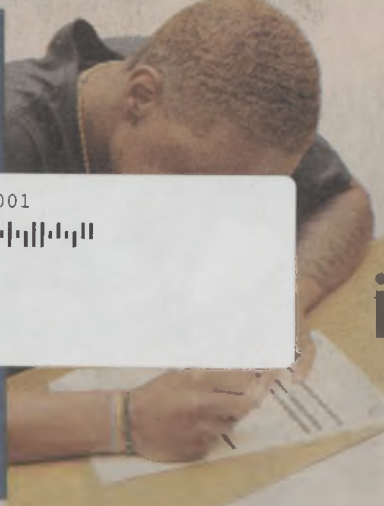


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Budget proposes 9-cent tax rate increase

Commissioners will make decisions in coming weeks

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - This is just the beginning.

This is how Bertie County Manager Scott Sauer described the proposed 2019-

2020 fiscal year budget during his presentation at Monday night's regularly scheduled commissioners' meeting.

The North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act requires the

Budget Officer (county manager) to present a balanced budget and fiscal plan for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

"It is my duty to present a proposed budget plan each year," said Sauer.

The evaluation of budget requests and priorities set by the governing body requires an analysis of available revenues based on the estimated tax base (assessed property values), the appropriation of fund balance reserves and

review of all other General Fund revenue estimates.

According to Sauer, if all budget requests submitted for the 2019-2020 fiscal year were funded, it would have required a tax rate increase of 35 cents per \$100 with no use of appropriated fund bal-

See **BUDGET**, A7

HURRICANE SEASON 2019

Normal seasons projected in Atlantic

THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

Normal.

The single word describes the outlook for the Atlantic Hurricane Season, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecast a normal outlook for the season, which began June 1 and continues through Nov. 30.

The center indicated a 40 percent chance of a near normal season, a 30 percent chance of an above-normal season and a 30 percent

chance of a below normal season.

"With the 2019 hurricane season upon us, NOAA is leveraging cutting-edge tools to help secure Americans against the threat posed by hurricanes and tropical cyclones across both the Atlantic and Pacific," Secretary of

Commerce Wilbur Ross said. "Throughout the hurricane season, dedicated NOAA staff will remain on alert for any danger to American lives and communities."

The prediction for 2019 indicates a range of nine to 15 names storms, which happens when sustained winds

reach 39 miles per hour. Four to eight of those are forecast to become hurricanes (75 mph winds or stronger).

Two to four of the storms could become major hurricanes (Category 3-5) and reach sustained winds of

See **PROJECTED**, A6

Caution: Prepare now

LESLIE BEACHBOARD
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - It is that time of year.

Bertie County Emergency Management is encouraging residents to plan now for hurricanes by updating their emergency plans and supply kits.

