

Bertie Ledger-Advance
 WEDNESDAY • MARCH 25, 2020

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COVID-19 comes to Bertie Co.

One resident has been diagnosed and is currently in quarantine

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Bertie County has its first confirmed case of COVID-19.

Bertie County and Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) have both confirmed the case. ARHS said it is following N.C. Department of Health and Human Services guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with the person.

Bertie County officials said the patient is currently isolated, but could provide no other updates due to privacy laws.

The county also confirmed there are COVID-19 test kits avail-

able in Bertie County, but stressed patients would have to meet certain criteria to receive the tests.

According to county officials, "Citizens are asked to discuss their symptoms with their physician so that their medical provider can then determine the best course of action."

The case in Bertie County joins similar situations in Northampton, Hertford and Pasquotank counties, all of who now have confirmed cases of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the Coronavirus. As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 398 confirmed cases in

See BERTIE, A3



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Windsor Assembly of God found a way to hold worship services Sunday, but keep their members safe. Pastor Chuck

Gray's congregation met in the parking lot, where attendees could stay safely in their vehicle, but still worship.

Changes continue in NC

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See closures and changes, Out & About, A2

WINDSOR - As the effects of the COVID-19 virus continue to spread - including reaching Bertie County - more precautions are being taken to stem the spread of the disease.

On Monday, N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No. 120 closing schools through May 15 and banning gatherings of 50-plus people.

"Each and every choice we

are making is intended to flatten the curve and provide our health care system the ability to treat the sickest patients in

See CHANGES, A3

Windsor launches updated recycling plan

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WINDSOR - While others are trashing their recycling plan, the town of Windsor is upgrading and changing its program.

Windsor Works Director Matt Wilson said the town is moving full force into its new program, which was rolled out earlier this year. The program came about through a



grant obtained by the town from the N.C. Department of

Environmental Quality.

The town will now work to provide 96-gallon cans for recycling. The grant provided the first 100 cans, which have been distributed to customers on a first-come, first-served basis. The announcement went out through the town's utility bills and Facebook page.

"The new program will allow residents to put everything in one bin," Wilson

said.

Wilson said residents will now have the option to put the recycling can out only when its full rather than having to put one out every week. He said not only will it be easier on residents, but will also save manpower for the town.

In the past, residents had to sort their own recycling based on whether it was glass, cans, newspaper or

plastic. On each Wednesday, town workers would have to go through the recycling to make sure the items were acceptable.

Now, the recycling will be co-mingled, and will be picked up by a vendor, who has taken on the burden of doing the sorting.

"The new program just makes it easier for our cus-

See RECYCLE, A6

Relay For Life Postponed

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WINDSOR - Granddaddy may come along later, but he gets there.

The same is true for the "Granddaddy of them all."

The Bertie County Relay For Life, originally planned for mid-May, will be delayed due to

the ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, commonly called the Coronavirus.

"As we continue to manage through the current COVID-19 situation, it is important we all remain calm," Bertie Relay For Life organizer Bobbie Parker told supporters in a recent

email. "We must make informed and practical decisions to keep our constituents safe with minimal disruption to our events and work.

"We know that cancer does not stop, so it is our responsibility to continue to fuel our mission during this

See RELAY, A3

BLA moves to Thursday

The Bertie Ledger-Advance has a long history... dating back to publications printed in Windsor since the 1800s.

The newspaper has been published on Wednesday, Thursdays and - way back in the early 1920s - was printed on Friday.

"Times have changed over the course of my 30 years in the newspaper industry," Bertie Ledger-

Advance Editor Thadd White said. "People want news faster and they want it more up-to-date. We're making changes to try to meet those expectations."

Beginning next week, the Bertie Ledger-Advance will shift back to a Thursday publication. This is being done in order to provide time-

See THURSDAY, A6

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