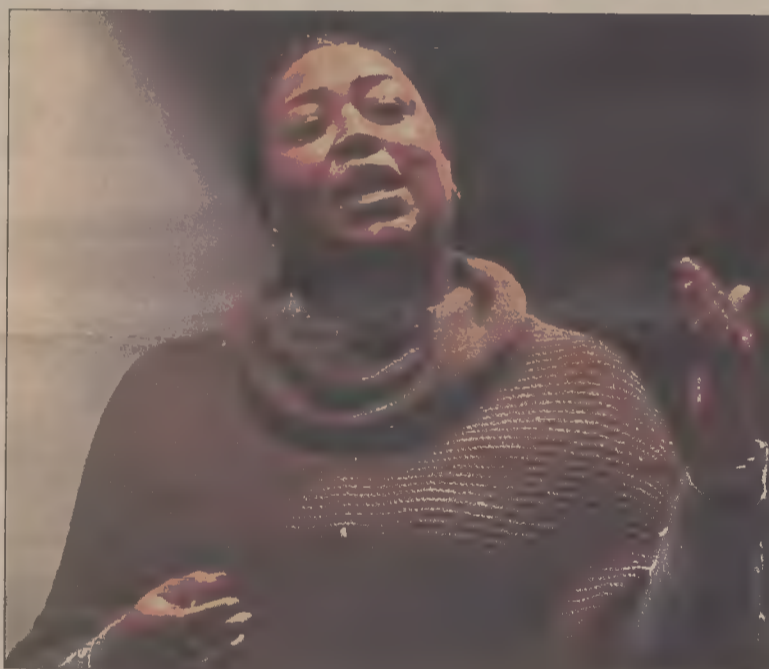
WINDSOR - Raising Bertie came home.

The award-winning movie is an intimate documentary featuring three Bertie County boys, filmed over the course of six years, capturing their coming of age in rural eastern North Carolina.

The movie explores the complex relationships between generational poverty, educational inequity and race.

The filmmakers held two free screenings for the public Dec. 10. Each screening was followed by a panel discussion. They day concluded with a community barbeque.

These were the first public screenings for the Bertie County community. The



DEBORAH GRIFFIN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

An impassioned attendee speaks at the screening of Raising Bertie at Bertie High School.

screenings were at held Bertie High School, and the panel discussions included the filmmakers and members of

the community. Two of the three film's subjects were in attendance.

The screenings were in collaboration with the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, Bertie High School, Perdue Farms, Self-Help Credit Union, the N.C. Rural Economic Developments Center and the North Carolina Community Development Initiative.

Raising Bertie has been shown numerous times across the country, including cities such as Chicago and Washington D.C.

The Raising Bertie team has received numerous inquiries to screen the film at rural school programs and the North Carolina General Assembly.

See RAISING, 7

Bertie Co. trio receives Extra Mile Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO / N.C. Department of Transportation

Board of Transportation Chairman Ned Curran and Secretary Nick Tennyson present awards to William Creech, Marty Jernigan and Stacy Mizelle, along with Division Engineer Jerry Jennings

RALEIGH - Three employees from Bertie County Maintenance received the Extra Mile Award for rescuing a woman who was trapped in rising floodwaters during Tropical Storm Julia.

N.C. Department of Transportation Secretary Nick Tennyson presented the award to William Audrey Creech, Marty Lee Jernigan and Stacy Allen Mizelle at the Board of Transportation's monthly meeting on Thursday, Dec. 1, in Raleigh.

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