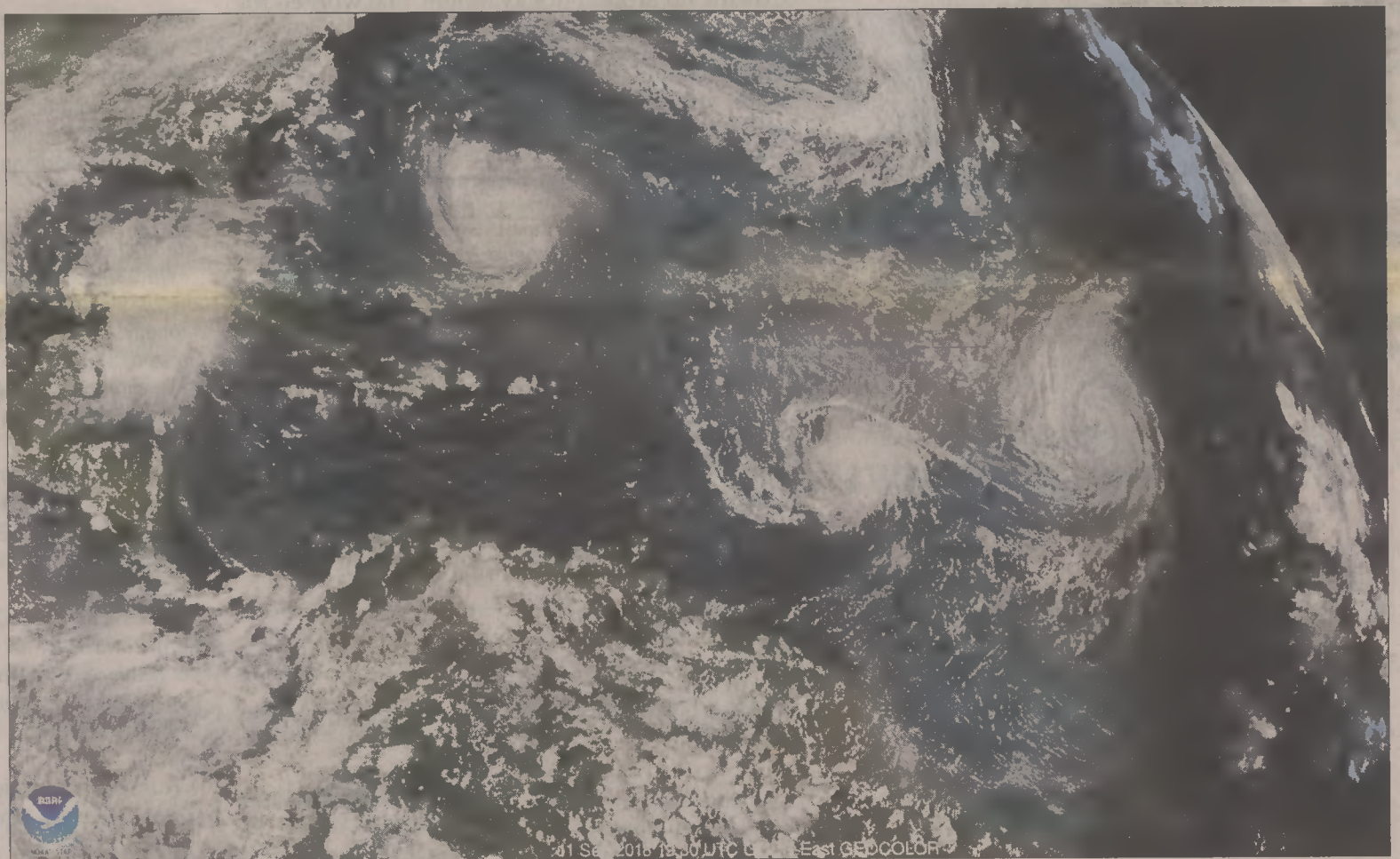
Hurricane season began Saturday, June 1 and runs through Nov. 30.

According to researchers at North Carolina State University, the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be a normal hurricane season.

"The 2019 season should see 13 to 16 tropical storms and hurricanes forming in the Atlantic basin, which includes the entire Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. While this is slightly higher than the long term average of 11 named storms, it is in line with the recent average of 14," said N.C. State University Professor of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Lian Xie.

Of those named storms, five to seven may grow

See **CAUTION**, A6



This Sept. 11, 2018 enhanced satellite image made available by NOAA shows Tropical Storm Florence, upper left, in the Atlantic Ocean, Tropical Storm Isaac, center, and at right Hurricane Helene. On Thursday, May 23, 2019, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says the

Atlantic hurricane season should be near normal. NOAA predicted nine to 15 named storms. It says four to eight of them will become hurricanes and two to four of those major hurricanes with 111 mph winds or higher. (NOAA via AP)

Sheriff, chiefs of police urge safety

BY THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie County law enforcement leaders are urging the public to be prepared and be safe in the event a hurricane strikes the area.

Bertie County Sheriff John Holley, Windsor Police Chief Justin Jackson and Aulander Police Chief Jimmy Barner are urging caution for the current Hurricane season.

"The news of even a normal hurricane season should have us all thinking about being more prepared," Sheriff Holley said. "Having said that, it is always vital for our citizens to prepare."

Sheriff Holley said it is important for adults to take the opportunity to teach children how to call 9-1-1.

"Obviously, we hope there is never a situation when an adult is injured during a storm and a child has to call 911,

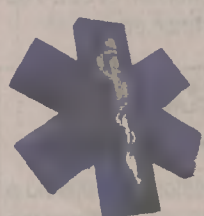
but it's important they know how just in case," he said. "Teaching the children now will help them if they are ever in that situation."

Chief Barner said a good practice would also be to have an out-of-state resident or friend on standby as a family contact.

"After a disaster, there are times

See **PREPARE**, A7

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